HKU BUSINESS SCHOOL
港大經管學院

Inspire·Empower·Lead

1. General Information

Course Subject	ACCT
Course Number	2106
Course Title	Sustainability Reporting: Concepts and Practices
Academic Years	2026-2027
Grading Method	Letter

2. Instructors

Professor YOON Aaron Seokhyun
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Subclasses: 2A,2B,2C

4. Course Description

Course Description	Companies are facing increasing pressure from investors and stakeholders to provide high-quality reports on their sustainability performance and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) matters. This course offers an in-depth and comprehensive discussion of sustainability reporting with an emphasis on its practical application in the business world. Major topics include sustainability reporting standards, corporate disclosure of sustainability matters, ESG ratings, and carbon accounting. Related issues on financial reporting and performance measurement will also be discussed.

5. Course Objectives

1. Provide students with advanced knowledge of sustainability reporting and disclosure.
2. Help students gain insights on how sustainability reports and disclosures are used by investors, regulators, and other stakeholders.
3. Develop students' data skills for analyzing corporate sustainability issues.
4. Develop students' ability to form critical judgement on firm's sustainability performance and apply analytical and quantitative techniques to construe the sustainability information.
5. Prepare students for a career in sustainability reporting, consulting, assurance, and investing.

6. Faculty Learning Goals

Goal 1: Acquisition and internalization of knowledge of the programme discipline

Goal 2: Application and integration of knowledge

Goal 3: Inculcating professionalism

Goal 4: Developing global outlook

6. Faculty Learning Goals
Goal 5: Mastering communication skills
Goal 6: Cultivating leadership

7. Course Learning Outcomes						
Course Teaching and Learning Activities	Aligned Faculty Learning Goals					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
CLO1. Explain theories and concepts underlying sustainability reporting	✔				✔	
CLO2. Analyse and prepare sustainability reports	✔	✔	✔			
CLO3. Evaluate the global application of sustainability reporting standards		✔	✔	✔		✔
CLO4. Predict the market impacts of firm's mandatory and discretionary disclosures on sustainability performance	✔	✔				
CLO5. Develop skills in analyzing, synthesizing, writing and presenting corporate ESG reporting cases as well as team-working skills	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔

8. Course Teaching and Learning Activities		
Course Teaching and Learning Activities #	Expected Study Hours	Study Load (% of study)
T&L1. Interactive lectures	30	25
T&L2. In-class discussions, tests, and case studies	20	16.7
T&L3. Homework assignment of ESG report analysis	20	16.7
T&L4. Group project (discussion and presentation)	20	16.7
T&L5. Self-study	30	24.9
	Total: 120	Total: 100

9. Assessment Methods			
Assessment Methods	Description	Weight %	Aligned Course Learning Outcomes
A1. Class attendance and discussion participation	Students are encouraged to participate actively in the in-class discussions. Absence from lectures will negatively affect the class performance.	20%	1,2,4,5
A2. In-class tests	Students will take two short quizzes in class. Each quiz corresponds to a summary of a learning stage.	30%	1,2,4,5
A3. Individual homework assignment	Students are required to complete one homework assignment which relates to the analysis of the sustainability report of a listed company from the perspective of ESG rating agencies. This homework is an individual-based assignment.	15%	1,2,3,4,5
A4. Group project	Students should form groups by themselves. Each group is required to work on one of the selected	35%	1,2,3,4,5

9. Assessment Methods			
	cases. Each group will present their work in class.		

10. Course Grade Descriptors	
A+,A,A-	Demonstrate evidence of original thought, strong analytical and critical abilities as well as a thorough grasp of the topic from background reading and analysis; should demonstrate excellent team-working performance.
B+,B,B-	Demonstrate evidence of critical and analytical thinking but not necessarily original in their thinking; show adequate grasp of the topic from background reading and analysis; should demonstrate strong team- working performance.
C+,C,C-	Demonstrate evidence of a reasonable grasp of their subject but most of their information is derivative, with little evidence of critical thinking; should demonstrate fair team-work performance.
D+,D	Demonstrate evidence of being able to assemble the bare minimum of information, poorly digested and not very well organized in team-based work. There is no evidence of critical thinking.
F	Demonstrate evidence of poor knowledge and understanding of the subject, a lack of coherence and organization, and answers are largely irrelevant. Work fails to reach degree level.

11. Course Content and Tentative Teaching Schedule	
Topic/ Session	Content
1	Introduction to Sustainability Reporting • Overview of ESG and sustainability • The purpose of business • Stakeholder theory • Case study: Demand for sustainability information
2	Reporting Standard Setting and Corporate Disclosure Practices • Conceptual framework for ESG reporting standards • ESG disclosure practices and insights • Voluntary disclosure theory • Legitimacy theory • Case study: Corporate disclosure practices
3	ESG Reporting Frameworks • GRI standards • The SDGs • Scenario analysis for climate risks (TCFD)
4	Sustainability Performance Measurement • Balanced scorecard

11. Course Content and Tentative Teaching Schedule	
	• Performance measurement issues • Case study: Using BSC to evaluate sustainability performance
5	Carbon Accounting • Boundary of a firm • Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions
6	ESG Ratings • Major ESG rating agencies • ESG rating methodology • Discrepancy in ESG rating and measurement errors • ESG rating data analysis
7	Financial Reporting and Governance Mechanisms • The impact of climate risk on financial statements • Shareholder activism • Executive compensation • Litigation risk
8	Material Social Factors • Employee safety, human rights, and gender diversity • Data security • Lenders, supply chains, and NGOs
9	Carbon Pricing and Biodiversity Group Presentation • Introduction to carbon pricing • Biodiversity • Student group presentations of final projects
10	Group Presentation • Student group presentations of final projects

12. Required/Recommended Readings & Online Materials	
Reading	Materials provided by sustainability reporting standard setters (e.g., International Sustainability Standards Board), corporate sustainability disclosures, and case studies by renowned business schools.

13. Means / Processes for Student feedback on Course	
✔	Conducting mid-term survey in additional to SETL around the end of the semester
	Online response via Moodle site

13. Means / Processes for Student feedback on Course

	Others

14. Course Policy

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The University Regulations on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced! Please check the University Statement on plagiarism on the web: http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism/

Academic dishonesty is behavior in which a deliberately fraudulent misrepresentation is employed in an attempt to gain undeserved intellectual credit, either for oneself or for another. It includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following types of cases:

a. Plagiarism - The representation of someone else's ideas as if they are one's own. Where the arguments, data, designs, etc., of someone else are being used in a paper, report, oral presentation, or similar academic project, this fact must be made explicitly clear by citing the appropriate references. The references must fully indicate the extent to which any parts of the project are not one's own work. Paraphrasing of someone else's ideas is still using someone else's ideas, and must be acknowledged.

Cheating on Exams - The covert gathering of information from other students, the use of unauthorized notes, unauthorized aids, etc.

15. Additional Course Information

This course will utilize MOODLE. The course syllabus is tentative and subject to revisions.

T&L1: Interactive lectures Interactive lectures using PowerPoint slides will be conducted, with lecturer explaining and illustrating the concepts. Students will be invited to share their views and experiences related to the topics discussed.

T&L2: In-class discussions, tests, case studies, and consultations Throughout the course, the lecturer will pose discussion questions in class. Students are encouraged to participate in discussions and share opinions with their peers. Short in-class assessments will also be conducted at various stages to evaluate students' understanding and learning progress. Students are welcome to consult the instructor during the office hours for guidance and clarifications.

T&L3: Individual Homework assignment(s) Each student will be required to hand in homework assignments, which are designed to provide practical experience and reinforce analytical skills covered in the course.

T&L4: Group project Students will form groups to conduct case analyses to fostering teamwork and applied learning. Each group must submit their work by the specified deadline.

T&L5: Self-study Students are expected to prepare for in-class discussions by reading the case studies before class, and to deepen their understanding by reviewing the lecture materials and recommended readings after class.