Module 24   Ethics and Sustainability (5 credits)

Assessment Techniques – percentage contribution			
Continuous Assessment	50%	**Exam – in person**	50%

On completion of this module a learner will be able to:
1. Appraise the importance of ethics and sustainable business as a critical element of management practice
2. Critically analyse the relationship between ethical principles and sustainable business practices using established theoretical frameworks
3. Evaluate complex dilemmas from a sustainability context, demonstrating an understanding of different stakeholder perspectives and competing values
4. Assess the role of regulation and self-regulation in promoting ethical and sustainable business conduct
5. Apply sustainability principles and frameworks to develop business strategies that balance economic, social and environmental considerations

Indicative Module Content, Organisation and Structure
The purpose of this module is to enhance the learners understanding of ethical and sustainability challenges facing business leaders in a global business environment. Learners will examine how businesses can integrate ethical decision-making with sustainability goals to create long-term value, while addressing pressing environmental and social challenges. The module emphasizes both theoretical foundations and practical applications, enabling learners to develop the knowledge and skills needed to navigate complex dilemmas in sustainability contexts and to design business strategies that are both responsible and environmentally sustainable. Throughout the module, learners will explore how businesses can contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals while maintaining ethical integrity and business viability. The module explores these challenges from a managerial lens and focuses on the interconnection of ethical approaches when dealing with business sustainability challenges.   **Content includes:**   **Introduction**   - Defining ethics and sustainability in business   - The relationships between business, the environment and society   - Increasing relevance of environmental, social and governance (ESG) challenges   - Components of business ethics and sustainability management   - Global sustainability challenges - human rights, global supply chain, anti-corruption, climate change   **Business Ethics**   - The importance of business ethics   - Ethics and the law   - Morality, ethics and ethical theory   - Business ethics in different organisational contexts   - Business ethics in large versus small companies   - Globalisation and business ethics   - Sustainability and business ethics

Corporate Responsibility and Stakeholders
- The nature of corporate social responsibility
- The business case for corporate social responsibility
- Corporate social responsibility in an international context
- Stakeholder theory and managing relationships
- Primary and secondary stakeholders
- Stakeholder involvement in sustainability

Making Decisions in Business Ethics
- Normative and descriptive ethical theories
- Models of ethical decision making
- Individual influences on ethical decision making

Managing Ethics and Sustainability in Business
- Business ethics management
- Setting standards of ethical behaviour
- Tools and frameworks for business sustainability
- Approaches to sustainability reporting (mandatory and voluntary)
- Critique of sustainability standards
- Innovation as a means to corporate sustainability

Future Directions in Ethics and Sustainability
- Regenerative business approaches
- Personal ethics and professional practice integration
- Additional areas that arise and / or are prevalent in the future

Application of programme teaching, learning and assessment strategies to this module
The module employs a diverse range of teaching and learning methods to engage learners and foster critical thinking. This module is delivered through a range of interactive lectures with integrated case discussions, workshop-based activities applying ethical frameworks to business scenarios, group-based problem-solving exercises, guest speakers from industry and non-profit sectors, seminar discussion of ethical dilemmas and sustainability challenges.

This module's summative assessment strategy consists of two elements, an individual assignment and an end of semester examination. The assignment for this module will typically comprise of an individual research report; that will require learners to assess and make recommendation related to an ethical and sustainability challenge in an organisation.

In terms of reassessment/repeat assessment strategy, Griffith College regulations stipulate that learners must pass all component elements of the module to be deemed to have passed the module. In the event of a learner failing components of this module, the learner will be required to submit a new individual repeat assignment and/or will be required to take a re-sit examination at the next available sitting.

Summative Assessment Technique(s)	Weighting
Continuous assessment	50%
End of semester examination	50%

Indicative reading lists and other information resources

Primary Reading

Carroll, A. B., & Buchholtz, A. K. (2023). *Business and Society: Ethics, Sustainability, and Stakeholder Management* 11th edition. Cengage Learning.

Crane, A., Matten, D., Glozer, S. and Spence, L. (2019). *Business Ethics: Managing Corporate Citizenship and Sustainability in the Age of Globalization*. 5th edition. Oxford University Press Academic UK.

Rasche, A. Morsing, M. Moon, J., & Kourula, A. (2023) Corporate Sustainability: *Managing Responsible Business in a Globalised World* 2nd Edition Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Learners will be provided with an additional reading pack containing relevant case studies and journal articles.

Secondary Reading

Sanders R., Wood J, D (2024) *Foundations of Sustainable Business.* 3rd Edition. Wiley

Web and App-Based:

CSR Europe - www.csreurope.org

Global Reporting Initiative -www.globalreporting.org

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals -www.sdgs.un.org

ISO Standards for Sustainability and Ethics - www.iso.org/standards

International Institute for Sustainable Development - www.iisd.org