

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata
Faculty of Commerce and Management
Department of Commerce and Management
Value-Added Course

Course Name: Sustainable Business Practices

Course coordinator(s): Dr. Ramesh Prasad and Dr. Manik Chakraborty

Credit: 2

No. of Hours: 30 hours

Course Overview: This course introduces learners to the concepts, tools, and real-world applications of sustainability in business. Students will explore environmental, social, and governance (ESG) frameworks, circular economy models, green marketing, and sustainability reporting. Through field work and project-based learning, participants will assess sustainability practices in a real business setting.

Course Objectives: At the end of the course, students will be able to:

CO1: Explain the principles of sustainability and their relevance in modern business.

CO2: Analyze Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) aspects in organizations.

CO3: Understand sustainable business models such as circular economy and green supply chain.

CO4: Evaluate sustainability initiatives through field visits and case studies.

CO5: Prepare and present a sustainability assessment report for a selected business/organization.

Module No.	Module Name	Topic(s)	Description	No of hours allotted	Marks allotted	Credit of each Module	Associated course outcome
1	Introduction to Sustainability in Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of sustainability: environmental, social, and economic pillars • Relevance of Sustainability 	Introduces sustainability concepts, pillars, and business relevance	5	10%	0.20	CO1

		<p>in business practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 	aligned with SDGs.				
2	Environmental Sustainability in Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon footprint, emissions, and climate impact • Waste reduction, recycling, and circular economy • Water and energy management • Green technologies and renewable energy initiatives • Sustainable product design 	Examines environmental impacts and business strategies for resource efficiency and green practices.	5	20%	0.40	CO2, CO3
3	Social & Governance Sustainability (6 Hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) • Business ethics and fair labour practices • Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) • Governance frameworks and risk management • Stakeholder engagement 	Explores CSR, ethics, governance mechanisms, and stakeholder-oriented responsible business conduct.	5	20%	0.40	CO2, CO3
4	Sustainability reporting guidelines and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable business models, case studies, BRSR, GRI, SASB 	Discusses sustainability reporting framework	5	20%	0.40	CO3, CO4

	business model		ks and integration of sustainability into business models.				
5	Field Work, Project & Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field visit to a local business/industry/Family business etc. • Data collection on sustainability practices • Preparation of Sustainability Assessment Report • Classroom presentation 	Applies sustainability assessment through field study, data analysis, reporting, and presentation.	10	30%	0.60	CO4, CO5

Field Work Guidelines (for 1 day / 5 hours equivalent)

Students will visit a selected business/industry/organization/ family business and must:

1. Observe existing sustainability practices (environmental/social/governance).
2. Conduct short interviews (employees/manager).
3. Collect data about processes, materials, policies, and impact.
4. Identify gaps and improvement recommendations.

Examination and evaluation scheme

Component	Weightage	Description
Assignment	70%	Submission of monthly assignments based on the theoretical underpinnings of the concepts of Sustainability
Field Work, Presentation and	30%	Participation, data collection, observation quality Clarity, analysis, communication, teamwork

Report Submission		Structure, accuracy, sustainability assessment, recommendations
----------------------	--	--

Passing Criteria: Minimum **40% overall**.

Maximum Intake: 25

Target Participants: Undergraduate students of B.Com and BMS programmes.

Invited resource persons: Eminent Professionals / Faculties from relevant fields shall be invited to take few sessions.

Suggested Readings

- *Sustainability Principles and Practice – Margaret Robertson*
- *The Business Guide to Sustainability – Marsha Willard & Darryl Willard*
- *Sustainable Business: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools and Applications – Scott T. Young*
- *Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards – GRI*
- *UN Global Compact Reports*
- *IPCC Climate Change Assessment Reports*
- *ISO 14001 Environmental Management System Standards*
- *MDPI journal (fully open access journal)*

.....
Course Coordinator(s)

.....
Head
Department of Commerce

.....
Dean
Faculty of Commerce