

2026-08-31

Advanced Sustainability Management Winter Term 2026/27

Introduction

This course is designed as an advanced exploration of corporate sustainability, building upon the foundational knowledge acquired in the introductory Sustainability Management course. It aims to deepen students' analytical and practical understanding of strategic and organizational approaches to sustainability within the corporate context. The curriculum provides rigorous engagement with advanced topics, including sustainable business models and transformation, sustainable innovation, sustainability reporting, climate strategy, and the analysis of sustainability-related data. Through the integration of case studies, interactive discussions, and exercises, students will critically assess contemporary corporate sustainability practices and develop proficiency in the tools and frameworks necessary for managing complex sustainability transformations in organizations. The course emphasizes both theoretical perspectives and practical applications, equipping students to evaluate and implement sustainability strategies in dynamic business environments.

Course Outline

Chapter 1: Introduction to Advanced Sustainability Management

We begin by reviewing the key concepts from the introductory course Sustainability Management and refreshing central definitions. Drawing on evidence from peer-reviewed academic research, we analyze whether and to what extent responsible corporate behavior translates into financial performance. The chapter concludes by

introducing The 360° Corporation framework, offering practical tools for developing, implementing, and evaluating comprehensive sustainability strategies

Chapter 2: Sustainable Business Models and Corporate Transformation

In this chapter, we investigate how companies design and scale sustainable business models to create competitive advantage. The discussion focuses on business model innovation, disruption, and the scalability of sustainability initiatives. We also address the role of corporate transformation strategies as levers to drive sustainability across the organization.

Chapter 3: Organizing and Reporting on Sustainability

We cover the fundamentals of sustainability reporting and carbon accounting, including compliance with current regulations and approaches that go beyond compliance to create sustainable value. Attention is next directed to the organization of sustainability inside firms. We examine how organizational design and corporate governance structures can support sustainability goals and how companies engage with both internal and external stakeholders.

Chapter 4: Sustainable Supply Chains, Climate Strategy, and Data Analytics

The penultimate chapter examines sustainable supply chain management, emphasizing value chain engagement and collaboration. We also analyze corporate climate strategies, with a particular focus on mitigation, adaptation, and the use of CDP data to understand risks and opportunities. In addition, you will gain first hands-on experience in analyzing sustainability data using Stata.

Chapter 5: Integration, Reflection, Exam Preparation

The final chapter synthesizes key insights from the course and revisits central concepts in preparation for the exam. It provides space for discussion, reflection, and targeted exam training.

Course Prerequisites and Grading

- Completion of *Sustainability Management* is a prerequisite.
- Attendance is not mandatory but highly recommended due to interactive formats.
- Final grade is based on the written exam according to the examination regulations.
- Important to note: The written exam will take place in December 2026, so before the actual exam period (the exact date will be announced later).
- Extra points can be earned through in-class exercises (e.g., Stata session).

Organizational Remarks

- The course is structured as a block course and will take place on 7 different dates – please make sure you arrive on time!
- **All sessions take place in** Room 010 (SEM 00/0100), Pilgrimstein 12, Seminargebäude (B | 07), **except for the** Stata session on November 13, 2026, **which will be held in** Room 00047 (Universitätsstraße 25, Pavillon (U | 06)).
- Teaching format: interactive lectures, case study discussions, empirical exercises.
- We use ILIAS as our primary communication platform. Please check the course materials before class.
- Make sure to bring an electronic device (e.g. laptop, tablet).

Important Dates

Event	Date	Time
Kick-Off & Introduction	16.10.2026	14:00 – 18:00
Sustainable Business Models and Corporate Transformation	05.11.2026	14:00 – 20:00
Organizing and Reporting on Sustainability	06.11.2026	12:00 – 18:00
Organizing and Reporting on Sustainability	07.11.2026	9:00 – 18:00
Sustainable Supply Chains, Climate Strategy, and Data Analytics (Stata Session)	13.11.2026	12:00 – 18:00
Sustainable Supply Chains, Climate Strategy, and Data Analytics	14.11.2026	9:00 – 18:00
Integration, Reflection, Exam Preparation	28.11.2026	14:00 – 18:00
Exam (please consult the official exam schedule)	December 2026	Tba