

Sustainability For Competitive Advantage – Teaching Assistant

Professor Tensie Whelan is looking for a Teaching Assistant for her fall 2018 undergraduate “Sustainability for Competitive Advantage” course. The course will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:45pm.

Course Summary

This course is designed to assist students in developing the knowledge, skills, and perspective they need to understand and address environmental and social challenges in business, so that as leaders they reduce risk, create competitive advantage, and develop innovative services, products, and processes, all while building value for society and protecting the planet.

Due to a rapidly changing global ecosystem, businesses in the future will face fewer resources, greater demands for transparency, less available water, and a warmer climate. At the risk management level, leaders need to understand how these changing factors can impact their businesses, much as they do for civil conflict, financial panics, and political upheavals.

But as is often the case, new risks create new opportunities: the business leaders who can meet such risks through effective innovation and collaboration will find solutions to these sustainability challenges that meet the needs of society while delivering returns to shareholders.

In this course, students will develop an effective leadership perspective through pursuit of the following learning objectives: 1) to become familiar with the key environmental and social issues effecting business today, 2) to understand the evolution of corporate response—from compliance to engagement to innovation, 3) to develop some of the skills required for leading in this new social and political environment (e.g. multi-stakeholder management), 4) to explore the efficiencies and innovations being developed by corporate leaders in pursuit of sustainability, 5) to explore innovations in finance (true cost accounting, net positive value, social impact bonds), and 6) to become familiar with the latest consumer insight research on sustainability. In short, this course is multi-disciplinary, and seeks to integrate across the functions of the firm to arrive at an effective firm-wide leadership sensibility.

Students: 35-40

Teaching Assistant Duties

Beginning of the Semester

- Get to know the incoming class of students via NYU Classes (names and photos)
- On the first day of class, send out Google Form survey to gauge baseline knowledge
- If MBA course, note final paper topics and assign

Throughout the Semester

- Prep for class
 - Propose reading questions to prompt discussions to Tensie 1+ week in advance of each class
 - Help Tensie coordinate guest speakers 1+ week in advance of each class
 - (sending an email with reminder and logistics, sample below) and day-of (guiding to the room)
 - Load PowerPoints from speakers onto NYU Classes after getting permission
 - Help manage NYU Classes site by posting messages and readings
- Attend class
 - Take attendance, manage excused and unexcused absences and make-up papers
 - Note participation (quantity and quality)
 - Help Tensie coordinate group work/breakouts, company pitches, and meetings with students

End of the Semester

- Watch in-class presentations with Tensie and consult on performance
- On the last day of class, send out Google Form survey to gauge knowledge learned over the course of the semester (**include a question about particular companies or areas of focus they enjoyed or learned about or would have liked?)
- Assist with grading final papers and final course grades

Compensation

\$1800 for the semester

How To Apply

Email Professor Tensie Whelan at twhelan@stern.nyu.edu