MN4238 – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT

MODULE TYPE/SEMESTER: Honours/Option (20 Credits)/Semester 1

PRE-REQUISITE(S): EITHER both MN2001 and MN2002 OR SD2002

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AIM:
This module examines the origin of the concept of sustainable development (hereafter SD) in public policy discourses with particular focus on the implications this concept has for the operation of organisations and the practice of management. In particular, we will critically examine how organisations and management practice addresses key challenges in the areas of climate change, water, human rights and biodiversity. The module will also explore the difficulties of applying notions of sustainable development to single organisations as well as the challenges, which conventional economic systems present to SD.

METHOD OF TEACHING & LEARNING:
- Lectures, seminars & group/independent study.
- Class time Monday 2-4pm
- Seminars (1 hour) in weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the module, students should be able to:
- Provide a coherent explanation as to why sustainable development has emerged as a major public policy goal
- Describe the application of sustainable development principles to organisations and identify the problems which arise from this application.
- Identify particular challenges that emerge in the areas of climate change, water, human rights and biodiversity.
- Critically assess particular management responses to the sustainable development agenda including mechanisms related to strategy, internal management systems, reporting and certification.
SKILLS:
The transferable skills acquired and/or developed in this module will include:
- Focused search and synthesis of relevant material
- Critical reading
- Independent thinking and evaluation
- Clear and analytical writing
- Group working
- Facilitation and presentation skills

INDICATIVE TOPIC OUTLINE (To be confirmed):
Lecture Topics per week:
Week  
1  Introduction to module & critical assessment of prosperity  
2  Pressures and trends analysis - & why SD is thought to be the 'solution’  
3  Governing, managing & key concepts, including insights into carbon management  
4  Water governance & management systems  
5  Biodiversity issues & product labelling  
6  Independent Learning Week: This is an opportunity to catch up on reading from weeks 1-5 and prepare for your assessment (due Week 7)  
7  Human rights & corporate engagement  
8  New business models and impacts (TBC)  
9  New economic models & prosperity without growth  
10  Group presentations: Thinking, doing and managing sustainability  
11  Synthesis and wrap up

ASSESSMENT:
- One 2,500 essay (30%) due in week 7  
- Group presentation (20%) due in week 10  
- 2-hour exam (50%)

CORE READING LIST:
A full detailed list of required readings will be available on Moodle.