



Sem: Spring 2025 Class Day/Time: TuTh 2:20-3:40p

Location: Schoenbaum Hall 305

Instructor: Dr. Grant Donnelly

E-mail: Donnelly.177@osu.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Location: Zoom or Fisher Hall 514

Course Description:

What is the ultimate responsibility of companies? Fifty years ago, the consensus to this question was that firms should be maximizing profit and shareholders' value. Today, however, the answer is more complex. Companies are increasingly being held accountable for environmental and social responsibilities, in addition to their economic performance. As a result, the traditional principles of marketing developed during the 20th century are also being challenged and revised to embrace sustainability as a core component of business.

Sustainable marketing is the process of creating and delivering value to customers in a manner that respects or enhances both the environment and society. Through lectures, case studies, and interactive discussions, students in this course will learn about the principles of sustainable marketing across various industries (e.g., apparel, food, technology), as well as gain a deep understanding of the sustainable consumer. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop an effective sustainable marketing plan that can drive positive change in the business world. In line with these learning objectives, the course is divided into three main modules: (1) Defining sustainable marketing, (2) Understanding the sustainable consumers, and (3) Developing a sustainable marketing plan.

Pre-Requirements: BUSML 3150

Course Format: Course meetings are held in person in Schoenbaum Hall 305

Office Hours are available by appointment. Please email Donnelly.177@osu.edu to schedule a time to meet with Professor Donnelly. Please clarify whether you would like to meet in-person in Fisher 514 (OSU main campus) or virtually.

Required Texts/Materials:

I have created a course pack with Harvard Business Publishing Education. This course pack includes 7 cases that we will discuss in our synchronous meetings and costs \$64.35. You can find the course pack here:

<https://hbsp.harvard.edu/import/1249737>

Evaluation Criteria:

Graded Components	% of Total	Type
In-Class Participation	20%	N ↑
Exams	60%	N ↑
Final Presentation	20%	C 🚫

Requirements for each form of graded component.

Failing to follow these will represent academic misconduct. See below.

Independent Work [N ↑]: Strictly non-collaborative, original individual work. You may discuss this assignment with your instructor only. Discussions with other individuals, either in person or electronically, are strictly prohibited.

Collaboration Required [C 🚫]: An explicit expectation for collaboration among students either in class or outside of class (i.e. group work).

Collaboration Optional [O 🚫]: Students are permitted, but not required, to discuss the assignment or ideas with each other. However, all submitted work must be one's original and individual creation.

Academic Conduct:

If a student is suspected of, or reported to have committed, academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to COAM. If you have questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me. See OSU Prohibited Conduct – [Section 3335-23-04\(A\)](#)

University Policies, Services and Resources
(go.osu.edu/UPolicies)



Fisher Undergraduate Handbook and QuickLinks
(www.bsalinks.com)



Fisher Navigator Resource Portal
(www.nav-1.com)



Learning Goals and Objectives:

- Explore why the marketing principles that evolved in the 20th century is often incongruent with today's sustainability goals
- Define sustainable marketing and related business concepts
- Examine segmentation and targeting around sustainability interests, benefits and values
- Identify consumer segments and values relevant to sustainability issues as well as environmental and social outcomes that address sustainability
- Discuss why pro-environmental values, attitudes, and intentions often fail to translate into more sustainable purchases or recycling behaviors. Review the SHIFT framework to encourage sustainable consumer behavior.
- Understand the value of corporate social responsibility and cause-related marketing
- Develop a business proposal to solve a sustainability problem in the marketplace
- Review the key components of a marketing plan focused on sustainability. Focus on measuring, monitoring, and reporting sustainability goals in the plan.

Graded Component Details

Exams (300 points): Three exams will be designed to test your understanding of course reading and concepts and your ability to apply these concepts to generate and evaluate strategies for marketing and fostering sustainable behavior. Each exam is 100 points and will include 25 multiple choice questions and 5 short essay questions. You will have 80 minutes to complete the exam and it is open book/cases, open notes/lecture slides, open internet **but not open communication with other people**. You must complete this exam individually. Exams will be available through the Carmen course module, and available to be completed at a time and location that works best for you. Each exam will be open for a 1-week period (during the exam week as outlined in the course schedule).

Final Project (100 points): Student groups (groups of 5 or 6) will complete a project where you will be tasked with identifying a sustainability problem in a firm and developing a marketing plan to introduce a new initiative, product or service to address a socio-ecological problem. You will be responsible for forming a group on your own, but there will be facilitated discussions in class to help people identify potential group members. Most of the work for this project will need to be completed outside of class time, but there will be a pitch presentation where your group will share a rough sketch of your initial idea and will receive feedback from your other classmates and professor. This will be valuable time to get feedback on how to further develop your idea into a sustainability project. At the end of the semester, students will present their work to the class. This presentation should be roughly 20 minutes and include at minimum of 6 power point slides. Each group member should plan on having a speaking role in the presentation. See the Assignment tab in Carmen for more specific instructions for this assignment).

In-Class Participation (100 points). This is an upper-level course such that many of you will be entering the business world in a matter of weeks, where you will be expected to actively participate. Your participation score will consist of your attendance and your participation during course lectures during the semester. There are also 2 presentations that you will give during this course:

- **Case Discussions:** Sharing insights and viewpoints in class is essential for learning in this course. Therefore, all students are expected to contribute to class discussions. Students should be prepared to comment during sessions and may be randomly cold called during discussions. Completing the required readings and cases for each session is the best way to prepare for class discussion. Evaluation of class participation is based on the quality, rather than the quantity, of comments. Comments will be evaluated based on their relevance, insightfulness, and coherence. Each case will be worth 10 points. You can drop your three lowest scores.
- **Pitch Presentation:** During the course you will 'pitch' an initial idea for the final project to class. This is designed to share your thinking and get ideas from me and your classmates. More information will be provided closer to the date, but you will be asked to identify an opportunity for a firm to introduce a sustainability/social initiative by (a) identifying a socio-ecological problem; (b) identify a social marketing technique to intervene and (c) provide a rough sketch of what you are thinking in terms of developing this idea into a final project. This presentation should be roughly 20 minutes total- 10 minutes of presentation, and 10 minutes of Q&A with brainstorming. While you will not receive any points for this presentation, you will lose 15 points if you do not participate.

Grading Scale

Letter	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
(Points)	(4.0)	(3.7)	(3.3)	(3.0)	(2.7)	(2.3)	(2.0)	(1.7)	(1.3)	(1.0)	(0.0)
Range	100% - 93%	90% - 87%	83% - 80%	77% - 73%	70% - 67%	60% - 0%					

Note: Above percentages are % of overall points earned

Additional Policies

Testing Policy:

Missed exams can only be made-up in extreme cases (e.g., death of family member, personal hospitalization, etc.) with proper documentation (e.g., a physician's note, ER paperwork, obituary, etc.). Each decision of potentially allowing a make-up exam is made by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, you **MUST** contact the TA for this course, Kylee Collins (Collins.1983@buckeyemail.osu.edu) as soon as you know of a potential problem or conflict with an exam date. Alternative methods (e.g., oral exam, essay) of testing may be used for make-up exams. If you are experiencing an extreme situation or emergency, please attempt to notify the instructor or TA by email ASAP. Students requesting a make-up exam will need to schedule their exam through the testing center (testing.osu.edu) and will be required to complete a make-up exam request form provided by the testing center.

Attendance / Participation Expectations:

Any student who fails to attend without giving prior notification to the instructor will be dis-enrolled after the third instructional day of the term, or the second scheduled class meeting of the course, whichever occurs first, per OSU policy. I will continue to take attendance throughout the semester.

Communication: I will use the Carmen email system and Buckeye Mail to contact you about the class (e.g., changes in the syllabus, assignments, etc.). It is your responsibility to check official emails sent to you via Canvas and/or Buckeye Mail. **However, if you are looking to get in touch with me please email me at Donnelly.177@osu.edu rather than through the Carmen system as I check this email much more frequently. Please also reach out to Kylee Collins (course TA) at Collins.1983@buckeyemail.osu.edu.**

Course-specific Copyright Policy: Material provided by the instructor may not be re-posted anywhere without the explicit permission of instructors. See University Copyright Policy.

Students with Disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately at the beginning of the semester to discuss your accommodations. The Office for Disability Services can be contacted: (614) 292-3307; slds@osu.edu; and to schedule exam accommodations: slds-exam@osu.edu
