

MGMT 579 E/F: Perspectives on ESG in Business (Winter 2024)

If you believe that business can and should be about more than making money, this could be the course for you.

Over the course of the 10-week quarter, we'll offer a comprehensive overview of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues affecting business. The course will be organized around a "stakeholder" view of the firm and will explore these ESG issues from the perspectives of management, employees, suppliers, investors, regulators and communities. Whenever possible, we'll take a "double materiality" approach, looking at both the impact of ESG issues on business performance and profitability and the impact of business practices on the health of people and planet.

Climate change will be front and center throughout the course, as will issues of economic inequality. And because the problems are global, the approach will be international.

All that said, probably the most important perspective of the course is personal. The overriding question of the course is about you: what are YOU going to do in YOUR business career to respond to the overwhelming crises of our time?

The course will feature some amazing guest speakers talking about how they are addressing these issues; a series of reflective essays to explore your own thoughts and feelings; formal debates on key issues of the day; and a final assignment that will give you an opportunity to explore a topic of personal interest in greater depth.

If you have questions about the course and whether it is right for you, please feel free to reach out to me at bamburg@uw.edu.

Thanks for considering this course. The planet you save may be your own.