Module Description, available in: EN

Ethics and Corporate Responsibility

General Information

Number of ECTS Credits

3

Module code

CM_Ethics

Valid for academic year

2024-25

Last modification

2022-10-16

Coordinator of the module

Thorsten Busch (ZHAW, buth@zhaw.ch)

Explanations regarding the language definitions for each location:

- Instruction is given in the language defined below for each location/each time the module is held.
- Documentation is available in the languages defined below. Where documents are in several languages, the percentage distribution is shown (100% = all the documentation).
- The examination is available 100% in the languages shown for each location/each time it is held.

	Lausanne			Lugano	Zurich		
Instruction					**X** E 100%		
Documentation					**X** E 100%		
Examination					**X** E 100%		

Module Category

CM Context module

Profile Recommendations

This module is recommended for the following profiles:

	Zurich
Profile	CE, DS, ICS, Med, ReLa

Lessons

2 lecture periods and 1 tutorial period per week

Entry level competences

Prerequisites, previous knowledge

Brief course description of module objectives and content

In an environment that is changing increasingly quickly, students will be taught the ability to assume social responsibility either as engineers or in management functions in companies. They will develop a profound awareness of the ethical aspects of their actions and for the ecological and social impacts of companies. In their subsequent professional careers, they will thus be better able to judge the consequences of their work for society, to deal with conflicts in these areas, and to contribute to the corporate responsibility strategies of their organisations in a manner appropriate to their positions.

Aims, content, methods

Learning objectives and competencies to be acquired

- The students know the theoretical foundations of various ethical theories
- The students are familiar with various levels of ethics (individual ethics and corporate ethics)
- The students can apply a wide range of ethical approaches to a specific situation
- The students are familiar with the concept of the broader corporate responsibility of organisations
- The students are familiar with the main elements of the implementation of corporate responsibility in companies
- The students are able to analyse and critically judge the corporate responsibility strategy of a given company on the basis of publicly available information

Module content with weighting of different components

Ethics

- fundamental ethical concepts
- ethics of duties and ethics of consequences; human rights; the common good
- discourse ethics; justice; forming ethical judgements
- ethics of the environment and the future; sustainable development

- ethics of technology; estimating the consequences of technology, technology assessment
- ethics codices, guidelines, professional norms
- specific case studies from various disciplines

Corporate Responsibility:

- the role of organisations/companies in society
- the expectations of stakeholder groups and dealing with these expectations (stakeholder management)
- various classic concepts of corporate responsibility
- corporate responsibility in ecological, social, economic and technological areas, business case for CSR/sustainability
- elements of the implementation of corporate responsibility (issue identification, governance, guiding philosophy/policy, issue strategies, measurement and monitoring, non-financial reporting, auditing and certification

Teaching and learning methods

Lecture, case studies, individual and group projects.

The final exam consists of a written work assignment and written questions.

Literature

References for literature will be provided during the lectures on a language-specific basis.

Assessment

Certification requirements

Module uses certification requirements

Certification requirements for final examinations (conditions for attestation)

Proof of active participation

Basic principle for exams

As a rule, all standard final exams are conducted in written form. For resit exams, lecturers will communicate the exam format (written/oral) together with the exam schedule.

Standard final exam for a module and written resit exam

Kind of exam

Written exam

Duration of exam

120 minutes

Permissible aids

Aids permitted as specified below:

Permissible electronic aids

No electronic aids permitted

Other permissible aids

Specified by the lecturers

Special case: Resit exam as oral exam

Kind of exam

Oral exam

Duration of exam

30 minutes

Permissible aids

No aids permitted