SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAINS / Electives / 2026

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FACULTY INFORMATION

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FACULTY BIO

Morteza Pourakbar is an Associate Professor of Supply Chain Management at the Department of Technology and Operations Management, Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, The Netherlands. His main research areas are risk and security management in global supply chains and sustainable operations. Morteza's teaching portfolio includes courses in supply chain, sustainability and risk management in various MSc programs at RSM

ABSTRACT

This MBA elective, Sustainable Supply Chains, is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of how sustainability is reshaping global supply chain strategies. In this course, students will explore key concepts such as the environmental, economic, and social pillars of sustainability, and how evolving regulations are influencing supply chain practices worldwide. The course covers practical tools for sustainability measurement, including Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) and carbon foot-printing, alongside cutting-edge strategies for creating circular supply chains. Through case studies and simulations, students will learn how businesses are integrating sustainability into product design, adopting circular business models, and implementing reverse logistics.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

Learning areas	Learning outcomes
I. Content-related (knowledge, analysis, comprehension)	- recognize and discuss the relevance of sustainability for companies - identify, discuss and apply relevant concepts, methods and tools in the area of circularity
II. Skills-related (analytical, social, communicative, managerial)	- analyze particular corporate situations from a sustainability and circularity perspective
III. Attitude-related (behaviour, beliefs, feelings, interactions)	- critically reflect upon their own individual and team performance (e.g., aspects of interdisciplinarity, team dynamics and leadership, relevant to critical alignment required for sustainability).

TEACHING METHODS AND WORKLOAD

Although the course includes some theoretical content, the primary focus is on experiential learning through case studies, simulation games, and both individual and group exercises. A key component of the course is a business simulation game called *The Blue Connection*, in which student teams will work to turn around a loss-making company by implementing circular strategies to improve its profitability.

Description	Calculation	Total
In-Class sessions:	6 sessions x 3 hours	18 hours
Class Preparation:	18 in-class session hours x 2	36 hours
Team Assignment(s)		20 hours
Individual Assignment(s)		10 hours
Total Course Hours		Total hours
EC (Number of study credits)	3 EC x 28	84 Total hours

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

Course: Sustainable Supply Chains		**Assessment formats**		
Educational goals per course (formulated using action verbs (Bloom's Taxonomy)		**(3) Individual assignments**	**Team assignment**	**total**
	After following this course, students will be able to:			
• recognize and discuss the relevance of sustainability for companies.			X	
• identify, discuss and apply relevant concepts, methods and tools in the area of sustainability.		X	X	
• analyze particular corporate situations from a sustainability and circularity perspective		X	X	
• critically reflect upon their own individual and team performance (e.g., aspects of interdisciplinarity, team dynamics and leadership, relevant to critical alignment required for sustainability).		X	X	
	Individual assignments 1.a and 1.b (each count 50% of this sub-component) 25%	Individual assignment 2 40%		
Weighting factor		65%	35%	100%
Minimum grade required		5.5*	5.5	
When failed, resit option within academic year (Yes/No)	Yes		No	
Form of examination (e.g. MC, Open-book, etc.)	n/a		n/a	
Group / Individual assessment (Group/Individual)	Individual		Group	

In order to pass the course, each assessment or deliverable (component grade) with a resit option, needs to be at least 5.5. Components with no resit option bear no minimum grade required, but to pass the overall course, the final grade needs to be at least 5.5.
* The assessment "Individual assignments" is a composite component counting 65% of course grade. Students need to meet the 5.5 minimum required grade at this level.

Grades are rounded according to the rounding provisions included in the Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER) of the programme, and are expressed with 1 decimal point. Not meeting the minimum grade required for either a component grade or the overall course grade determines a fail for the course. Participants can resit a failed component only once. There is no capping of the grade for a resit examination. The only exception is when the nature of the failed assignment allows for an improvement effort of the same assignment (capped at 5.5 for that component).

For this particular course, the faculty has decided that *all* assignments allow for **new resit instructions.**

Grade penalties for unauthorized late submissions will be automatically imposed. Penalties for unauthorised late submissions range from 10% to 20% deduction from the examination component depending on the hours/days late. Unauthorised late submissions 4 days or longer after the deadline without prior notification and a reasonable explanation for the late submission, will not be accepted.

Attendance is mandatory and a requirement to pass the course. Missing classes and arriving late may result in grading penalties and even a fail for the course.

Fraud, Plagiarism / Self-plagiarism (Refer to separate RSM Code of Conduct, Rules and Guidelines, and Teaching and Examination Regulations)
The Examination Board defines fraud as "*the action or negligence of a student because of which it is impossible, entirely, or partially, to form a correct judgment about the knowledge, insight, and skills of them or another student*" (R&Gs and TERs). Examples of fraud are cheating, cribbing, plagiarism, freeriding in a team assignment, availability of unauthorized (study) material during a test such as mobile phones, contract cheating/outsourcing/ghost-writing, unauthorized use of generative AI, identity fraud, theft.

Confirmed cases of fraud/plagiarism will lead to (appropriate and proportional) sanctions as defined by the Examination Board in the Rules and Guidelines (R&G). Repetitive cases of fraud/plagiarism lead to expulsion from the programme.

Plagiarism is presenting another person's work as one's own. Plagiarism includes any paraphrasing or summarising of the work of another person or group without acknowledgment, including submission of another student's work as one's own. Plagiarism frequently involves a failure to acknowledge the quotation of paragraphs, sentences, or even a few phrases written or spoken by someone else.

Using ideas from your own prior work (assignment) without referencing the work in your assignment is considered self-plagiarism.

Participants are required to adhere to the 6 principles outlined in the RSM AI guidelines with regard to the use of Artificial Intelligence Platforms such as ChatGPT and related software/tools. The unauthorised use constitutes violation of plagiarism/ fraud policy.

For this particular course, the faculty **promotes an *embraced* use of AI.**

For more information about academic integrity and AI please refer to the Programme's Teaching and Examination Regulations and RSM AI guidelines documents on the Student Hub.

Assessment / Deliverable:	Individual or group:	(Due) date and hand in location:	% of final grade:
Individual assignment 1: Preparation and post-class assignments (after session 1 and before session 2)	Individual	TBD	25%
Individual assignment 2: TBC reflection and learning	individual	TBD	40%
Team assignment: Sustainability strategy	team	TBD	35%

For all Canvas submissions, please make sure to include the student name, EUR student number, and programme name within the document itself (on the cover page), and your initials, EUR student number, and programme name in the title of the file submission

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S) AND READINGS

The required literature and other materials used in class will be made available via Canvas

DETAILED COURSE SCHEDULE

Session 1:	
Topics:	- sustainability definition and dimensions - sustainable supply chain strategies - Circular strategies – Reverse logistics - value framework in a closed loop supply chain
In class exercises:	TBD
Readings:	TBD
Case:	TBD

Session 2:	
Topics:	Introduction to The Blue Connection Gameplay Scenario 1: "Maintenance & Refurbishment"
In class exercises:	TBD
Readings:	TBD
Case:	TBD

Session 3:	
Topics:	Circular supply chain strategies – product design and business models
In class exercises:	TBD
Readings:	TBD
Case:	TBD

Session 4:	
Topics:	Environmental regulations and their implications for supply chains Extended producer responsibility
In class exercises:	TBD
Readings:	TBD
Case:	TBD

Session 5:	
Topics:	Sustainability measurement at the product level Introduction to the Life Cycle Analysis(LCA)
In class exercises:	TBD
Readings:	TBD
Case:	TBD

Session 6:	
Topics:	Carbon foot-printing GHG emission framework and supply chain carbon foot-printing
In class exercises:	TBD
Readings:	TBD
Case:	TBD

ASSIGNMENTS DESCRIPTION

More information about the assignments and grading rubrics will be made available on Canvas closer to the start of the course.