

NR 5884 Sustainable Organizations
Offered: Spring Semester

INSTRUCTOR: Robert Pojasek, Ph.D.

REQUIRED TEXT: Organizational Risk Management and Sustainability: A Practical Step-by-Step Guide by RB Pojasek (ISBN: 978-1498724661)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This transdisciplinary course examines the changing role of the organizations that comprise corporations and are community drivers of sustainability in the Anthropocene. The International Organization of Standardization (ISO) will be reviewed as a means of creating organizational sustainability programs for corporations, facilities, and communities. Using this harmonized high-level structure, along with Guide 82 (Guidelines for Addressing Sustainability in Standards), these international programs provide a challenge to commonly accepted sustainability concepts. Using the contrasting models presented in the course, students will be encouraged to consider their own personal and professional roles and responsibilities for reconciling the complex interests involved in creating sustainability through discussion, independent research, critical thinking, and written assignments.

Learning Objectives:

Following successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Create a sustainability management system for a corporation linked to ISO 26000 (Social Responsibility Standard), the UN Sustainability Goals, and other international sustainability documents.
- Create a sustainability management system for a facility managed by a corporation, demonstrating how the perspective of the facility can be reconciled with the corporation.
- Determine what to include in a community sustainability program using the ISO37191 guidance (Communities Sustainable Development and Resilience Management System) and other international sustainability standards.
- Determine how community organizations not covered in ISO37191 can be reconciled with facility and community sustainability programs.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Asynchronous Discussions – 40%
Written Assignments – 60%