

ENVIR 502 Spring 2016 Research project overview — Version 1, April 6, 2016

The purpose of the project is for student groups to explore research questions in sustainable business and report their findings to the class as a whole. My intention is that each project is valuable to the participants, by exploring a subject of interest, and to everyone else, by learning material not otherwise covered in the class. Application of coursework is essential for this project.

Group size and composition. I encourage groups of 3-4 people. It is possible to work in a group of two or alone for this project, but I will want to discuss your reasons for this before approving this arrangement. I encourage you to work with people who have different backgrounds in terms of major/option/concentration and experience.

Requirements

1. Proposal. The Proposal is due Monday April 18. On Wednesday April 20, I will meet individually with groups to provide feedback and offer suggestions (no regular class meeting on April 20).
2. Progress report and presentation. The progress report is due Monday May 9. There will be a brief in class presentations (addressing research questions, findings to date, etc.) on May 9.
3. Research project presentation. The presentations will be Monday May 25 and Wednesday May 27 (note: may be Wednesday May 27 only depending on the number of groups that are formed).
4. Research project final report. The final report will be due Monday June 6

Subject matter

The subject of the research project can be an individual firm, an industry, or a current issue in sustainable business. Any of these will provide the opportunity to explore the challenge of being both profitable and sustainable.

The ideal project will both be valuable to you as an individual (e.g., of inherent interest and/or contributing to other work you are doing) and be valuable and interesting for the rest of us to hear and think about. Topics that we will cover in class are acceptable for the group research project, but obviously would require a much "deeper" and more extensive treatment than what will be assigned.

I have drafted a separate document listing sustainable business topics (including topics covered in this course) and resources for identifying a topic and conducting research.

Proposal due Monday April 18

The proposal should identify what you propose to work on and how it relates to the course. The proposal should contain a first version of the research questions that you will seek to answer as you conduct your project.

The proposal should identify the methods you will employ and the types of sources you plan to use to carry out the project. Include an initial bibliography of sources consulted. If applicable, please note how the proposal relates to the interests and other research or study being undertaken by group members.

The proposal should be no more than two pages (not including references, tables, and figures) and be submitted electronically to the course dropbox:

<https://catalyst.uw.edu/collectit/dropbox/laverty/38078>

On Wednesday April 20 in lieu of a regular class I will meet with each group to discuss your proposal and either approve your project or request specific revisions to the proposal.

Specifics as to other requirements for the research project will be distributed later.