

CSIB 735: Leading Business Practices for Human Rights

Fall Term B, 2008

1.5 credit hours

Tuesdays 7:30 – 10:30pm

Instructor: David Berdish

Manager of Sustainable Business Development, Ford Motor Company

Erb Advisory Board Member

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to introduce the theory and practice of human rights into business and the social dimensions of sustainability. The people in this course will learn about the problems, policies, risks and opportunities for leadership and establishing new markets. We will also think about how corporations can influence the global economy and positively impact the societies in which they operate.

The spirit of this course will balance inquiry into issues and advocacy of viewpoints. Participants will work to better understand major issues in areas of concern and also work on a group presentation as part of a company case. Please prepare to engage in the conversation and the learning.

Course grade will be determined by the following:

- 50%: Team case studies on implementation and hot issues
- 50%: Personal reflection as described in weekly personal journal

Main Text

- Setting Global Standards: Guidelines for Creating Codes of Conduct in Multinational Corporations by S. Prakash Sethi, 2003, John Wiley and Sons

Course Calendar

October 28: Overview and Code Description

- Introductions
- Course overview
- Human Rights code details
- *Journal Entries due Saturday, November 8*

November 4: Standards and Expectations

- Adopting policies that incorporate international human rights standards, such as the UN Human Rights Norms, that are based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, and the core conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO).
- Indices and rankings (i.e., FTSE4Good)
- Importance of Supply Chain

November 11: Company and NGO Stories

- Follow-up on Case Prep Day
- Companies (Ford, Disney, Nike, etc.)
- NGOs (Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, ICCR, etc.)
- *Journal Entries due Saturday, November 22*

November 18: Engagement, Emerging Issues and High-Visibility Countries

- Ways in which corporate influence can influence the status of human rights in a particular country for the better.
- Indigenous populations, HIV-AIDS, discrimination, advancement of human rights

December 2: The Social Dimensions of Business Development

- How human rights leadership can create business opportunities

December 9: Group Work on Case Study

- Details to follow

December 16: Group FINAL Project Presentation

- Review case studies
- *PAPERS DUE MIDNIGHT, 12-20-08*