



Critical perspectives on sustainability in fashion retail Kritiska perspektiv på hållbarhet inom textil- och modehandel

7.5 credits

7.5 högskolepoäng

Ladok Code: AE1KP1

Version: 3.0

Established by: Committee for Education in Business and Working Life 2022-06-08

Valid from: Spring 2023

Education Cycle: First cycle

Main Field of Study (Progressive Specialisation): Textile Management (G1F)

Disciplinary Domain: Social sciences

Prerequisites: Approved on the courses Fashion and the Textile Value Chain 7.5 credits and Theories in Fashion Retailing 7.5 credits or equivalent.

Subject Area: Leadership, Organisation and Management

Grading Scale: Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG)

Content

The course provides an understanding of the concept of sustainability and deals with different perspectives prevalent in the sustainability discourse of the textile and fashion industry. The purpose of the course is to give the student a broad understanding of what sustainable development may address. Initially, the course addresses sustainability based on historical developments up to and including the 17 Global Goals of the United Nations (SDG, Agenda 2030) focusing on how the definition of sustainability and related concepts differ according to cultural context and role in the textile value chain. Thereafter, the course continues to address different perspectives on sustainability, such as equal treatment and gender; work environment and safety; consumption practices and cultural; ethics and morality; product and production. During the course, the student will continuously be trained in collecting and processing/analysing information for a limited time as well as on how different aspects affect sustainability in the textile and fashion industry. The course also includes exercises where students are given the opportunity to reflect on their own consumption of textile and fashion as well as applied elements relating to visual communication of sustainability aspects.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- 1.1. Provide examples of different perspectives on sustainability and relate the different perspectives to cultural contexts and roles in the textile value chain,
- 1.2. describe and discuss the conditions for sustainable entrepreneurship in the textile and fashion retail from a historical and theoretical perspective,
- 1.3. using the course literature, identify contexts and situations in textile and fashion retail where ethical questions may arise;
- 1.4. explain how different perspectives on sustainability are expressed in textile and fashion retail;

Skills and Abilities

- 2.1. search, collect, value and critically interpret relevant information in relation to sustainability and responsible entrepreneurship in textile and fashion retail,
- 2.2. discern how different systems of verification, assessment, labelling and follow-up of products and processes in the textile and fashion industry result in the highlighting of various aspects of sustainable development;
- 2.3. in writing and orally be able to present and discuss knowledge and problems related to various aspects of sustainability in textile retailing,
- 2.4. using the course literature, analyse how sustainable development requirements affect products, businesses, and societies in textile retailing,

Evaluation ability and approach

- 3.1. with support from the course literature, evaluate and problematise ethical issues that may arise in a professional role in a globalised physical and digital retail environment;
- 3.2. based on the global sustainability objectives of the United Nations, assess and problematise the impact a business in the textile and fashion industry has on its environment;
- 3.3. show insight on the role of your own knowledge in relation to ethical and moral issues related to a professional role in the textile and fashion industry, as well as
- 3.4. demonstrate the ability to identify their need for further knowledge and skills development in relation to ethical issues and sustainable development in a future professional role in the textile and fashion industry.

Forms of Teaching

The teaching is based on lectures, workshops, and seminars.

The language of instruction is English.

Forms of Examination

The course is examined through the following examination components:

Examination: Written Individual Examination

Intended learning outcomes: 1.1-1.4, 2.3, 2.4 and 3.2-3.5

Credits: 2.5

Grading scale: Fail/Pass/Pass with distinction

Written Assignment 1: Written and visual material developed and authored as a group

Intended learning outcomes: 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.1-2.4, 3.1 and 3.3

Credits: 3.0

Grading scale: Fail/Pass/Pass with distinction

Report: Oral reports of own work and public discussion and examination of the work of other groups in connection with seminars

Intended learning outcomes: 1.2-1.4, 2.4, 3.1 and 3.3

Credits: 2.0

Grading scale: Pass/Fail

To receive a grade of "Pass" for the whole course, a passing grade is required for all examination components. To receive a grade of "Pass with distinction" for the whole course, a passing grade is required for both the individual exam and written assignment as well as "pass" for other examination components.

If the student has received a decision/recommendation regarding special pedagogical support from the University of Borås due to disability or special needs, the examiner has the right to make accommodations when it comes to examination. The examiner must, based on the objectives of the course syllabus, determine whether the examination can be adapted in accordance with the decision/recommendation.

Student rights and obligations at examination are in accordance with guidelines and rules for the University of Borås.

Literature and Other Teaching Methods

Carroll, A. B. (1999). *Corporate social responsibility: Evolution of a definitional construct*. *Business & Society*, 38 (3), 268-295.

Borglund, T., De Geer, H., Sweet, S., Frostenson, M., Lerpold, L., Nordbrand, S., Sjöström, E., Sweet, S., Windell, K. & Grafström, M. (senaste upplagan). *CSR and Sustainable Business*. Second edition, Stockholm: Sanoma utbildning

Fletcher, K. (latest edition). *Sustainable fashion and textiles: design journeys*. Second edition Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

Geels, F. W., McMeekin, A., Mylan, J., & Southerton, D. (2015). *A critical appraisal of Sustainable Consumption and Production research: The reformist, revolutionary and reconfiguration positions*. *Global Environmental Change*, 34, 1-12.

United Nation (UN). (2015). *Transforming the world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld/publication>

Additional course literature and other teaching materials are provided/informed about via the learning platform (max 400 pages).

Student Influence and Evaluation

The course is evaluated in accordance with current guidelines for course evaluations at the University of Borås in which students' views are to be gathered. The course evaluation report is published and returned to participating and prospective students in accordance with the above-mentioned guidelines, and will be taken into consideration in the future development of courses and education programmes. Course coordinators are responsible for ensuring that the evaluations are conducted as described above.

Miscellaneous

This syllabus is a translation from the Swedish original.