



Social and Sustainable Entrepreneurship

Prof. David Park, Syracuse University, USA

SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the process of social and sustainable entrepreneurship—where innovation meets impact. Together, we will explore what social and sustainable entrepreneurship is, why it is important, and how entrepreneurial action can solve some of the world’s most pressing challenges. The course aims to achieve five core objectives; 1) recognize the potential within yourself and others for social impact through entrepreneurial action; 2) apply the tools of entrepreneurship to pressing social challenges; 3) develop and evaluate novel social business concepts for their potential to be turned into sustainable ventures; 4) appreciate the role of social and sustainable entrepreneurship within society, and how it manifests itself in different contexts (start-up, corporate, social, public sector) and people; 5) understand key strategic tradeoffs in social entrepreneurship such as financing alternatives, organizational forms, impact measurement, and mission alignment. To achieve these objectives, students will learn about a variety of social issues and explore how to identify entrepreneurial opportunities that create both economic and social value. We will consider the strategic tradeoffs that social entrepreneurs must grapple with, the tools that make social ventures successful, and how to measure impact. By actively contributing in class, and completing each assignment, students will learn the tools necessary to successfully identify and develop a viable social and sustainable venture.

READING MATERIALS

The required textbook is [Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation](#) by Carole Carlson (2022; Sage; ISBN: 9781071811597).

Additional readings (required and optional) and other materials will be shared online.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Entrepreneurship involves both individual and team activity. Individually, students will learn to think and take actions as entrepreneurs through class activities, discussions, and individual assignments. Students will form teams early in the semester and work with their teams intensively in order to come up with and validate social/sustainable venture ideas and pursue them. Each team is also required to meet regularly to work on team assignments. Team discussion is encouraged in preparing the individual assignments as well. Research, as well as my experiences teaching this course, indicates that the highest-performance teams include people from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and majors. Note that learning to successfully manage group dynamics, including conflicts and roles, is a key educational component of the course.

Students will be evaluated based on their contribution to in-class discussions, as well as timely completion of assigned readings and assignments. The course is designed to teach students to stretch themselves and learn skills like teamwork, public speaking, persuasive writing, and defending your ideas, as well as the fundamentals of the entrepreneurial process. Student evaluation and final grades will be based on the following:

Individual grading (60%)

1. Professionalism & Participation (20%)
2. Personal Mission Statement (10%)

3. Role Model Social/Sustainable Venture Research (20%)
 4. Peer Evaluation (10%)
- Team grading (40%)
5. Ideation for Good (10%)
 6. Mini Business Plan and Team Presentation (30%)

Note that final grades are at the discretion of Professor Park and are subject to change based on class performance and peer evaluations. At the end of the course, you will receive a pass or fail on the student academic achievement evaluated by grades on a scale of 100 points (a grade of 60 or above is Pass).

Attendance Policy

If you miss 3 or more sessions, regardless of excuses (including sickness, emergency and etc.), you are out; you will get 0 point for the participation & professionalism and you will fail this course. We cover an important topic each session and you won't be able to learn the topic unless you are in the class. So I have this strict policy to ensure your learning. You may miss up to 2 sessions (although missing a session will certainly affect your participation score and grade) and you do NOT have to provide me with an excuse.

Device Policy

We will be using devices throughout the semester. However, you are NOT allowed to use any device during the class unless instructed otherwise. Studies have shown that using technology significantly reduces learning performance in class. In order for you to have the best learning experience, I will instruct you when you can and cannot use your device. If you violate my technology instructions, your overall class performance as well as participation & professionalism score will suffer.

Academic Integrity Policy

I expect my students to adhere to high standards for academic integrity. This includes emphasizing 1) HONESTY: I will be truthful with myself and others; 2) INTEGRITY: I will be a leader of character. I will be fair in all relations with others; and 3) RESPECT: I will show consideration for others and their ideas and work. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty are serious offenses. Any acts of academic dishonesty will lead to fail for the course. Academic dishonesty includes team-based assignments where individual team members behave dishonestly or deliberately try to claim others' work or ideas as their own.

COURSE SCHEDULE

* The exact schedule may change so pay attention to the announcement.

Session Date	Topic	Class Preparation
– Week 1 –		
Monday June 30	Why and What is Social/Sustainable Entrepreneurship?	Read preface & chapter 1
Tuesday July 1	Ideation for Good	HW: Purpose Circles Assignment (Bring a hard copy)
Wednesday July 2	Opportunity Recognition for Social/Sustainable Ventures	Read chapter 2 / Pixza Case
Thursday July 3	Team workshop	
– Week 2 –		
Monday July 7	Lean Startup & Understanding Markets & Competitive Space	HW: Team Purpose Circles Report / Presentation Read chapter 3 & 4 / Warby Parker Case
Tuesday July 8	Business Model Development for Social/Sustainable Ventures	Read chapter 5 / B Lab Case
Wednesday July 9	Basic Economics of Business	Read chapter 7 (first part)
Thursday July 10	Team workshop	
– Week 3 –		
Monday July 14	Organizational Forms for Social/Sustainable Enterprises	HW: Individual Role Model Social/Sustainable Venture Research and Presentation Read chapter 8
Tuesday July 15	Mission & Vision & Measuring Impact	
Wednesday July 16	Funding for Good	Read chapter 9 / Verge Capital Case
Thursday July 17	Marketing and Business Planning	Read chapter 10 / Homeless World Cup Case
– Week 4 –		
Monday July 21	Pitfalls of Social/Sustainable Ventures	HW: Personal Mission Statement / BillionBricks Case
Tuesday July 22	Team workshop	
Wednesday July 23	Business Plan Presentation & Wrap-up	HW: Team Mini Business Plan