Introduction to Sustainable Supply Chain Management
Spring 2026

Instructor and Class Information

Instructor: Xun (Peter) Xu, PhD
Class time and location: Thursdays 6:00 pm – 9:50 pm, online
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Course Overview

This course invites students to critically examine how goods, services, and information move across global, regional, and local systems. We'll explore traditional supply chain management frameworks alongside current research about sustainability, resilience, and social responsibility. Students will study sourcing, logistics, inventory control, and coordination - but also confront questions of labor justice, environmental impact, and technological change. The course is grounded in real-world examples, such as in emerging and developing markets, and includes collaborative problem-solving exercises aimed at redesigning supply systems for a better future.

Required Texts and Materials

Operations Management: Sustainability and Supply Chain Management, 14th edition
By Jay Heizer, Barry Render, Chuck Munson; Pearson

Course Learning Objectives and Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

(1) Identify and describe the important role of operations and supply chain management in businesses' success from a sustainability perspective.
(2) Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental and advanced principles and theories of operations and supply chain management from a sustainability perspective.
(3) Develop a global perspective on the function of operations management and supply chain management from a sustainability perspective.
(4) Apply advanced operations management techniques such as supply chain management, process strategy, location and layout strategies, and lean operations on solving real-world business operations issues from a sustainability perspective.
(5) Evaluate current operations and supply chain management process for companies and optimize the operations process based on advanced operations and supply chain management methodologies from a sustainability perspective.