The redesign of our MBA program, which relaunched this fall as the UVic MBA in Sustainable Innovation, addresses this urgency for change, with a curriculum focused on sustainable solutions for the challenges unfolding today. Organizations are reimagining their relationship with society and the environment, and the students we welcomed virtually this September to our new MBA are embarking on a program centered on this knowledge. So what does this mean in practice? Business Class asked a few of the faculty teaching in the program to share what students can expect in their classes. Here’s the view from the classroom. For a full list of courses and more, visit www.uvic.ca/mba.

MBA 514 - FOUNDATIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY

This foundational course sets up the sustainability knowledge students will need in order to dive into all the different concepts they’re going to be expected to understand throughout the rest of the program. This class will cover why sustainability is important and how it can work at a fundamental level. It should prepare students well to challenge their professors in thoughtful ways, and understand the materials being shown them through the rest of the program.”

Dr. Matt Murphy

MBA 515 - BUSINESS ECONOMICS

“I have been looking forward to teaching this course for over a year. As soon as we started redesigning our MBA program to focus on sustainability and innovation, I got really excited about how economics relates to these subjects, and the opportunities we would have to discuss topics I am passionate about. Economics is not only a key to unbridled capitalism, and it has too much to offer in terms of understanding how societies can allocate their scarce resources for greater good.”

Dr. Jen Baggis

MBA 520/WEEKEND - ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

“Redesigning accounting for a sustainability MBA is such an exciting challenge! What I hope students will take away from this course is how accounting is integrated into business; its role, how it works, key concepts and how to use accounting tools effectively I believe that this understanding will be valuable to them as financially adept sustainability leaders.”

Ms. Mia Maki

MBA 552 - STRATEGIC COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

“We know that innovative solutions often involve others; therefore the focus in the collaboration course is on how to collaborate within organizations and across industries. The currency of collaboration is relationships and information. In the course we examine the levers and barriers for successful collaboration, as well as how and how to use different types of collaboration including co-operation, public/private partnerships, networks, mergers and acquisitions and alliances to create value and address wicked problems.”

Dr. Cheryl Mitchell

MBA 553 - DESIGNING INNOVATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

“I am extremely excited to teach MBA 552.

Structure, governance, ownership and stakeholder participation are key aspects of any organizational endeavour, whether it’s a new start-up designed to tackle a sustainability issue or a long-standing consumer cooperative. When designing this course, I paid particular attention to making sure students get exposure to a wide range of different perspectives on these topics, and to be able to explore them in a wide range of contexts. One of the most important things I hope students take away from the course is an appreciation for just how many options are available when redefining their ideal organization to help make the kind of change in the world they want to see.”

Dr. Simon Pek

MBA 544 - TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERCONNECTED ORGANIZATION

“A lot is happening in the world these days, and information technology is usually either part of the problem, or the solution. Often, it seems that when we work towards a more sustainable future, it is important that we develop a critical perspective of how technologies interact with organizational, social, legal, ethical and other drivers. Information technologies are a part of much more complex information systems. This course focuses on understanding these systems, so that we can make informed IT decisions that help us tackle not only challenges related to achieving organizational goals, but also global issues such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.”

Dr. Jan Kietzmann

MBA 570 - GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

“As the world faces global problems such as pandemics, pollution and natural disasters, it can be disheartening to see many nations seek nationalistic answers to these problems. My hope for the Global Sustainable Business course is that students develop skills to seek innovative and sustainable solutions for these global problems. We need to lean into internationalization and not retreat from that perspective—and do so today. If our problems don’t stop at our national borders, our solutions won’t come from within just our borders, either.”

Dr. Sudhir Nair