

Course Outline

Code: MGT712

Title: Corporate Governance, Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility

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|----------------------------|------------------|
| School: | Business |
| Teaching Session: | Session 6 |
| Year: | 2020 |
| Course Coordinator: | Dr Graham Bowrey |
| Course Moderator: | Dr Wayne Graham |

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1 Description

This course outlines different regulatory processes and ethical practices essential to an understanding of the principles of corporate governance and ethics in the contemporary business environment. It is designed to facilitate analysis of the regulatory influences on the behaviour of corporate executives, information disclosure and board functions/structures and to foster the growth and integration of candidates' knowledge of the ethical influences on the economic, financial, managerial, and environmental aspects of management. This course also critically analyses stakeholder participation in decision-making and the moral obligations of corporate managers.

1.2 Field trips, WIL placements or activities required by professional accreditation

N/A

2. What level is this course?

700 level Specialised - Demonstrating a specialised body of knowledge and set of skills for professional practice or further learning. Advanced application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

| Specific Learning Outcomes On successful completion of this course, you should be able to: | Assessment tasks You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s: | Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to: |
|---|---|--|
| Comprehend ethical corporate governance theory and demonstrate ethical conduct. | 1 and 2 | Community Consciousness (Ethical). |
| Identify and explain corporate governance issues, functions and structures. | 1 and 2 | Critical and Creative Thinking (Knowledgeable). |
| Compare and analyse the role of stakeholders and corporate managers' moral obligations in business decision making. | 1 and 2 | Creative and critical thinkers. |
| Apply regulatory requirements to develop appropriate board and committee functions and structures. | 2 | Career Adaptive (Empowered). |
| Analyse and explain economic, social and environmental sustainability to design and apply to business practice. | 2 | Community Consciousness (Sustainability-focused). |
| Professional communication, both oral and written, of corporate government practice and frameworks. | 2 | Career Adaptive (Empowered). |

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1 Enrolment restrictions

Must be enrolled in a Postgraduate program.

5.2 Pre-requisites

Nil

5.3 Co-requisites

Nil

5.4 Anti-requisites

MBA711 and MBA714 or EMB761 and EMB764

5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Understanding of management, economics, marketing and accounting, as addressed in the pre-requisites.

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1 Grading scale

Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)

6.2 Details of early feedback on progress

Students will be encouraged to actively engage in the workshop discussions and seek formative feedback from the lecturer on a weekly basis.

6.3 Assessment tasks

| Task No. | Assessment Product | Individual or Group | Weighting % | What is the duration / length? | When should I submit? | Where should I submit it? |
|----------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Examination | Individual | 50% | 2 hours | Week 4, Saturday | Quiz (Online Test) |
| 2 | Report | Individual | 50% | 2,500 words maximum | Week 7, Saturday, 5pm (AEST) | Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check |
| | | | 100% | | | |

Assessment 1: Online Test

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Goal: | To test your knowledge and understanding of corporate governance issues and regulatory requirements; and apply corporate governance best practice principles and recommendations related to appropriate business practice. |
| Product: | Examination |
| Format: | Online Examination based on short written answer questions Further information will be provided on Blackboard |
| Criteria: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanation of the rationale for corporate social responsibility - Ethical • Identification of key aspects of stakeholder relationships • Analysis of role of stakeholder/managers • Correlation of key performance issues in the application of corporate social responsibility |

Assessment Task 2: Corporate Governance and Ethics Case Study – Report

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|------------------|---|
| Goal: | Demonstrate ability to critically appraise ethical corporate conduct and to report findings to improve practice in corporate social responsiveness by aligning with the United Nations Sustainability Goals and the Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRMEs). |
| Product: | Report |
| Format: | Written report (2,500 words) |
| Criteria: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesis of ethical theories. • Professional Communication <p>The PLO assessment aspects will address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and application of sustainability frameworks, theories and concepts and responsibilities in a business context. • Knowledge and application of ethical frameworks, theories and concepts and responsibilities in a business context. • Capacity to take on board diverse stakeholder interests in a business decision making context. • Knowledge and application of the relevant legislation/standards/codes of conduct /universal principles associated with social responsibility, ethical conduct and sustainable practice in a business context. |

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have a total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours, independent learning and completion of assessable tasks. Total student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit. This will consist 2 hours of interactive Zoom sessions for each module plus 1 hour of digital learning material per module. This will occur twice weekly. An additional 19 hours of independent study on average per teaching week (including online learning guide, recorded lecture topics, embedded digital content, course readings and development of assessment items) is required.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note that course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site. Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1 Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below as they are required:

| Author | Year | Title | Publisher |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Carroll, Brown and Buchholtz | 2018, 10 th edn | <i>Business & Society</i> | Cengage Australia. |

8.2 Specific requirements

N/A

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low.

It is your responsibility as a student to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers, and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1 Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2 Assessment: Additional requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
- b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- c) You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3 Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks will be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day
- 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late.

To request an extension, you must contact your Course Coordinator and supply the required documentation to negotiate an outcome.

10.4 Study help

In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to [Student Hub](#).

Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au

10.5 Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing Support Staff are available to assist on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your success. Student Wellbeing is comprised of professionally qualified staff in counselling, health and disability Services.

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, mental health issue, learning disorder, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide assistance, advocacy and reasonable academic adjustments.

To book an appointment with either service go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or accessability@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226

10.6 Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website:

<http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.7 General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** – Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Appendix 1 Course content

| Module # | What key concepts/content will I learn? | Directed Study Activities: teaching components |
|----------|---|--|
| 1/1 | Course introduction | Week 1 Workshop (a) |
| 1/2 | The concepts 'corporate governance' and 'essential' corporate governance principles. | Week 1 Workshop (b) |
| 2/3 | Philosophy of Ethics | Week 2 Workshop (a) |
| 2/4 | Stakeholders in Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility | Week 2 Workshop (b) |
| 3/5 | United nations (UN) Sustainability Goals and Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRMEs) | Week 3 Workshop (a) |
| 3/6 | Board Functions and Structure | Week 3 Workshop (b) |
| 4/7 | Types of Company directors and officers. Directors' duties and liability. Enforcement of these duties. | Week 4 Workshop (a) |
| 4/8 | Corporate governance in Australia: background and regulations | Week 4 Workshop (b) |
| 5/9 | Corporate Governance in Australia: regulation and the role of regulators Accounting and Auditing in Australia | Week 5 Workshop (a) |
| 5/10 | OECD Principles of Corporate. CG in Germany, Japan and China. | Week 5 Workshop (b) |
| 6/11 | Corporate Governance and Strategic Management | Week 6 Workshop (a) |
| 6/12 | Contemporary CG and Future Directions | Week 6 Workshop (b) |

Please note that the course activities may be subject to variation.

Public Holidays

Queen's Birthday - Monday 5th October 2020 (Week 8)