Newcastle Business School

GSBS6484: Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Online
2024

OVERVIEW

Course Description   Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility examines how corporations respond to ethical dilemmas whilst considering the needs of their various stakeholders. This requires an understanding of the social responsibilities of business in a global environment. Expectations of corporate behaviour by stakeholders changes constantly and must be viewed through the lens of corporate governance, risk management and the legal requirements made of company executives and directors.

Sustainable Development Goals

Contact Hours   **Online:**
Online workshops and discussion forums as per course requirements for the full trimester.

Unit Weighting   10

Assumed Knowledge   Students should complete GSBS6004, GSBS6005 and GSBS6200 before enrolling in this course.

Workload   Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

Please refer to the course CANVAS site for details of teaching staff for ALL course offerings. The primary contact for courses is the Course Coordinator, whose details are listed on the course CANVAS site.

Student Consultation   A minimum of one (1) hour of consultation per week. Please see course CANVAS site for details of time and location.

Course Learning Outcomes   **On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**
1. Distinguish the various expectations and demands that emanate from stakeholders on organisations;
2. Practice appropriate business responses and management approaches for dealing with social, political, environmental, technological and global issues;
3. Describe ethical theories and practices and the influence of these issues on society, management decision making, behaviour and policies;
4. Define governance in business and discuss the legitimacy of business as an institution in a global society; and
5. Evaluate the extent to which social, ethical, public and global issues must be considered by organisations from an accountability perspective in contrast to purely commercial interests.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

This course has **3** assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below:

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Individual Essay	Friday Week 5 by 11:59 pm	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2	Individual Case Study	Friday Week 10 by 11:59 pm	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3	Final Examination	Formal Examination period	Individual	50%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Please note: students are advised that all assessments must be submitted in English. Assessment items **not** submitted in English will receive a mark of zero.

Results of individual assessment items and final results, including those provided via the Learning Management System (LMS) are 'unofficial results' until they are confirmed as finalised by the School Assessment Body and the Head of School or delegate. Finalised results are released directly to students on the Fully Graded Date of the relevant Semester/Trimester.

Time referenced is time in Newcastle NSW

Late Submissions	The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. **Note**: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 – Individual Essay

Assessment Type	Written essay
Purpose	This assignment assesses how participants apply theoretical concepts of corporate governance and social responsibility in a practical situation.
Description	Working individually, students understand and apply critical thinking and problem solving in decisions that are ethical and relevant to social responsibility. Students must address the questions provided. The assessment topic and details about the written essay will be posted on the course CANVAS site.
Weighting	20%
Length	2000 words
Due Date	Friday of Week 5 by 11:59 pm
Submission Method	Online - via CANVAS
Assessment Criteria	Refer to the details on the course CANVAS site.
Return Method	Online – via CANVAS
Feedback Provided	Online – via CANVAS

Assessment 2 – Individual Case Study

Assessment Type	Case Study
Purpose	This assignment assesses how participants apply theoretical concepts of corporate governance and social responsibility in a practical situation.
Description	Working individually, and presenting their findings, students understand and apply critical thinking and problem solving in decisions that are ethical and relevant to social responsibility. The student demonstrates analytical skills to a practical case study of an organisation of their choosing. The Case Study questions will be uploaded to the course CANVAS site. Students must address the questions in their essays and presentations. Specific details about Assessment 2 will be posted on the course CANVAS site.
Weighting	Oral Presentation (10%) Written Essay (20%)
Length	Oral Presentation (within 5 minutes) Written Essay (2000 Words)
Due Date	Friday of Week 10 by 11:59 pm
Submission Method	Online - via CANVAS
Assessment Criteria	Refer to the details on the course CANVAS site.
Return Method	Online through CANVAS
Feedback Provided	Online through CANVAS

Assessment 3 - Final Examination

Assessment Type	Formal Examination
Purpose	This assessment is to assess participants' ability to produce independent answers to issues of relevance to corporate governance and social responsibility
Description	Participants demonstrate their advanced theoretical specialised knowledge of corporate governance and social responsibility through completion of the exam. They demonstrate their integrated understanding of professional ethical frameworks, as well as providing an analysis of managerial ethical reasoning and perception.
	This course has an **OPEN BOOK** examination. The exam will be completed **ONLINE** and will be invigilated. Any **hardcopy materials**, including a thesaurus, a dictionary, or a translation dictionary are permitted in the examination.
	No devices are permitted to be used in the examination, other than non-programmable calculators (if specifically advised on the examination paper) and the computer on which the student is completing the examination. Students are not permitted to use their computer for accessing any applications other than Zoom, CANVAS and an e-text/class notes. The examination invigilator can direct a student to share their screen at any time during the examination. If a student is found to be using other computer applications or devices, they will be reported for academic misconduct.
Weighting	50%
Length	120 minutes
Due Date	Formal Exam Period
Submission Method	Formal Examination
Assessment Criteria	Refer to course CANVAS site
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	No Feedback. Examination scripts will not be returned to students. Final examination scripts will be made available for review by students, upon request, in a controlled and monitored setting. Students are required to make requests, directly to the relevant course coordinator. Completed examination scripts are kept by the Newcastle Business School for a period of six (6) months only, from the relevant fully graded date. Requests made after the six (6) month period **cannot** be considered.

SYLLABUS

Course Content	**Topics in the course include but are not limited to the following:** 1. Business, Society and Stakeholders 2. Corporate Governance 3. Business Ethics and Management 4. Internal and External Stakeholder Issues 5. Social Legitimacy 6. Ethics, Leadership and Culture
Course Materials	**Required Text:** William H. Shaw, Vincent Barry, Donata Muntean, Theodora Issa, Gerard Ilott, Bevan Catley, (2021). *Moral Issues in Business*, 4th ed. Australia: Cengage Learning **ISBN**: 9780170441025 Please refer to the course CANVAS site for details of additional recommended texts.

SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Class Preparation	Assessment
1	Seeing the moral dimension of business.	Read: Chapter 1	
2	Normative theories of ethics	Read: Chapter 2	
3	The nature of capitalism	Read: Chapter 3	
4	Environmental ethics in business	Read Chapter 8	
5	Corporate social responsibility	Read: Chapter 4	**Assessment 1 due**: Friday Week 5 by 11:59 pm
6	International business: moral and ethical issues and globalisation	Read: Chapter 7	
7	Corporate Governance	Read: Chapter 5	
8	The morality and ethics of consumption	Read: Chapter 6	
9	Putting it all together: Towards moral and ethical decision making	Read: Chapter 12	
10	Ethics, leadership, and culture	Read: Chapter 11	**Assessment 2 due**: Friday Week 10 by 11:59 pm
11	The ethics of employment: the workplace perspective	Read: Chapter 10	
12	Course Revision		

If a lecture/class is scheduled on a public holiday, a make-up lecture may be announced by the course coordinator on the course CANVAS site.

CONTACTS

Newcastle Business School – Callaghan, Newcastle City & Online
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409 Hunter Street
Newcastle
nbs.enquiries@newcastle.edu.au
+61 2 4921 5511

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- CANVAS Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the CANVAS course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.

Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure. In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule.

Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35.

Adverse Circumstances	The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:
	1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
	2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
	3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
	4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.
	Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236
Important Policy Information	The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.