

**MISSION:** To develop a unique business school identity which is distinctive in the marketplace and provides a clear value proposition for students. This will be achieved by embedding the themes of entrepreneurship and innovation, digitalisation and data within our programs and embracing sustainability, work integrated learning and a commitment to social justice.

## 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**

**Lecture**

Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting in week 1.

**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.

**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.

# COURSE OUTLINE

# 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 AEST	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2	Group Case Study	Friday Week 10 by 11:59 pm AEST	Group	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

<b>Late Submissions</b>	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. <b>Note:</b> this applies equally to week and weekend days.
-------------------------	--

### Assessment 1 – Individual Essay

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written essay
<b>Purpose</b>	This assignment assesses how participants apply theoretical concepts of corporate governance and social responsibility in a practical situation.
<b>Description</b>	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.
<b>Weighting</b>	20%
<b>Length</b>	2000 words
<b>Due Date</b>	Friday of Week 5 by 11:59 pm
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online - via CANVAS
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Refer to the details on the course CANVAS site.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online – via CANVAS
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online – via CANVAS

### Assessment 2 – Group Case Study

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Group Case Study
<b>Purpose</b>	This assignment assesses how participants apply theoretical concepts of corporate governance and social responsibility in a practical situation.
<b>Description</b>	Each group demonstrates analytical skills to a practical case study of an organisation of their choosing based on their understanding of this course to examine questions on ethics and relevant social responsibility. The Case Study question will be uploaded to the course CANVAS site. Students must address the questions in their essays. Specific details about Assessment 2 will be posted on the course CANVAS site.
<b>Weighting</b>	Written Essay (30%)
<b>Length</b>	Written Essay (3000 Words)
<b>Due Date</b>	Friday of Week 10 by 11:59 pm
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online - via CANVAS
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Refer to the details on the course CANVAS site.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online through CANVAS
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online through CANVAS

### Assessment 3 - Final Examination

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Formal Examination
------------------------	--------------------

<b>Purpose</b>	This assessment is to assess participants' ability to produce independent answers to issues of relevance to corporate governance and social responsibility
<b>Description</b>	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 <b>OPEN BOOK</b> examination. Any <b>hardcopy materials</b> , 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).
<b>Weighting</b>	50%
<b>Length</b>	120 minutes
<b>Due Date</b>	Formal Exam Period
<b>Submission Method</b>	Formal Examination
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Refer to course CANVAS site
<b>Return Method</b>	Not Returned
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	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 <b>cannot</b> 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*, 4<sup>th</sup> 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	Corporate social responsibility	Read: Chapter 4	
5	Corporate Governance	Read: Chapter 5	<b>Assessment 1 due:</b> Friday Week 5 by 11:59pm
6	Environmental ethics in business	Read Chapter 8	
7	International business: moral and ethical issues and globalisation	Read: Chapter 7	
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	<b>Assessment 2 due:</b> 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

NU Space  
409 Hunter Street  
Newcastle  
[nbs.enquiries@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:nbs.enquiries@newcastle.edu.au)  
+61 2 4921 5511

## Newcastle Business School - Ourimbah

BO1.13, Business Offices  
Ourimbah  
[cccbusiness-school@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:cccbusiness-school@newcastle.edu.au)  
+61 2 4349 4453

## Newcastle Business School - Sydney

55 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney  
[nbs-sydney@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:nbs-sydney@newcastle.edu.au)  
+61 2 82626432

## PSB Academy Enquiries

Log your question or request to the PSB Program Executives at the following website:  
<http://www.psb-academy.edu.sg/eng>  
+65 6390 9000

## Newcastle Australia Institute of Higher Education Pte Ltd

100 Victoria Street #13-01/02  
National Library Building  
Singapore  
[Singapore-StudentCentral@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Singapore-StudentCentral@newcastle.edu.au)  
+65 6221 3306

# 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).

<b>Communication Methods</b>	Communication methods used in this course include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CANVAS Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the CANVAS course site.</li> <li>- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.</li> <li>- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.</li> </ul>
<b>Course Evaluation</b>	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.
<b>Oral Interviews (Vivas)</b>	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 <a href="#">Oral Examination (viva) Procedure</a> . 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 <a href="#">Student Conduct Rule</a> .
<b>Academic Misconduct</b>	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 <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35</a> .
<b>Adverse Circumstances</b>	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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or</li> <li>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;</li> <li>3. you are requesting a change of placement; or</li> <li>4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.</li> </ol>
<b>Important Policy Information</b>	Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</a> 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 <a href="https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures">https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures</a> 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.*

© 2024 The University of Newcastle, Australia