

AC3391: CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Effective Term

Semester A 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Corporate Governance

Subject Code

AC - Accountancy

Course Number

3391

Academic Unit

Accountancy (AC)

College/School

College of Business (CB)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to enable students to evaluate how effective corporate governance should be structured and operated within the modern corporate setting, having regard to legal arrangements and social economic theories. Various

determinants of corporate governance mechanisms including legal, internal and social responsibility factors will be introduced to assist students to critically analyse the effectiveness of corporate governance structures.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify the determinants of corporate governance mechanisms including legal, internal and social responsibility factors as documented in the corporate governance research.	25	x	x	
2	Construct an effective corporate governance framework applicable to different legal systems & corporate structures.	25	x	x	
3	Solve corporate governance issues using the framework & theories developed in the corporate governance literature & with regard to ethical issues.	25		x	x
4	Provide direction to the Board of Directors with regard to the setting up or improvement of a corporate governance mechanism.	25		x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Interactive lectures*	Students will engage in lectures that impart key knowledge from the corporate governance literature regarding the nature of corporations, information asymmetry, agency theory, ethics and corporate governance structures; Students will participate in class discussions after the lecturer sets the agenda and questions for class discussions.	1, 2	3hrs/wk
2	Small group written report on an assigned case-based real world corporate governance problem*	Students will work in groups: To select a listed company for their analysis; To identify strengths and weaknesses in corporate governance of the company and discuss related ethical issues; To suggest ways to strengthen corporate governance; To support the analyses and recommendations with the findings from prior corporate governance research.	4	3 hrs/wk for 6 weeks
3	Group case analysis and presentations of corporate governance issues*	Students will summarise and discuss the findings on an assigned case-based real world corporate governance problem in a group presentation.	3	3 hrs/wk for 5 weeks

Additional Information for LTAs

*DEC element

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	2-hour mid-term examination: Students will be assessed via mid-term examination their understanding of theories learnt in class, their ability to identify corporate governance weaknesses, and their ability to apply theories to business scenarios.	1	25	
2	Group presentations*: Students will work in groups, prepare and deliver presentations on selected real business world cases around the globe. Students are required to construct a corporate governance framework and provide solutions based on it for companies in different legal regimes.	2, 3	10	
3	Written report*: Students will work in groups, to critically evaluate the corporate governance structure while applying theories covered in class, and offer recommendations for a listed firm of their choice. Students are required to search for disclosures made by the firm to analyse the corporate governance structure.	4	15	

Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

3

Additional Information for ATs

*DEC element

Final examination [Closed-book examination] :

Students will be assessed via examination their understanding of concepts and theories learnt in class.

Students are required to pass both coursework and examination components to guarantee to pass the course. Failing either component may lead to failure in the course. The passing mark is generally 50.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Mid-term examination; and Final examination

Criterion

Develop an attitude and the ability to identify the determinants of corporate governance mechanisms including legal, internal and social responsibility factors.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Group presentations; and Final examination

Criterion

- Develop an attitude and the ability to construct an effective corporate governance framework applicable to different legal systems & corporate structures.
- Develop the ability to solve corporate governance issues using the framework & theories developed in the course & with regard to ethical issues.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Written report; and Final examination

Criterion

Develop the ability to provide direction to the Board of Directors with regard to the setting up or improvement of a corporate governance mechanism.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

- Introduction to Corporate Governance Related Social Economic Theories.
- Introduction to Development of Corporate Governance.
- Corporate Governance Environment.
- Internal Corporate Governance Factors.
- Company Secretary and Corporate Administrator.
- External Corporate Governance Factors.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Larcker, D., and Tayan, B. Corporate governance matters: A closer look at organizational choices and their consequences, latest edition, Pearson Education.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Monks, R. & Minow, N. Corporate Governance, latest edition, Blackwell Publishers
2	Ching, K. W., Joo-Seng Tan & Chi Ching R. G. Corporate Governance in East Asia: the Road Ahead, latest edition, Pearson Education
3	Kim, K. & Nofsinger J., Corporate Governance, latest edition, Pearson – Prentice Hall
4	Solomon, J. Corporate Governance & Accountability, latest edition, John Wiley & sons
5	Weston, J. Siu J. & Johnson B., Takeovers, Restructuring, & Corporate Governance, latest edition, Prentice Hall
6	Goergen, M. International Corporate Governance, latest edition, Pearson Education

7	Additional notes will be downloaded onto the Canvas site from time-to-time
8	Corporate web sites that discuss their own corporate governance structures