

AC5690: CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Corporate Governance

Subject Code

AC - Accountancy

Course Number

5690

Academic Unit

Accountancy (AC)

College/School

College of Business (CB)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

FB5690 Corporate Governance

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

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

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*	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 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 LTA 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 cases.	1	25	# DEC AT element
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	# DEC AT element

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	# DEC AT element
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Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

3

Additional Information for ATs

Final examination [Closed-book examination]:

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

Embeds research elements in the course design: In the group project in which students analyse the governance structures of selected listed companies, students are required to cite arguments and/or findings from prior studies to guide their analyses and support their conclusions. The final exam or the mid-term test contains at least one question which requires students to contrast and discuss the findings from two papers examining the same governance issue in different institutional settings.

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 (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

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 (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Develop an attitude and the ability to construct an effective corporate governance framework applicable to different legal systems & corporate structures.

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Assessment Task

Written report; and Final examination (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

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

Assessment Task

Mid-term examination; and Final examination (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

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

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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.

Corporate governance and business ethics.

Stakeholder orientation in corporate governance.

Corporate social responsibility and ESG practices.

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	Solomon, J. Corporate Governance & Accountability latest edition, John Wiley & sons
2	Jones, G. Corporate Governance & Compliance in Hong Kong latest edition LexisNexis
3	Tricker, B., Corporate Governance: Principles, Policies & Practices latest edition, Oxford University Press
4	Mailin, C., Corporate Governance latest edition, Oxford University Press
5	Additional notes will be downloaded onto the Canvas site from time-to-time
6	Corporate web sites that discuss their own corporate governance structures
7	The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute (HKCGI) online study materials of the Chartered Governance Qualifying Programme (CGQP) Modules Corporate Governance, Hong Kong Company Law, and Interpreting Financial and Accounting Information.
8	The Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance