

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Course
offered by Department of Accountancy
with effect from Semester A in 2014/ 2015**

Part I

Course Title: Corporate Governance

Course Code: AC5690

Course Duration: 1 semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Prerequisites: Nil

Precursors: Nil

Equivalent Courses: FB5690 Corporate Governance

Exclusive Courses: Nil

Part II

Course Aims

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)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	DEC-related dimension
1.	Identify the determinants of corporate governance mechanisms including legal, internal and social responsibility factors.	25%	Ability / Attitude
2.	Construct an effective corporate governance framework applicable to different legal systems & corporate structures.	25%	Ability / Attitude
3.	Solve corporate governance issues using the framework & theories developed in the course & with regard to ethical issues.	25%	Ability / Accomplishments
4.	Provide direction to the Board of Directors with regard to the setting up or improvement of a corporate governance mechanism.	25%	Ability / Accomplishments

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILO 1-2	Interactive lectures* -to impart key knowledge regarding the nature of corporations, information asymmetry, agency theory, ethics and corporate governance structures; -to set the agenda and questions for class discussions. *DEC TLA element	
CILO 3	Group case analysis and presentations of corporate governance issues.* 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; -suggest ways to strengthen corporate governance. *DEC TLA element	
CILO 4	Small group written report on an assigned case-based real world corporate governance problem.* Students summarise their findings in a written report. *DEC TLA element	

Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 1	AT1		
CILO 2-3	AT2		
CILO 4	AT3		
CILO 1-4	AT4		

Coursework: 70%

AT1: Mid-term examination (15-25%) of two hours based on one or more complex cases.*
*DEC AT element

AT2: Two or three group presentations (25-35%) per student throughout the semester.*
*DEC AT element

AT3: Written report (15-25%) of substance & depth analysing the corporate governance structure of selected companies.*
*DEC AT element

Examination: 30% (a 3-hour examination)

AT4: Final three hour examination based on one or more integrative cases.

Students are required to pass both coursework and examination components in order to pass the course.

Grading of Student Achievement: Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

CILO No.	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Adequate (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)
CILO 1	Identify & articulate all key determinants of effective corporate governance & identify how agency costs can be reduced.	Identify & articulate most determinants of effective corporate governance & identify how some agency costs can be reduced.	Identify & articulate a few determinants of effective corporate governance & explain its relationship with agency costs.	Identify & articulate a one or two determinants of effective corporate governance & discuss its role.
CILO 2	Explain persuasively with several relevant examples what constitutes effective corporate governance structures in several different legal and corporate systems.	Explain persuasively with two relevant examples what constitutes effective corporate governance structures in two different legal and corporate systems.	Explain with one example what constitutes an effective corporate governance structure in one legal and corporate system.	Explain in general terms what constitutes an effective corporate governance structure.
CILO 3	Explain persuasively with several relevant examples how ineffective corporate governance structures can be corrected in several different legal jurisdictions & with regard to ethical considerations.	Explain persuasively with two examples how an ineffective corporate governance structure can be corrected in two different legal jurisdictions & with regard to ethical considerations.	Explain with one example how an ineffective corporate governance structure can be corrected considering the legal environment & noting some ethical issues.	Explain in general some steps that can be taken to correct an ineffective corporate governance structure.
CILO 4	Articulate persuasively to the Board of Directors the different agency costs of weak corporate governance & explain several practical steps how corporate governance can be strengthened.	Articulate persuasively to the Board of Directors two agency cost issues of weak corporate governance & explain at least two practical steps how governance can be strengthened.	Present to the Board of Directors one agency cost issue of weak corporate governance & explain one practical step how governance can be strengthened.	Present to the Board of Directors what weak corporate governance means & why governance should be corrected.

Part III

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. Intellectual Copyright, Patent and Asset Protection.

Recommended Reading

Text(s)

Required:

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

Reference Books:

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.

Online Resources

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