

City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Accountancy
with effect from Semester A 2021/22

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Corporate Governance

Course Code: AC5690

Course Duration: 1 semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

**Medium of
Instruction:** English

**Medium of
Assessment:** English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) FB5690 Corporate Governance

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. 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.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Identify the determinants of corporate governance mechanisms including legal, internal and social responsibility factors as documented in the corporate governance research.	25%	√	√	
2.	Construct an effective corporate governance framework applicable to different legal systems & corporate structures.	25%	√	√	
3.	Solve corporate governance issues using the framework & theories developed in the corporate governance literature & with regard to ethical issues.	25%		√	√
4.	Provide direction to the Board of Directors with regard to the setting up or improvement of a corporate governance mechanism.	25%		√	√
		100%			

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 self-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.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.				Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	
Interactive lectures*	Impart key knowledge from the corporate governance literature regarding the nature of corporations, information asymmetry, agency theory, ethics and corporate governance structures; Set the agenda and questions for class discussions.	√	√			3hrs/wk
Small group written report on an assigned case-based real world corporate governance problem *	Select a listed company for their analysis; Identify strengths and weaknesses in corporate governance of the company and discuss related ethical issues; Suggest ways to strengthen corporate governance; Support the analyses and recommendations with the findings from prior corporate governance research.				√	3 hrs/wk for 6 weeks
Group case analysis and presentations of corporate governance issues*	Summarise and discuss the findings on an assigned case-based real world corporate governance problem in a group presentation.			√		3 hrs/wk for 5 weeks

* DEC TLA element

Embeds research elements in the course design: Key theories and findings in the corporate governance literature are contained in the lecture notes and discussed during the seminar time.

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.				Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4		
Continuous Assessment: 50%						
<u>2-hour mid-term examination[#]</u> 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.	√				25%	
<u>Group presentations[#]</u> 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.		√	√		10%	
<u>Written report[#]</u> 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.				√	15%	
Examination: 50% (duration: 3 hours) [Closed-book examination]						
<u>Final examination</u> Students will be assessed via examination their understanding of concepts and theories learnt in class.	√	√	√	√	50%	
					100%	

[#] DEC AT element

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.

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

	Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1.	Mid-term examination; and Final examination	Develop an attitude and the ability to identify the determinants of corporate governance mechanisms including legal, internal and social responsibility factors.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
2.	Group presentations; and Final examination	Develop an attitude and the ability to construct an effective corporate governance framework applicable to different legal systems & corporate structures.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
		Develop the ability to solve corporate governance issues using the framework & theories developed in the course & with regard to ethical issues.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
3.	Written report; and Final examination	Develop the ability to provide direction to the Board of Directors with regard to the setting up or improvement of a corporate governance mechanism.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

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.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

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

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

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