

AC3390: ESG AND ESG DISCLOSURE

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

ESG and ESG Disclosure

Subject Code

AC - Accountancy

Course Number

3390

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

CB2100 Introduction to Financial Accounting

Precursors

AC3202 Corporate Accounting I

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

ESG reporting has become a core form of corporate disclosure alongside financial statements, communicating a company's environmental, social and governance impacts to investors, regulators and other stakeholders. This course

examines ESG issues, their connections to firm value, and the evolving landscape of ESG disclosure — with special emphasis on the HKEX ESG Reporting Guide and leading international standards.

Since 2016, companies listed in Hong Kong are required to comply with the ESG Reporting Guide issued by the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX). According to the 2023 World Economic Forum Job Report, sustainability specialist also becomes one of the top 3 rapidly growing jobs. For example, the "Big Four" accounting firms - Deloitte, PwC, EY, and KPMG – already set up new teams working on ESG auditing and consulting.

Given the increasing importance of ESG reporting and disclosure, this course aims to:

- Provide a clear overview of core environmental, social, and governance issues and their impacts on firm value and stakeholder decision-making.
- Explain the role of ESG disclosure as a corporate statement alongside financial reporting, including drivers, audiences, and regulatory developments (with emphasis on HKEX requirements).
- Equip students with knowledge of the HKEX ESG Reporting Guide and leading international reporting frameworks and standards (e.g., GRI, SASB/ISSB, TCFD, CDP).
- Explore the growth of the ESG market, the integration of ESG factors into investing, and the vital role of transparent ESG disclosures in enabling effective ESG analysis and decision-making.
- Enable students to critically evaluate corporate ESG reports, third-party ratings, assurance approaches, and disclosure quality, and to design an implementation roadmap and disclosure strategy for an organization.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Describe the fundamental characteristics of ESG and how ESG is related to short- and long-term financial performance.	15	x	x	
2	Describe the ESG market, ESG integration and how ESG reporting plays a role in ESG integration.	25	x	x	
3	Demonstrate skills for reading ESG reporting standards and applying the ESG reporting standards for the preparation of ESG reports.	25	x	x	
4	Discuss and analyze ESG reports.	20	x	x	
5	Develop communication and presentation skills in both verbal and written perspectives and good team works.	15	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	Lecture	Students will engage in formal lectures to gain knowledge in ESG and ESG reporting.	1, 2, 3	
2	Peer Discussion	Students will engage in structured discussion with peer students to identify areas to improve their weekly assignment.	1, 2, 3	
3	Group Project*	Students will participate in groups to consolidate their learning as they provide written report and verbal presentation and will actively engage as audience members during peers' presentations in order to expand their knowledge.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	

Additional Information for LTAs

*DEC element

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Mid-term test: Students will be assessed their knowledge learned in class.	1, 2, 3, 4	10	-	No
2	Assignment: Students are required to finish and submit their assignment.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10	Students are permitted to use Generative AI tools for information searching; however, they are strictly prohibited from using AI to write any part of their assessment reports.	Yes
3	Peer discussion: Students are required to actively participate in class discussions.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10	Students may use GenAI tools during in-class discussions to support learning, such as generating ideas or enhancing collaboration.	Yes

4	Group report*: Students will work in groups to critically identify a firm's material ESG issues, ESG performance, associated financial impacts, and ESG reporting quality.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	20	Students are required to properly acknowledge the use of GenAI tools, and provide explanation of why the piece of response from the GenAI tool is adopted.	Yes
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Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

3

Additional Information for ATs

*DEC element Final examination [Open book examination] : Students will be assessed via examination of their knowledge learned 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.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Mid-term test; and Final examination

Criterion

Develop the ability to identify material ESG issues, gain theoretical and practical knowledge in ESG disclosure and reporting regulatory framework, and demonstrate applications of such knowledge in ESG report preparation and business case discussion.

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

Assignment; and Peer discussion

Criterion

- Demonstrate ability in solving case questions in the assignments.
- Provide active and constructive discussion on various conceptual and practical topics in ESG disclosure or reporting.

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 Project

Criterion

Develop the ability to analyze and evaluate the impact of ESG performance on firm value and profitability.

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

ESG, ESG disclosure, ESG integration, ESG reporting, Sustainability reporting, HKEX ESG Reporting Guide, Climate disclosure, International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	HKEX Appendix 27 Environmental, Social and Governance Reporting Guide
2	International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) Standards
3	Task Force for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) Standards
4	Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Business Sustainability Reporting (https://www.dechowandsloan.com)