



# LAW 850

## Sustainable Corporate Governance and Financing

S1 Day 2014

*Dept of Law*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Susan Shearing

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Contact via [susan.shearing@mq.edu.au](mailto:susan.shearing@mq.edu.au)

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MEnvLaw or PGCertEnvLaw or PGDipEnvLaw or MIntEnvLaw or PGCertIntEnvLaw or PGDipIntEnvLaw or MIntTrdeComLaw or PGCertIntTrdeComLaw or PGDipIntTrdeComLaw or MIntRel or MIntRelMIntTrdeComLaw or LLM in (Environmental Law or International Environmental Law) or MSocEntre or PGCertSocEntre or 42cp in LAW units at 400 or 500 level or (admission to JD and 32cp in LAW units at 800 level)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The purpose of this unit is to introduce students to new economic and legal aspects of sustainable development. Markets, regulatory strategies, taxes, financial institutions, investment approaches and the insurance industry have responded to some aspects of this global challenge. This provides the wider context for the changing role and legal obligations of the modern corporation. Corporate approaches to environmental management are studied in the light of new economic realities, requirements, risks and standards such as ISO 14001.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Identify the core principles governing the corporate governance and financing. Compare the manner in which corporate responsibility is structured in different jurisdictions.

Critique the decision making models within the corporation and analyse the relative strengths and weaknesses of stakeholders in corporate governance

Prepare clear and convincing written and verbal reports that defend and summarise your ideas and views

Critique and analyse the domestic and international dimensions to accommodating sustainability practices within corporate governance and financing.

Evaluate contemporary law on sustainability in corporate governance and financing and the manner in which such practices can be assessed and promoted by both state and non state actors.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Class Participation</u>	20%	26th, 27th and 28th April 2014
<u>Research Assignment</u>	40%	6th June 2014
<u>Examination</u>	40%	5th May 2014

### Class Participation

Due: **26th, 27th and 28th April 2014**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will be assessed on the basis of their knowledge, understanding and ability critically to evaluate the issues raised in each topic, as demonstrated through participation in class discussions, including any online discussions, and in responses to assigned questions in the seminars. Students should generally be prepared to talk about the assigned readings, provide their own assessment of those readings, and contribute to the discussion of questions and problems set in relation to these readings. Students are also encouraged to participate in discussions that extend beyond these set questions and readings through their own evaluation of the issues raised

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify the core principles governing the corporate governance and financing. Compare the manner in which corporate responsibility is structured in different jurisdictions.
- Critique the decision making models within the corporation and analyse the relative strengths and weaknesses of stakeholders in corporate governance
- Prepare clear and convincing written and verbal reports that defend and summarise your ideas and views

### Research Assignment

Due: **6th June 2014**

Weighting: **40%**

The Research Assignment will provide students with a choice of essay questions that focus on topics and readings in the second half of the semester, but also intended to bring together the core knowledge and graduate capabilities being assessed in the unit.

Sample questions will be posted online. Students are encouraged to pursue their area of interest. In such circumstances, a one page outline of his or her topic, research methods and indicative sources should be submitted for approval before 5th May 2014.

Please refer to the iLearn page for this unit for details of the assignment requirements.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify the core principles governing the corporate governance and financing. Compare the manner in which corporate responsibility is structured in different jurisdictions.
- Critique the decision making models within the corporation and analyse the relative strengths and weaknesses of stakeholders in corporate governance
- Prepare clear and convincing written and verbal reports that defend and summarise your ideas and views
- Critique and analyse the domestic and international dimensions to accommodating sustainability practices within corporate governance and financing.
- Evaluate contemporary law on sustainability in corporate governance and financing and the manner in which such practices can be assessed and promoted by both state and non state actors.

## Examination

Due: **5th May 2014**

Weighting: **40%**

The Take Home Exam will consist of 4 questions covering topics and readings from the first half of the semester. Students are required to answer all 4 questions. The questions will be posted on iLearn after the OCS on 30th April 2014. The submission process will be through iLearn and instructions will be posted online with the questions.

Word length for this task is 3000 words and you are advised to distribute them reasonably evenly between the questions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify the core principles governing the corporate governance and financing. Compare the manner in which corporate responsibility is structured in different jurisdictions.
- Prepare clear and convincing written and verbal reports that defend and summarise your ideas and views

## Delivery and Resources

### Delivery:

The Unit is taught in External Mode only.

The OCS are held on 26-28th April 2014

These will be 3 taped lectures posted online prior to the OCS.

### Technology Used:

This unit will have an online presence.

There will be 3 taped lectures online.

### Resources:

1. Christine Mallin, *Corporate Governance*, Oxford, 2012
2. Other readings will be posted on iLearn

## Unit Schedule

This Unit is only taught in External mode in 2013. It will use taped lectures and the three day OCS and the Schedule below provides details.

DATES	MATERIAL COVERED
TAPED LECTURE 1 (10 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014)	INTRODUCTION TO THE CORPORATION AND ITS ESSENTIAL FEATURES
TAPED LECTURE 2 (17 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014)	THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
TAPED LECTURE 3 (24 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014)	STAKEHOLDERS WITHIN THE CORPORATION

OCS 26 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014	EVALUATION OF THE GOVERNANCE OF THE CORPORATION IN AUSTRALIA, EUROPE AND ASIA
OCS 27 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014	EVALUATION OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE CORPORATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS</li><li>· EMPLOYEES</li><li>· NGOS</li><li>· FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</li><li>· GOVERNMENTS</li></ul>
OCS 28 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance\\_management/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of

Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills (<mq.edu.au/learningskills>) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at <ask.mq.edu.au>

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Identify the core principles governing the corporate governance and financing. Compare

the manner in which corporate responsibility is structured in different jurisdictions.

- Evaluate contemporary law on sustainability in corporate governance and financing and the manner in which such practices can be assessed and promoted by both state and non state actors.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Class Participation
- Research Assignment
- Examination

## **PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Critique the decision making models within the corporation and analyse the relative strengths and weaknesses of stakeholders in corporate governance
- Critique and analyse the domestic and international dimensions to accommodating sustainability practices within corporate governance and financing.
- Evaluate contemporary law on sustainability in corporate governance and financing and the manner in which such practices can be assessed and promoted by both state and non state actors.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Class Participation
- Research Assignment

## **PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability**

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:



## Learning outcomes

- Prepare clear and convincing written and verbal reports that defend and summarise your ideas and views
- Critique and analyse the domestic and international dimensions to accommodating sustainability practices within corporate governance and financing.
- Evaluate contemporary law on sustainability in corporate governance and financing and the manner in which such practices can be assessed and promoted by both state and non state actors.

## Assessment task

- Examination

## PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Identify the core principles governing the corporate governance and financing. Compare the manner in which corporate responsibility is structured in different jurisdictions.
- Critique the decision making models within the corporation and analyse the relative strengths and weaknesses of stakeholders in corporate governance
- Prepare clear and convincing written and verbal reports that defend and summarise your ideas and views

## Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Research Assignment
- Examination

## PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Identify the core principles governing the corporate governance and financing. Compare the manner in which corporate responsibility is structured in different jurisdictions.
- Critique the decision making models within the corporation and analyse the relative strengths and weaknesses of stakeholders in corporate governance

## **Assessment task**

- Research Assignment

## **PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative**

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Critique the decision making models within the corporation and analyse the relative strengths and weaknesses of stakeholders in corporate governance
- Prepare clear and convincing written and verbal reports that defend and summarise your ideas and views
- Critique and analyse the domestic and international dimensions to accommodating sustainability practices within corporate governance and financing.
- Evaluate contemporary law on sustainability in corporate governance and financing and the manner in which such practices can be assessed and promoted by both state and non state actors.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Class Participation
- Research Assignment