



BUSL301

Corporations Law

MQC1 Evening 2015

Dept of Accounting & Corporate Governance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Florentia Bishop

florentia.bishop@mqc.edu.au

Please check "Support Class Timetable" posted in MQC Portal & iLearn

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

39cp including BUSL250

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to corporate regulation in Australia and aims to create an awareness of corporate issues. It builds on the material covered in a general business law unit. Areas covered include: company formation; the legal status of a company; duties of directors; rights of members; and approaches to corporate insolvency. Assessment comprises tutorial participation, a short test, a mid-semester examination and a final examination. In this unit students gain an understanding of, and an interest in, corporate regulation, the role of companies and current corporate issues. The outcomes achieved assist in the development of critical thinking, problem solving, effective communication and adept professional judgement. The contents of and the issues raised in the unit, are of benefit to all students and particularly to those intending to enter commercial practice in accountancy or similar professions.

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:

Comprehend the characteristics of the various forms of business organisations and the Australian corporate legislative framework.

Ability to understand how companies are formed, different types of companies and the relevance of the company constitution

Effectively recognise and gain knowledge of corporate management issues, in particular the role and obligations of directors.

Capability to understand how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.

Critically assess corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.

Analyse the legal aspects of particular sets of facts or case studies relevant to corporations law and identify and solve the legal problems associated with these.

General Assessment Information

	Expected Workload - Activities	Hours
1	Weekly Seminars/Lectures/Tutorials	36
2	Assessment Task 1 (tutorial participation + preparation)	36
3	Assessment Task 2 (online quiz + preparation)	12
4	Assessment Task 3 (final examination + preparation)	42
5	Reading required material/self-study	24
	TOTAL	150

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>1. Class participation</u>	20%	Ongoing
<u>2. Quiz</u>	20%	Week 7
<u>3. Final Examination</u>	60%	University Examination Period

1. Class participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Participation involves preparation, attendance and contribution to the tutorial. See Assessment Guide on iLearn for more information.

Other than where a relevant application pursuant to the Disruption to Studies policy is approved,

if a student attends less than 50% of the allotted tutorials the total available mark for tutorial participation will be reduced by 50%.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Comprehend the characteristics of the various forms of business organisations and the Australian corporate legislative framework.
- Ability to understand how companies are formed, different types of companies and the relevance of the company constitution
- Effectively recognise and gain knowledge of corporate management issues, in particular the role and obligations of directors.
- Capability to understand how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.
- Critically assess corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.
- Analyse the legal aspects of particular sets of facts or case studies relevant to corporations law and identify and solve the legal problems associated with these.

2. Quiz

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **20%**

The quiz will be administered online and be held on 28 April.

See **Assessment Guide** on iLearn for more information including the specific times during which the Quiz will be accessible.

Other than where a relevant application pursuant to the Disruption to Studies policy is approved no extensions will be granted.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Comprehend the characteristics of the various forms of business organisations and the Australian corporate legislative framework.
- Ability to understand how companies are formed, different types of companies and the relevance of the company constitution
- Effectively recognise and gain knowledge of corporate management issues, in particular the role and obligations of directors.
- Analyse the legal aspects of particular sets of facts or case studies relevant to corporations law and identify and solve the legal problems associated with these.

3. Final Examination

Due: **University Examination Period**

Weighting: **60%**

Examination Conditions: Unless otherwise advised formal closed book exam. See Assessment Guide on iLearn for more information.

Note: there is a requirement that to be awarded a final grade of a Pass, or a higher grade, a student **must pass the final exam**.

Supplementary Exam:

If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Disruption to Studies process the examination will be scheduled as per the Supplementary Examination timetable of the Faculty. Please note that the supplementary examination will be of a similar format to the final examination.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Comprehend the characteristics of the various forms of business organisations and the Australian corporate legislative framework.
- Ability to understand how companies are formed, different types of companies and the relevance of the company constitution
- Effectively recognise and gain knowledge of corporate management issues, in particular the role and obligations of directors.
- Capability to understand how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.
- Critically assess corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.
- Analyse the legal aspects of particular sets of facts or case studies relevant to corporations law and identify and solve the legal problems associated with these.

Delivery and Resources

Classes

Students will attend one lecture (time allotted 2 hours) and one tutorial (time allotted 1 hour) each week. There may be some reorganisation, overlapping, and/or integration of areas to accommodate assessment and unit structure. **Lectures and tutorials begin in the first week** (see iLearn for practice/tutorial questions) – the sequencing of the lecture program and the unit content will allow you to develop your understanding of company law as the unit progresses. Note that together with the designated practice/tutorial questions, the tutorials may cover other issues relevant to the unit.

The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at:

<http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/>

Students must remain in their allocated tutorials.

Prizes

• There is a prize for the most successful student in this unit.

http://www.businessandconomics.mq.edu.au/undergraduate_degrees/prizes_scholarships

Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials

Quilter, **Company Law Perspectives, 2nd ed. 2014** Thomson Reuters (Lawbook Co.)

Lipton, Herzberg and Welsh, **Understanding Company Law, 17th ed. 2014** Thomson Reuters (Lawbook Co.)

Both above texts can be purchased from the Macquarie University Co-op Bookshop, and are available in the Macquarie University library.

After considering the law of partnership the unit will focus on corporate issues and the relevance and effect of the Corporations Act. Note that certain relevant sections of the Corporations Act are set out in Company Law Perspectives 2nd ed. 2014. Both statutes (the Partnership Act and the Corporations Act) may be viewed in full at www.austlii.edu.au

Also note that the law is constantly changing and evolving, and you will be alerted to any substantial changes that are relevant to the unit or the texts.

Useful websites

- www.asic.gov.au
- www.asx.com.au
- www.takeovers.gov.au
- www.camac.gov.au

By using www resources students are able to gain a perspective on their studies and be aware of real world situations where company law is relevant. Newspaper coverage of company law gives depth and realism to the formal explanations of the law in texts.

Technology Used and Required

Lectures and tutorials may make use of PowerPoint; overhead projectors; visualisers.

Unit Web Page

- Unit material is available on the learning management system (iLearn)
- There is a web page for this unit.

Learning and Teaching Activities

This unit is taught by way of lectures and tutorials. Practice questions are discussed to enable application of content.

What is expected of students – criteria for success

Students should take responsibility for their own learning and this will incorporate reading as

required, attendance at lectures and tutorials, developing effective study strategies, reflection on their abilities, and a task oriented approach to assessment – that is, do not think solely about gathering information - think about what will be required - what makes for successful performance in tests and exams - how you will use the law you have studied. There are 2 main components of successful company law study: one is that students must have some knowledge of the core issues of the relevant topics [take short clear notes in lectures, think about your task, involve yourself in classes], the second is that students will only be successful if they can apply what they have learned, that is, in your test or exam you have to be able to use the law to solve problems [either multiple-choice or written answer style].

Unit Schedule

Week	Lecture Areas
1	<p>COMPARISON OF BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS</p> <p>Agency; Associations; Sole Traders; Partnerships</p> <p>Quilter, Company Law Perspectives, Thomson Reuters (Lawbook Co.) 2nd ed. 2014 [referred to herein as "Q"] Chs.1 and 2</p> <p>Lipton, Herzberg and Welsh, Understanding Company Law, Thomson Reuters (Lawbook Co.) 17th ed. 2014 [referred to herein as "L&H"] Ch.2</p> <p>Partnership Act: www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/pa1892154/</p> <p><u>Tutorial Activities:</u></p> <p>Introduction, unit guide and class discussion.</p>
2	<p>HISTORY AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK, REGISTRATION AND TYPES OF COMPANIES</p> <p>Evolution of modern company and Australian developments: Q Ch. 3 L & H Ch.1;</p> <p>Applying for registration and the consequences of incorporation: Q Ch. 5 L & H Ch.2</p> <p>Types of Companies: Q Ch. 4 L & H Ch.3</p> <p>Corporations Act: www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/ca2001172/</p> <p><u>Tutorial Activities:</u></p> <p>Practice question 1 - Lecture Area 1</p>
3	<p>THE COMPANY CONSTITUTION AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND OUTSIDERS</p> <p>The company constitution and the replaceable rules: Q Ch. 6 L&H Ch 4</p> <p>Company liability in contract, tort and crime: Q Chs. 7 and 8 L&H Ch 5</p> <p>Promoters and pre-registration contracts: Q Ch. 9 L&H Ch 6</p> <p><u>Tutorial Activities:</u></p> <p>Practice question 2 - Lecture Area 2</p>

4	<p>CORPORATE FINANCING and DIVIDENDS</p> <p>Disclosure to Investors – fundraising: Q Ch. 11 L&H Ch 7</p> <p>Share capital: Q Ch. 12 L&H Ch 8</p> <p>Membership: Q Ch. 10 L&H Ch 9</p> <p>Debentures and Loan Capital: Q Ch. 14 L&H Ch 11</p> <p>Dividends: Q Ch. 13 L&H Ch 10</p> <p><u>Tutorial Activities:</u></p> <p>Practice Question 3 - Lecture Area 3</p>
5	<p>DIRECTORS and MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Q Ch. 15 L&H Ch 12</p> <p><u>Tutorial Activities:</u></p> <p>Practice Question 4 - Lecture Area 4</p>
6	<p>DIRECTORS DUTIES and CORPORATE GOVERNANCE I</p> <p>Q Chs. 16, 17 and 18 L&H Ch 13</p> <p><u>Tutorial Activities:</u></p> <p>Practice Question 5 - Lecture Area 5</p>
7	<p>THERE WILL BE AN ONLINE TEST HELD IN THIS WEEK. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE ADVISED IN LECTURES AND BE AVAILABLE ON iLEARN.</p>
7	<p>DIRECTORS DUTIES and CORPORATE GOVERNANCE II</p> <p>Q Chs. 16, 17 and 18 L&H Ch 13</p> <p><u>Tutorial Activities:</u></p> <p>Practice Question 6 - Lecture Area 6</p>
8	<p>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE; FINANCIAL and REPORTING OBLIGATIONS; AUDIT</p> <p>Financial and Reporting Obligations of Directors: Q Ch. 19 L&H Ch. 15</p> <p>The Role of Auditors and Issues of Audit Liability: Q Ch. 20 L&H Ch. 16</p> <p>ASIC Investigation: Q Ch. 21 L&H Ch 21</p> <p><u>Tutorial Activities:</u></p> <p>Practice Question 7 - Lecture Area 7 (Director Duties I)</p>
9	<p>MEETINGS AND MEMBERS RIGHTS</p> <p>Members Meetings: Q Ch. 23 L&H Ch.14</p> <p>Members Rights and the position of the Minority: Q Ch. 22 L&H Ch. 17</p> <p><u>Tutorial Activities:</u></p> <p>Practice Question 7 - Lecture Area 8 (Director Duties II; Financial Reporting & Audit)</p>

10	TAKEOVERS; FINANCIAL SERVICES AND MARKETS Takeovers: Q Ch. 24 L&H Ch. 18 Financial Services and Markets: Q Ch. 25 L&H Ch. 19 Tutorial Activities: Practice Question 8 - Lecture Area 9 (Meeting and Members Rights)
11	RESTRUCTURING & LIQUIDATION (PART 1) Insolvency Arrangements and Reconstructions; Receivership; Voluntary Administration Q Chs. 26, 27, 28 and 29 L&H Chs. 22, 23, and 24 Tutorial Activities: Practice Question 9 - Lecture Area 10 (Takeovers & Financial Service and Markets)
12	RESTRUCTURING AND LIQUIDATION (PART 2) Insolvency - Q Ch. 26 L&H Ch 13.5 Insolvent Trading - Q Ch.30 L&H Ch.13.5 Liquidation - Q Ch. 30 L&H Ch. 22&25 Tutorial Activities: Practice Question 10 - Lecture Area 11 (Restructuring & Liquidation - Part I)
13	OVERVIEW AND REVISION Practice Question 11 - Case: "Albert Case" Tutorial Activities: Practice Question 11 - Lecture Area 12 (Restructuring & Liquidation - Part II)

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

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

Disruption to Studies Policy 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/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](#).

Academic Honesty

The nature of scholarly endeavour, dependent as it is on the work of others, binds all members of the University community to abide by the principles of academic honesty. Its fundamental principle is that all staff and students act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of ideas and information. This means that:

- all academic work claimed as original is the work of the author making the claim
- all academic collaborations are acknowledged
- academic work is not falsified in any way
- when the ideas of others are used, these ideas are acknowledged appropriately.

Further information on the academic honesty can be found in the Macquarie University Academic Honesty Policy at http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Grades

Macquarie University uses the following grades in coursework units of study:

- HD - High Distinction
- D - Distinction
- CR - Credit
- P - Pass
- F - Fail

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the Macquarie University Grading Policy which is available at:

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

Grade Appeals and Final Examination Script Viewing City Campus

If, at the conclusion of the unit, you have performed below expectations, and are considering lodging an appeal of grade and/or viewing your final exam script please refer to the following website which provides information about these processes and the cut off dates in the first instance. Please read the instructions provided concerning what constitutes a valid grounds for

appeal before appealing your grade.

<http://www.city.mq.edu.au/reviews-appeals.html>

Attendance at Macquarie City Campus

All Students are required to attend at least 80% of the scheduled course contact hours each Session. Additionally Macquarie City Campus monitors the course progress of international students to ensure that the student complies with the conditions of their visa relating to attendance.

This minimum level of attendance includes all lectures and tutorials. Tutorial attendance will be recorded weekly. If any scheduled class falls on a public holiday this will be rescheduled as advised by your Lecturer. Attendance at any mid-Session or in-class test is compulsory unless otherwise stated.

Unavoidable non-attendance due to illness or circumstances beyond your control must be supported by appropriate documentation to be considered for a supplementary test. Other non-attendance will obtain zero for the test. You should refer to the Disruptions Policy for more details about this.

Disruption to Studies Policy

The University is committed to equity and fairness in all aspects of its learning and teaching. In stating this commitment, the University recognises that there may be circumstances where a student is prevented by unavoidable disruption from performing in accordance with their ability. A disruption to studies policy exists to support students who experience serious and unavoidable disruption such that they do not reach their usual demonstrated performance level. The policy is available at:

http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html

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 Support at Macquarie City Campus

Students who require assistance are encouraged to contact the Student Services Manager at Macquarie City Campus. Please see reception to book an appointment.

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

At any time students (or groups of students) can book our Student Advising rooms on Level 6 by emailing info@city.mq.edu.au with a day and time and nominated contact person. There are additional student study spaces available on Level 1.

Macquarie University Campus Wellbeing also has a presence on the City Campus each week. If you would like to make an appointment, please email info@city.mq.edu.au or visit their website at: <http://www.campuslife.mq.edu.au/campuswellbeing>

StudyWISE provides:

- Online learning resources and academic skills workshops http://www.mq.edu.au/learning_skills
- Personal assistance with your learning & study related questions

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.

IT Help at Macquarie City Campus

If you wish to receive IT help, we would be glad to assist you at <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/> or call 02 9850-4357.

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 and it outlines what can be done.

Students must use their Macquarie University email addresses to communicate with staff as it is University policy that the University issued email account is used for official University communication.

Students are expected to act responsibly when utilising Macquarie City Campus IT facilities. The following regulations apply to the use of computing facilities and online services:

- Accessing inappropriate web sites or downloading inappropriate material is not permitted.

- Material that is not related to coursework for approved unit is deemed inappropriate.
- Downloading copyright material without permission from the copyright owner is illegal, and strictly prohibited. Students detected undertaking such activities will face disciplinary action, which may result in criminal proceedings.

Non-compliance with these conditions may result in disciplinary action without further notice.

If you would like to borrow headphones for use in the Macquarie City Campus computer labs (210, 307, 311, 608) at any point, please ask at Level 2 Reception. You will be required to provide your MQC Student ID card. This will be held as a deposit while using the equipment.

For assistance in the computer labs, please see a Lab Demonstrator (usually they can be found in Lab 311, otherwise ask at Level 2 Reception).

Graduate Capabilities

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Comprehend the characteristics of the various forms of business organisations and the Australian corporate legislative framework.
- Ability to understand how companies are formed, different types of companies and the relevance of the company constitution
- Effectively recognise and gain knowledge of corporate management issues, in particular the role and obligations of directors.
- Capability to understand how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.
- Critically assess corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.
- Analyse the legal aspects of particular sets of facts or case studies relevant to corporations law and identify and solve the legal problems associated with these.

Assessment tasks

- 1. Class participation
- 2. Quiz

- 3. Final Examination

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Effectively recognise and gain knowledge of corporate management issues, in particular the role and obligations of directors.
- Capability to understand how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.
- Critically assess corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.
- Analyse the legal aspects of particular sets of facts or case studies relevant to corporations law and identify and solve the legal problems associated with these.

Assessment tasks

- 1. Class participation
- 2. Quiz
- 3. Final Examination

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Comprehend the characteristics of the various forms of business organisations and the Australian corporate legislative framework.
- Ability to understand how companies are formed, different types of companies and the relevance of the company constitution
- Effectively recognise and gain knowledge of corporate management issues, in particular the role and obligations of directors.

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Assessment tasks

- 1. Class participation
- 2. Quiz
- 3. Final Examination

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Effectively recognise and gain knowledge of corporate management issues, in particular the role and obligations of directors.
- Capability to understand how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.
- Critically assess corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.
- Analyse the legal aspects of particular sets of facts or case studies relevant to corporations law and identify and solve the legal problems associated with these.

Assessment tasks

- 1. Class participation
- 2. Quiz
- 3. Final Examination

Research & Practice, Global & Sustainability

This unit addresses global and sustainability issues as direct areas of study and as necessary implications arising from the materials, assessment and academic discussion and debate in classes/seminars. We promote sustainability by developing ability in students to research and locate information within the legal context as it relates to the accounting discipline. We aim to provide students with an opportunity to obtain skills which will benefit them throughout their

career.

Both texts for this unit (Company Law Perspectives and Understanding Company Law) are the result of research in relation to the area of company law. The material in these texts provides you with a thorough coverage of the relevant issues. Interested students can pursue further research (not a compulsory requirement of this unit) into any of the areas of this unit via the various scholarly journals focussing on company law. Examples of journals that can be consulted to follow up matters of interest are: Australian Journal of Corporate Law; Company and Securities Law Journal.