ACCG2051
Business and Corporations Law
Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2024
Department of Accounting and Corporate Governance

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General Information

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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badge status

Unit description
This unit introduces students to the Australian legal system, including contract law, and focuses on corporate law and regulation. The relationship between the law and the role of accounting and business professionals is an underlying theme and students are encouraged to develop critical thinking skills as they analyse and evaluate legal issues in a commercial context. The unit will provide students with perspectives on a range of commercially important legal issues such as forming a business, management responsibilities, investor/shareholder protection, and insolvency. Topics include contract law, agency, partnerships, characteristics of companies, director's duties, rights of shareholders, voluntary administration, and liquidation. At the conclusion of the unit students will be aware of legal regulation applicable to different types of business organisations, particularly companies, and be able to identify and evaluate a range of corporate legal issues.

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:

ULO1: Identify the features of the Australian legal system including the law of contract and distinguish business organisations based on their legal characteristics.
ULO2: Explain how companies are formed, differentiate between types of companies, and analyse and evaluate the role and obligations of directors.
ULO3: Examine how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.
ULO4: Analyse insolvency mechanisms and issues, and critically assess corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.
ULO5: Apply data protection and privacy regulations when using or sharing data and information in the business environment.

General Assessment Information

Tutorial Participation [30%]:
Other than where a relevant application pursuant to the Special Consideration policy is approved, where a student attends less than 50% of the allotted tutorials the total available mark for tutorial participation will be reduced by 50%.

Tests [30%]:
There will be 2 tests to be held on-campus during session. All students in ACCG2051 (F2F tutorials and online tutorials) will undertake both tests on-campus.

Essay (Media Assignment) [40%]:
This is an individual assignment - Students should individually select articles and individually complete their assignment. Students are prohibited from using generative artificial intelligence tools (GAITs, eg ChatGPT) in the drafting and proofreading of their media assignment.

No extensions will be granted. There will be a penalty (deduction) of 5% of the total possible mark to be applied for each day beyond the due date that a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day a grade of ‘0’ may be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Special Consideration is made and approved.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Continuing throughout session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Tests</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Test 1 (10%) in Week 5; Test 2 (20%) in Week 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tutorial Participation

Assessment Type 1: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task 2: 25 hours
Due: Continuing throughout session
Weighting: 30%

Tutorial participation includes responses to written tutorial questions, answering questions, asking questions and engaging with other students and tutor, in-tutorial activities, and following tutorial discussion.

On successful completion you will be able to:
  • Identify the features of the Australian legal system including the law of contract and distinguish business organisations based on their legal characteristics.
  • Explain how companies are formed, differentiate between types of companies, and analyse and evaluate the role and obligations of directors.
  • Examine how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.
  • Analyse insolvency mechanisms and issues, and critically assess corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.
  • Apply data protection and privacy regulations when using or sharing data and information in the business environment.

Class Tests

Assessment Type 1: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task 2: 20 hours
Due: Test 1 (10%) in Week 5; Test 2 (20%) in Week 13
Weighting: 30%

There will be class tests conducted during the session.

On successful completion you will be able to:
  • Identify the features of the Australian legal system including the law of contract and distinguish business organisations based on their legal characteristics.
  • Explain how companies are formed, differentiate between types of companies, and
analyse and evaluate the role and obligations of directors.
• Examine how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.
• Analyse insolvency mechanisms and issues, and critically assess corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.
• Apply data protection and privacy regulations when using or sharing data and information in the business environment.

Essay
Assessment Type 1: Qualitative analysis task
Indicative Time on Task 2: 30 hours
Due: Week 8
Weighting: 40%

This assessment involves a written analysis of a current Australian newspaper/media article that relates to an aspect (topic, area, issue) of the material covered in the unit from Lecture 4 forward.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Identify the features of the Australian legal system including the law of contract and distinguish business organisations based on their legal characteristics.
• Explain how companies are formed, differentiate between types of companies, and analyse and evaluate the role and obligations of directors.

1 If you need help with your assignment, please contact:
• the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
• the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

2 Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources
Classes will progress through the various Lecture Areas referred to in the Unit Schedule in this Unit Guide. There may be some reorganization, overlapping, and/or integration of areas to accommodate assessment, public holiday scheduling, unit structure, delivery or class management.
Lectures begin in Week 1 and Tutorials begin in Week 2.


CLP 5th ed will be available in the Macquarie University library. Both a physical and digital copy can be purchased from the publishers Thomson Reuters via their website https://legal.thomsonreuters.com.au/student/university/macquarie/

After considering the Australian legal framework, tort law, and contract law, the unit will focus on corporate issues and the relevance and effect of the Corporations Act. Certain relevant sections of the Corporations Act are set out in CLP 5th ed.

Useful websites:

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

Useful databases:

- Austlil

**Unit Schedule**

**UNIT SCHEDULE**

**Note that Lectures start in Week 1 and Tutorials start in Week 2**

**Week 1 (Lecture 1)**

Legal framework

Law of tort

*Company Law Perspectives, 5th ed. 2023* [this is the required text and is referred to herein as "CLP 5th ed"]: Ch.1 and 3

**Week 2 (Lecture 2)**

Contract law

CLP 5th ed: Ch. 2

*Tutorial 1*

**Week 3 (Lecture 3)**

Contract law

Agency
Consumer protection

Privacy

CLP 5\textsuperscript{th} ed: Ch. 2, 4, 34 and 35

Tutorial 2

Week 4 (Lecture 4)
Comparison of business structures

Partnership

Registration of companies – the role of ASIC

Types of companies

Consequences of registration

CLP 5\textsuperscript{th} ed: Ch. 5, 6, 7, 8 and 24

Tutorial 3

Week 5 (Lecture 5)
The nature of Trusts and the role of corporate trustees

The company constitution and the relationship between the company and outsiders – the role of directors as agents and company liability in contract, tort and crime

Financing - Share capital and fundraising; loan capital

Dividends

CLP 5\textsuperscript{th} ed: Ch. 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17

Tutorial 4 [includes 10\% test]

Week 6 (Lecture 6)
Directors and corporate management

Directors fiduciary duties

CLP 5\textsuperscript{th} ed: Ch.18 and 19

Tutorial 5

Week 7 (Lecture 7)
Directors statutory duties
Corporate governance
Care and diligence
Financial reporting and auditors
CLP 5th ed: Ch. 20, 21, 22 and 23

Tutorial 6

Week 8 (Lecture 8)
Members rights
Company meetings
CLP 5th ed: Ch. 25 and 26

Tutorial 7

[Media Assignment due this week]

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University Mid-Session Break
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Week 9 (Lecture 9)
Takeovers
Regulation of financial services and markets
Insider trading
CLP 5th ed: Ch. 27 and 28

Tutorial 8

Week 10 (Lecture 10)
The concept of insolvency and insolvency regulation
Restructuring
CLP 5th ed: Ch. 29, 30, 31 and 32

Tutorial 9

Week 11 (Lecture 11)
Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Assessment Procedure
- Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy

Students seeking more policy resources can visit Student Policies (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.
Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe academic integrity – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free online writing and maths support, academic skills development and wellbeing consultations.

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Workshops
- Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader
- Access StudyWISE
- Upload an assignment to Studiosity
- Complete the Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of Student Support Services including:

- IT Support
- Accessibility and disability support with study
• Mental health support
• Safety support to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
• Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues
• Student Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries
Got a question? Ask us via AskMQ, or contact Service Connect.

IT Help
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2024.04 of the Handbook