ACCG6014
Business and Company 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
Admission to MAccg or MAccLead or MProfAcc or MProfAccgLead or GradCertAccgPrac or GradDipAccgPrac

Corequisites

Co-badge status

Unit description
This unit introduces students to the Australian legal system, relevant commercial legal principles, and corporate law and regulation. At the beginning of the unit students will identify core aspects of rights and liabilities, and the characteristics of business organisations generally. Thereafter, the unit focuses on Australian company law. Students develop an understanding of the nature and function of a company and will analyse important issues concerning the duties of directors, shareholder rights, takeovers and share market regulation, and corporate insolvency. Classes will include consideration of relevant legal issues, case law, and important sections of the Corporations Act. Completing this unit will equip students with relevant insights into the regulation of the commercial environment and the ability to critically assess and appraise the rights and obligations arising in the formation, management and functioning of a company.

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: Describe the nature of the Australian commercial legal environment and recognise and evaluate the principles of the law of contract and tort

ULO2: Identify and evaluate corporate characteristics including articulating and critically analysing the role and obligations of directors

ULO3: Appraise and evaluate how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.

ULO4: Compare corporate mechanisms for dealing with insolvency and critically assess the nature of corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.

ULO5: Produce and deliver written and oral material suitable for the purposes of engaging and informing an academic audience

**General Assessment Information**

**Online Quiz**
Assessment Type 1: Quiz/Test Indicative Time on Task 2: 15 hours Due: **Weeks 4, 5, 7 and 8**
Weighting: **20%**

The online quiz will be held during class in Weeks 4 to 8. The duration and details of the quiz will be advised on iLearn. The quiz may be either multiple-choice questions, true/false questions, short answer style questions, or a combination thereof.

On successful completion, you will be able to:

- Describe the nature of the Australian legal system, how to find, understand and use the law, and recognise and evaluate the principles of the law of contract, tort, and consumer law.

**Assignment**
Assessment Type 1: Case Study Indicative Time on Task 2: 28 hours Due: **Friday 3 May 2024 at 11.59pm**
Weighting: **30%**

Students will be assigned a topic/question and be required to submit a written response. Maximum length 1,200 words excluding references. The submission must be clear and concise, make reference to relevant law, show evidence of research and address the issues central to the topic/task. The case study will cover a topic from weeks 7 to 10.

On successful completion, you will be able to:

- Describe the law and practices of businesses in Australia.
• Identify and evaluate key legal principles including articulating and critically analysing existing laws and how they apply to businesses in Australia.
• Appraise and evaluate how the Corporations Act and other laws regulate businesses and their operations within Australia.
• Produce and deliver written and oral material suitable for the purposes of engaging and informing an academic audience

Final Exam
Assessment Type 1: Examination Indicative Time on Task 2: 40 hours Due: Formal University Exam Period Weighting: 50%

A two-hour open book exam will be held during the University Examination Period.

On successful completion, you will be able to:

• Describe the nature of the Australian commercial legal environment and recognise and evaluate the principles of the law of contract, tort, consumer law and privacy law, as well as the common business structures.
• Identify and evaluate corporate characteristics, including articulating and critically analysing the role and obligations of directors.
• Appraise and evaluate how the Corporations Act and other laws regulate businesses and their operations within Australia.
• Discuss the ways in which businesses recover debts, pay taxes, employ workers and come to an end in Australia.

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

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>In weeks 4, 5, 7 and 8. Consult iLearn for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Weighting</td>
<td>Hurdle</td>
<td>Due</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Friday 3 May 2024 at 11.59pm. Submit via iLearn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Formal University Exam Period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quiz**

Assessment Type: Quiz/Test  
Indicative Time on Task: 15 hours  
Due: In weeks 4, 5, 7 and 8. Consult iLearn for details.  
Weighting: 20%

The quiz will be held in the first half of the session. The duration and details of the quiz will be advised in the week prior to the quiz. The quiz may be either multiple-choice questions, true/false questions, short answer style questions, or a combination thereof.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Describe the nature of the Australian commercial legal environment and recognise and evaluate the principles of the law of contract and tort
- Identify and evaluate corporate characteristics including articulating and critically analysing the role and obligations of directors

**Assignment**

Assessment Type: Essay  
Indicative Time on Task: 28 hours  
Due: Friday 3 May 2024 at 11.59pm. Submit via iLearn.  
Weighting: 30%

Students will be assigned a topic/question and be required to submit a written response. Maximum length 1,200 words excluding references. The submission must be clear and concise, make reference to relevant law, show evidence of research and address the issues central to the topic/task.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Describe the nature of the Australian commercial legal environment and recognise and evaluate the principles of the law of contract and tort
Identify and evaluate corporate characteristics including articulating and critically analysing the role and obligations of directors.

Appraise and evaluate how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.

Compare corporate mechanisms for dealing with insolvency and critically assess the nature of corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.

Produce and deliver written and oral material suitable for the purposes of engaging and informing an academic audience.

Final Examination

Assessment Type 1: Examination
Indicative Time on Task 2: 40 hours
Due: Formal University Exam Period
Weighting: 50%

A two-hour open book examination will be held during the University Examination Period.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe the nature of the Australian commercial legal environment and recognise and evaluate the principles of the law of contract and tort
- Identify and evaluate corporate characteristics including articulating and critically analysing the role and obligations of directors
- Appraise and evaluate how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.
- Compare corporate mechanisms for dealing with insolvency and critically assess the nature of corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.

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 this Unit Guide. There may be some reorganisation, overlapping, and/or integration of areas to accommodate assessment, holiday scheduling, unit structure, delivery or class management.

The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at: http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/

Required Text: Nickolas James and Timothy Thomas, Business Law, 6th Edition, Wiley (Referred to as BL)

BL will be available in the Macquarie University library. It can be can be purchased from the publishers Wiley via their website https://www.wileydirect.com.au/blog/buy/business-law/


The following is not required but may be useful: Lipton, Herzberg and Welsh, Understanding Company Law, Thomson Reuters (Lawbook Co.).

Note that certain relevant sections of the Corporations Act as well as other legislation, are set out in BL. Legislation may be viewed in full at www.austlii.edu.au

Useful websites

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

Useful databases

• Austlii
• CCH Intelliconnect
• LexisNexis Practical Guidance: Corporations

Students should be ready to allocate at least 150 hours during the session (in total) to ACYG2051. This includes all classes, assessment, personal study and other learning activities.

Technology Used and Required:

Technology: learning management system (https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/index.php). Students have to frequently access this Unit’s iLearn site (https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/index.php) for relevant unit material (if any), announcements and detailed information regarding the Unit.

Unit Schedule

Unit Schedule

Note that Lectures start in Week 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| 1    | Unit Introduction, Business and the Law, Introduction to the Australian Legal System  
BL Chpts 1 and 2 |
| 2    | Understanding the Judicial System, How to Find, Understand and Use the Law  
BL Chpts 3 and 4 |
| 3    | Torts  
BL Chpts 5 and 6 |
| 4    | Contracts 1 Formation of Contracts and Terms of the Contract  
BL Chpts 7 and 8  
Quiz 1 - in class |
| 5    | Contracts 2 Enforcement of Contracts and Working with Agents  
BL Chpts 9 and 10  
Quiz 2 - in class |
| 6    | No Class this week Due to the Easter Long Weekend. Seminar videos and activities will be posted in iLearn for you to watch and complete.  
Australian Consumer Law  
BL Chpts 11 and 12 |
| 7    | Protecting IP and Privacy  
BL Chpts 13  
Quiz 3 - in class |
| 8    | Managing a Business Start-Up  
BL Chpts 14  
Quiz 4 - in class |
| 9    | Business Ownership, Companies and Corporate Governance  
BL Chpts 15 and 16 |
| 10   | Payments and Recovering Dets, Insurance and Taxes  
BL 17 and 18 |
| 11   | Employing Workers and Closing Down a Business  
BL 19 and 20 |
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/
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.

**Changes from Previous Offering**

Changes to the Required Textbook and Readings.

Unit information based on version 2024.03 of the Handbook