



LAWS5036

Modern Corporate Governance

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

Macquarie Law School

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Dr Hannah Harris

Contact via Contact via iLearn

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(80cp in LAW or LAWS units incl LAWS2300) or (130cp including (MMCC2014 or MAS214) or (BUSL250 and BUSL301) or (BUSL251 or ACCG2051)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

What exactly is a corporation? Whose interests do corporations serve? How should corporations be held responsible for social or environmental harms? These are just some of the questions this course addresses. Corporations are powerful and complex legal creations with immense influence over society, economy, politics and environment. In this advanced unit, students will build on existing knowledge of business organisations and corporate law to gain deeper insight into how corporations govern themselves and how they are regulated by external actors, both in Australia and internationally. Students will engage in research and critical analysis of existing corporate governance strategies and the laws that govern corporate interactions, advancing their understanding of the actors and organisations that impact corporate governance, including: corporate boards, corporate regulators, auditors and stock exchanges. This course provides an opportunity to explore concepts such as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Environmental and Social Governance (ESG), and Business and Human Rights. Students will analyse the relationships and legal obligations between corporations and their shareholders, creditors, employees and customers.

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: Understand and convey key concepts related to corporate governance and

corporate regulation.

ULO2: Describe and analyse the context in which corporate governance policies and practices operate

ULO3: Examine alternative corporate law and regulatory models and assess their application

ULO4: Review and critique existing corporate law and regulatory strategies domestically and internationally

General Assessment Information

All written assessments submitted electronically must be submitted through the link provided in iLearn. This unit will utilise Turnitin plagiarism detection software. Students should carefully check that they submit the correct file for an assessment, as re-submissions will not be accepted after the due date and time, including instances where students upload an incorrect file in error.

The design, moderation and feedback of all assessments is in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Procedure (link provided under 'Policies and Procedures' below).

Late Submission Policy

A maximum penalty of five (5) percentage points of the total possible marks will be applied per day to late submissions, for up to a maximum of seven calendar days. Tasks that have not been submitted within the maximum number of additional late days will receive a mark of zero. This provision does not apply to exams or other assessment with a time limit of less than 24 hours.

Penalties for late submission will be applied consistently and equitably to all students enrolled in the unit. Where short-term, serious and unavoidable circumstances have affected their ability to submit an assessment task, a student must submit a formal application for Special Consideration as per the Special Consideration Policy. Students should not request an informal arrangement from their tutor, lecturer or Unit Convenor.

Where an application for Special Consideration is approved, and the outcome is an extension to the due date of a task, submissions that are received after the new due date will be subject to late penalties that are calculated from the new due date. This only applies where the outcome is an extension to the due date – see the Special Consideration Policy for a schedule of all possible outcomes.

Special Consideration

Students should submit applications for Special Consideration electronically via the Service Connect portal, along with the supporting documentation. Before submitting their applications, students should refer to the Special Consideration Policy (link provided under 'Policies and Procedures' below).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Case Studies	40%	No	14/09/2026	Individual	No	Open
Professional Skills	20%	No	Ongoing	Individual	No	Observed
Professional Writing Task	40%	No	06/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Case Studies

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **14/09/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

A series of case studies throughout the semester that incorporate a number of tasks described on iLearn

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine alternative corporate law and regulatory models and assess their application
- Review and critique existing corporate law and regulatory strategies domestically and internationally

Professional Skills

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 0 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

Students will engage in classroom activities including mootings, presentations or demonstrations, structured discussion and problem solving, doctrinal analysis, simulated client consultations, and collaborative legal research. Through these activities students will develop skills in oral advocacy, legal analysis, critical reasoning, teamwork and team leadership, and/or strategic problem-solving. These activities are designed to strengthen students' ability to communicate legal concepts verbally and engage professionally within a supportive learning environment.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and convey key concepts related to corporate governance and corporate regulation.
- Describe and analyse the context in which corporate governance policies and practices operate
- Examine alternative corporate law and regulatory models and assess their application
- Review and critique existing corporate law and regulatory strategies domestically and internationally

Professional Writing Task

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **06/11/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students will research and produce a piece of writing that demonstrates professional skills relevant to modern corporate governance.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and convey key concepts related to corporate governance and corporate regulation.
- Describe and analyse the context in which corporate governance policies and practices operate
- Examine alternative corporate law and regulatory models and assess their application
- Review and critique existing corporate law and regulatory strategies domestically and internationally

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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service](#)

[Connect Portal.](#)

Delivery and Resources

The required text book is: du Plessis, Hargovan & Harris, *Principles of Contemporary Corporate Governance* (5thh Ed, 2024).

Other required readings and resources will be provided via iLearn.

Unit Schedule

This course is made up of 12 weeks of online content (approximately 2 hours of content each week) and a weekly F2F or Zoom tutorial of one hour **BEGINNING IN WEEK ONE.**

The 12 weekly modules and accompanying tutorials cover the following topics:

1. Introduction to Corporate Governance: Theories, Practice and Corporate Purpose
2. Corporate Accountability: Shareholders, Stakeholders & Corporate Impact
3. The Corporate Board: Design, Structure & Operation
4. Corporate Regulation I: Models of Corporate Regulation
5. Governance Gatekeepers: Audit, Market Integrity & Public Trust
6. Director's Duties: Responsibility, Risk and Legal Exposure
7. Corporate Regulation II: Compliance and Enforcement Strategies
8. Investor Power: Shareholder Activism & Capital Markets
9. Corporate Finance: Mergers, Acquisitions & Governance in Flux
10. Corporate Crime and Misconduct: Corruption, Money Laundering and Criminal Enterprise
11. Crisis Management & Corporate Resilience
12. Corporate Governance & The Future of the Corporation

Materials for each module can be found in the tabs below, along with tutorial questions for discussion each week.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.smq.edu.au) (<https://policies.smq.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 \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](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 \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](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 connect.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/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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 since First Published

Date	Description
21/07/2026	N/A

Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)