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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Benjamin Richardson
benjamin.richardson@mq.edu.au
Contact via benjamin.richardson@mq.edu.au

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
6cp in LAW units at 300 level(P) and permission of Executive Dean of Faculty

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit accommodates the special skills and expertise of visitors to Macquarie Law School or accommodates a unit of study in developmental mode according to the teaching plans of the School. The unit is designed to capture particular expertise and interest of colleagues, both professional and academic. The particular subject area of the unit will change from year to year.

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:

- Understand the socio-economic context and historical roles of corporations.
- Compare and contrast the main theories, models and principles of CSR.
- Determine the methods of CSR practice and corporate accountability.
- Assess the impact of business law, particularly corporate governance and securities regulation, on the capacity and willingness of corporations to behave responsibly.
- Analyse the role of non-governmental mechanisms in creating and maintaining CSR standards, policies and accountability.
- Consider challenges in governing multinational corporations, by either individual host
states or collaboratively through international cooperation. Critically evaluate case examples of CSR focusing on the food industry, the “beauty” industry, socially responsible finance, and legal accountability of multinational businesses. Relate the foregoing issues to the Australian context, in light of international and comparative examples. Conduct a review and evaluation of the research literature. Collaborate with fellow students in class discussions and in a mock negotiation. Present ideas and information in a concise, clear, well organized, and persuasive manner. Take advantage of unexpected learning opportunities and insights generated by classroom interactions.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Memo</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>5pm Friday, 17 January 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>During week of 27 January 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Participation**

**Due:** Ongoing  
**Weighting:** 20%

Learning is an active, not passive, process, and student participation is an essential part of this process. A lively and engaged classroom atmosphere is encouraged. With each class limited to 30 students, there will be ample opportunities for extensive discussion. It can help to clarify and expand upon the assigned readings, and draw upon the insights of students. The class participation mark is designed to encourage preparation for the course, to encourage students to learn, analyze, reflect and evaluate the written material prior to covering it in class, and to develop the capacity to advance arguments verbally.

The criteria for assessing class participation are: (a) preparation for class (i.e., extent to which one demonstrates having read and thought about the required materials); (b) willingness to contribute to class discussions, ask and respond to questions from instructor or other students; (c) effective participation in role plays and other class exercises; and (d) respect for fellow class members (e.g., non-domination of discussion and engagement with others’ contributions).

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Collaborate with fellow students in class discussions and in a mock negotiation.
• Take advantage of unexpected learning opportunities and insights generated by classroom interactions.

Short Memo
Due: 5pm Friday, 17 January 2014
Weighting: 20%

The memo involves drafting the provisions of a hypothetical CSR code of conduct, and providing some explanatory commentary.

The memo will be assessed / graded primarily on the following criteria:
• Knowledge: to research relevant information (e.g., CSR codes and academic articles relating to the food industry).
• Comprehension and analysis: for example, to demonstrate understanding of the issues at stake, and how to formulate these issues into provisions of the code.
• Presentation: to draft a code that is well written, well organized and structured, and references cited accurately and uniformly.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Determine the methods of CSR practice and corporate accountability.
• Assess the impact of business law, particularly corporate governance and securities regulation, on the capacity and willingness of corporations to behave responsibly.
• Consider challenges in governing multinational corporations, by either individual host states or collaboratively through international cooperation.
• Conduct a review and evaluation of the research literature.
• Present ideas and information in a concise, clear, well organized, and persuasive manner.

Final exam
Due: During week of 27 January 2014
Weighting: 60%

Information about the content of the examination will be given during the class sessions.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Understand the socio-economic context and historical roles of corporations.
• Compare and contrast the main theories, models and principles of CSR.
• Determine the methods of CSR practice and corporate accountability.
• Assess the impact of business law, particularly corporate governance and securities regulation, on the capacity and willingness of corporations to behave responsibly.
• Analyse the role of non-governmental mechanisms in creating and maintaining CSR standards, policies and accountability.
• Consider challenges in governing multinational corporations, by either individual host states or collaboratively through international cooperation.
• Critically evaluate case examples of CSR focusing on the food industry, the “beauty” industry, socially responsible finance, and legal accountability of multinational businesses.
• Relate the foregoing issues to the Australian context, in light of international and comparative examples.
• Present ideas and information in a concise, clear, well organized, and persuasive manner.

Delivery and Resources

Class Sessions
This course is taught in a two day intensive session in December (in three separate groups) – 9-10 Dec. (group 1), 12-13 Dec. (group 2) and Dec. 16-17 (group 3). Classes are held from 9.00 – 4.30 each day in room W5A-103, with allowance for lunch and intermission breaks. The classes will be conducted in a collaborative learning style, in which students actively participate in discussions. The subject-matter will be covered in class through a variety of pedagogic methods, including lecturing, participating in role-plays and class exercises, and occasionally watching documentary films and other audio-visual material.

Online Unit
Please access the LAW582 online unit by logging into ilearn.mq.edu.au for full unit details.

Course Readings
The assigned readings for each topic are indicated in the online unit, and are available by following the hyperlinks to sources on public websites. The readings reflect a diversity of sources, and include substantial non-legal materials because of the trans-legal dimensions of the subject-matter of this interdisciplinary course. A very small number of sources are available only in hard copy from the university library.
Unit Schedule

Schedule of topics

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<th>Part I: The Conceptual and Legal Framework</th>
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<td>1. Introduction</td>
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<td>2. CSR’s Conceptual Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Sustainability and Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Corporate Governance and CSR</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Corporate Volunteerism and Codes of Conduct</td>
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<td>6. Legal Accountability of Multinational Corporations</td>
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<th>Part II: Illustrative Case Studies</th>
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<td>7. Case Study 1: Financial Sector and Socially Responsible Investment</td>
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<td>8. Case Study 2: The Food Industry</td>
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<td>9. Case Study 3: The “Beauty” Industry</td>
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<td>10. Course Conclusions</td>
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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:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at: [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)
UniWISE provides:

- Online learning resources and academic skills workshops [http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning_skills/](http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning_skills/)
- Personal assistance with your learning & study related questions.
- The Learning Help Desk is located in the Library foyer (level 2).
- Online and on-campus orientation events run by Mentors@Macquarie.

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

Details of these services can be accessed at [http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/](http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/).

IT Help

If you wish to receive IT help, we would be glad to assist you at [http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/](http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/).

When using the university's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students and it outlines what can be done.

Graduate Capabilities

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Assess the impact of business law, particularly corporate governance and securities regulation, on the capacity and willingness of corporations to behave responsibly.
- Consider challenges in governing multinational corporations, by either individual host states or collaboratively through international cooperation.
- Critically evaluate case examples of CSR focusing on the food industry, the “beauty” industry, socially responsible finance, and legal accountability of multinational businesses.
- Take advantage of unexpected learning opportunities and insights generated by
Commitment to Continuous Learning
Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**
- Conduct a review and evaluation of the research literature.

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**
- Understand the socio-economic context and historical roles of corporations.
- Assess the impact of business law, particularly corporate governance and securities regulation, on the capacity and willingness of corporations to behave responsibly.
- Consider challenges in governing multinational corporations, by either individual host states or collaboratively through international cooperation.
- Critically evaluate case examples of CSR focusing on the food industry, the “beauty” industry, socially responsible finance, and legal accountability of multinational businesses.
- Relate the foregoing issues to the Australian context, in light of international and comparative examples.

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**

- Compare and contrast the main theories, models and principles of CSR.
- Analyse the role of non-governmental mechanisms in creating and maintaining CSR standards, policies and accountability.
- Critically evaluate case examples of CSR focusing on the food industry, the “beauty” industry, socially responsible finance, and legal accountability of multinational businesses.
- Relate the foregoing issues to the Australian context, in light of international and comparative examples.
- Conduct a review and evaluation of the research literature.

**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**

- Determine the methods of CSR practice and corporate accountability.
- Assess the impact of business law, particularly corporate governance and securities regulation, on the capacity and willingness of corporations to behave responsibly.
- Consider challenges in governing multinational corporations, by either individual host states or collaboratively through international cooperation.
- Critically evaluate case examples of CSR focusing on the food industry, the “beauty” industry, socially responsible finance, and legal accountability of multinational businesses.
- Conduct a review and evaluation of the research literature.

**Creative and Innovative**

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:
Learning outcomes

• Consider challenges in governing multinational corporations, by either individual host states or collaboratively through international cooperation.
• Critically evaluate case examples of CSR focusing on the food industry, the “beauty” industry, socially responsible finance, and legal accountability of multinational businesses.
• Relate the foregoing issues to the Australian context, in light of international and comparative examples.
• Take advantage of unexpected learning opportunities and insights generated by classroom interactions.

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

• Conduct a review and evaluation of the research literature.
• Collaborate with fellow students in class discussions and in a mock negotiation.
• Present ideas and information in a concise, clear, well organized, and persuasive manner.

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Determine the methods of CSR practice and corporate accountability.
• Consider challenges in governing multinational corporations, by either individual host states or collaboratively through international cooperation.
Critically evaluate case examples of CSR focusing on the food industry, the “beauty” industry, socially responsible finance, and legal accountability of multinational businesses.

Relate the foregoing issues to the Australian context, in light of international and comparative examples.

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the socio-economic context and historical roles of corporations.
- Critically evaluate case examples of CSR focusing on the food industry, the “beauty” industry, socially responsible finance, and legal accountability of multinational businesses.
- Collaborate with fellow students in class discussions and in a mock negotiation.