IEST5021

Corporations, Capitalism, & Transforming Environments

Term Two // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Aaron Magner	a.magner@unsw.edu.au	Meetings and discussion welcome by appointment.	Morven Brown	Email contact preferred

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

This course provides an overview of the evolution of business organisations and the political economy of capitalism, focusing on the interplay among large corporations, governments, investors, consumers, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as they intersect with the climate, environment, and civil society. You will focus on large multi-national corporations and on emerging alternative forms of business organisation, such as social enterprises, cooperatives, and B corporations. You will examine the purpose of the contemporary corporation and issues of how society should best assess business performance and how alternative models of corporate governance offer pathways to better account for and acknowledge environmental and social concerns. You will review the main sustainability reporting frameworks and examine how effective they are in transforming corporations and other organisations into more ethical, environmentally sustainable, and socially just ways of operating. You will consider contributions of capitalism and for-profit multinational corporations to climate crisis and other environmental and social challenges and query whether the existing neoliberal paradigm is best placed to respond to and address such anthropogenic disruptions. In examining the role of state regulation, civil society, and more local democratic options, you will also consider the effectiveness of historic and more recent major political, social, and protest movements on government policy and corporate actions.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse the emergence of key political economic institutions—including large corporations, NGOs, governments, consumers and investors—and critically appraise their environmental impacts
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of contemporary sustainability reporting frameworks for transforming corporations and other organisations into more ethical, environmentally sustainable, and socially just institutions
3. Analyse and evaluate pathways of accounting for and addressing social and environmental concerns within alternative models of corporate governance
4. Use critical and creative synthesis to evaluate the ability of current neoliberal modes of capitalism and corporate governance to address environmental concerns
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of historic and recent major political, social, and protest movements to initiate change in government policy and corporate actions

Teaching Strategies

The method of delivery involves a mix of formal lectures and seminars as well as participation-oriented case studies, role playing, debate, and small group exercises.

Assessment

Further guidance provided in class and via Moodle.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Literature Review Assignment	30%	16 June 2021 10.00PM	1, 3
Group Presentation	20%	Week 7	1, 2
Report	50%	08/08/2021 06:00 PM	3, 4, 5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Literature Review Assignment

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1500 Words

Details:

A total of up to 1500 words providing a critical analysis of set readings.

Written feedback provided.

Additional details:

See Moodle for extra details.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Group Presentation

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

Working in small teams, students will undertake a small project of comparative analysis on corporate environmental sustainability and reporting and make a team presentation on the last day for about 20 minutes. For online students individual presentation will be made via Moodle.

Written and oral feedback provided.

Additional details:

See Moodle for extra details.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Report

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 3000 words

Details:

Students will prepare an individual report of 3000 words from a choice of topics. Written feedback. Final assessment of course.

Additional details:

See Moodle for extra details.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 31 May - 4 June	Blended	**Corporations, Capitalism and Transforming Environments: Overview** Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 2: 7 June - 11 June	Blended	**The evolution of the corporation and their impact on the environment and society** Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 3: 15 June - 18 June	Blended	**Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting** Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 4: 21 June - 25 June	Blended	**The evolution of western economic theory and practice** Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 5: 28 June - 2 July	Blended	**Contemporary capitalism and neoliberalism** Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 6: 5 July - 9 July	Blended	**Ecological economics, limits to economic growth and alternative measures for progress** Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 7: 12 July - 16 July	Blended	**Doughnut Economics and the circular economy** Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 8: 19 July - 23 July	Blended	**B-corporations, cooperatives and the commons** Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.

Week 9: 26 July - 30 July	Blended	**Transforming Environments: Conscious Capitalism and Natural Capital** Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 10: 2 August - 6 August	Blended	**Political, social, and protest movements and their influence on society and corporate actions** Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

These will be provided via your Moodle site, using the LEGANTO system, and via your own research.

Recommended Resources

These will be provided via your Moodle site, using the LEGANTO system, and/or via your own research.

Course Evaluation and Development

Feedback will be gathered via MyExperience. Previous commentary suggests the need for further integration of on-line and in-class activity. Developments across the MEM program give focus to the experience of distance students and the better use of on-line forums and independent research by students.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Image Credit

Sydney business district skyline. Image copyright free
via https://www.pexels.com/photo/high-rise-skyscraper-buildings-783683/

CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.