



UNSW

UNSW Course Outline

COMM1900 Organisations in Their Environment - 2024

Published on the 25 Aug 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : COMM1900

Year : 2024

Term : Term 3

Teaching Period : T3

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : UNSW Business School

Academic Unit : UNSW Business School

Delivery Mode : Multimodal

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

COMM1900 explores some of the decisions managers need to make to keep organisations running successfully within the dynamic, and often complex, global environment. Taking the perspective of a manager, we explore the complexity of business environments from legal,

political, socio-cultural and sustainability perspectives and reflect on the impact these environmental factors have on managerial decision-making in various industries. Looking at the environment through these different lenses also allows managers to identify the challenges and opportunities their organisation is facing.

Course Aims

This course is specifically for students completing a double degree in Actuarial Studies/Commerce or Commerce/Economics. It complements ECON1101 and ECON1102 and introduces the key decisions that organisations and organisational actors need to make in response to the complex business environments in which they operate.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course is specifically for students completing a double degree in Actuarial Studies/Commerce or Commerce/Economics. It complements ECON1101 and ECON1102 and introduces the key decisions that organisations and organisational actors need to make in response to the complex business environments in which they operate.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes	Program learning outcomes
CLO1 : Explain the interplay of political, economic, socio-cultural, legal, technical and corporate sustainability factors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLO1 : Business Knowledge
CLO2 : Evaluate the impact of these environmental factors on organisational decision-making in international business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLO2 : Problem Solving • PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice • PLO6 : Global and Cultural Competence
CLO3 : Outline the key features of corporate (social, environmental) responsibility, how this has increased the paradoxical nature of corporate decision-making, and how the business world can contribute to the greater good.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLO1 : Business Knowledge • PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice • PLO6 : Global and Cultural Competence
CLO4 : Apply appropriate search strategies to obtain relevant and valid information from a range of suitable sources for a given task or problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLO2 : Problem Solving

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Explain the interplay of political, economic, socio-cultural, legal, technical and corporate sustainability factors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Quiz • Single Lens Report • Group Video • Integrative Report
CLO2 : Evaluate the impact of these environmental factors on organisational decision-making in international business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Quiz • Single Lens Report • Group Video • Integrative Report
CLO3 : Outline the key features of corporate (social, environmental) responsibility, how this has increased the paradoxical nature of corporate decision-making, and how the business world can contribute to the greater good.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Quiz • Group Video • Integrative Report
CLO4 : Apply appropriate search strategies to obtain relevant and valid information from a range of suitable sources for a given task or problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single Lens Report • Group Video • Integrative Report

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

This course takes an enquiry-based approach to the teaching strategy, where learning is student-centred with an emphasis on investigative and problem-based approaches to encourage critical thinking and deeper understanding of course concepts. Alongside reflective practice and active peer support, the aim is to encourage and support students to take responsibility for what and how they learn. Students reach a point where they are not simply investigating questions posed by teachers but can formulate their own critique and convert that into useful knowledge.

Other Professional Outcomes

Other Outcomes

Recognise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN-Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME) and UNSW's commitment to both. (PLO 5: Responsible Business Practice)

Outline five central elements of sustainability (interdependence of major systems; needs and rights of future generations; value of diversity; precautionary principles; limits to growth). (PLO 5: Responsible Business Practice)

Appraise the features of the global business environment, how they can impact on organisations, and influence current thinking on business-society and business-environment relations. (PLO1 : Business Knowledge; PLO6 : Global and Cultural Competence; PLO7 : Leadership Development)

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates	Program learning outcomes
Weekly Quiz Assessment Format: Individual	15%		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PLO1 : Business Knowledge• PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice• PLO6 : Global and Cultural Competence
Single Lens Report Assessment Format: Individual	20%		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PLO1 : Business Knowledge• PLO3 : Business Communication• PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice• PLO7 : Leadership Development
Group Video Assessment Format: Group	25%		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PLO1 : Business Knowledge• PLO2 : Problem Solving• PLO3 : Business Communication• PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice• PLO6 : Global and Cultural Competence
Integrative Report Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Due Date: Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PLO1 : Business Knowledge• PLO2 : Problem Solving• PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice• PLO6 : Global and Cultural Competence

Assessment Details

Weekly Quiz

Assessment Overview

Weekly test on the comprehension of weekly reading.

Assessment 1: Assesses: PLO1, PLO5, PLO6

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain the interplay of political, economic, socio-cultural, legal, technical and corporate sustainability factors.
- CLO2 : Evaluate the impact of these environmental factors on organisational decision-making in international business
- CLO3 : Outline the key features of corporate (social, environmental) responsibility, how this has increased the paradoxical nature of corporate decision-making, and how the business world can contribute to the greater good.

Detailed Assessment Description

The Weekly Quiz is an essential part of our course, facilitating your engagement with the key

concepts discussed each week. By reflecting on the pre-work learning materials, you will apply your knowledge to answer specific questions or scenarios presented in the quiz.

Assessment Length

10 questions each week

Submission notes

Results are automatically recorded on Moodle.

Assessment information

There will be nine quizzes throughout the term. Ultimately, your final mark for this assessment will be calculated using the top five scores from these nine quizzes.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Single Lens Report

Assessment Overview

Comparison of various cases through one lens.

Assesses: PLO1, PLO3, PLO5, PLO7

BCom students: myBCom course points for PLO3

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain the interplay of political, economic, socio-cultural, legal, technical and

corporate sustainability factors.

- CLO2 : Evaluate the impact of these environmental factors on organisational decision-making in international business
- CLO4 : Apply appropriate search strategies to obtain relevant and valid information from a range of suitable sources for a given task or problem.

Detailed Assessment Description

This individual assignment, embedded within a group activity context, requires you to analyse and synthesise reports you and your group members have prepared independently *before* the tutorial by applying a single analytical lens to a particular company/industry. One week during the term, *you* will lead the group's discussion based on these individual reports. After the tutorial, you will synthesise the group's collaborative analysis and discussion in a 1200 – 1500-word report. This report should reflect a single analytical lens, comparing multiple companies/industries. It highlights the multiple ways in which this particular aspect of the organisational environment (e.g. politics, or technology) impacts organizations.

Assessment Length

1200 - 1500 words

Assessment information

Note: From week 3 to week 10, each group member must prepare a 300–400-word report every week. This report, applying the week's analytical lens to their selected company, should be submitted on Moodle before the tutorial as part of Assessment 4. These reports are crucial for stimulating discussions in the tutorials. The discussion leader needs access to these reports to prepare the Single Lens Report, which is based on the group discussion of that week. Students are incentivized to write and submit their individual single lens analysis punctually by earning 2% of the final grade for each timely submission (refer to Assessment 4). Moreover, these individual reports will assist students in composing their final integrative report at the end of the term, which consolidates all the single lens analyses conducted on their chosen company throughout the term.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

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below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

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Group Video

Assessment Overview

Group video on socio-cultural differences between selected cultures.

Assesses: PLO1, PLO2, PLO3, PLO5, PLO6

BCom students: myBCom course points for PLO2

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain the interplay of political, economic, socio-cultural, legal, technical and corporate sustainability factors.
- CLO2 : Evaluate the impact of these environmental factors on organisational decision-making in international business
- CLO3 : Outline the key features of corporate (social, environmental) responsibility, how this has increased the paradoxical nature of corporate decision-making, and how the business world can contribute to the greater good.
- CLO4 : Apply appropriate search strategies to obtain relevant and valid information from a range of suitable sources for a given task or problem.

Detailed Assessment Description

In this assignment, you will engage in a collaborative and creative project aimed at exploring, researching, and presenting the differences between two selected cultures/or two different cultural phenomena chosen by your team. The world is an interesting—and sometimes perplexing—place because of cultural diversity. A seemingly obvious thing in one culture can seem completely foreign in another. This project encourages you to dive deep into understanding diverse worldviews, customs, and the complexity of culture, which in turn are concretely manifested in many areas of our life including, but not limited to, the world of business and organisations. Your exploration should lead to an entertaining video that offers a more profound appreciation of cultural diversity and its significance in today's globalised world.

Assessment Length

7 - 10 minutes

Submission notes

See Moodle for details

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

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Integrative Report

Assessment Overview

Analysis of the organisational environment of a selected company based on weekly journal entries.

Assess: PLO1, PLO2, PLO5 & PLO6

BCom students: myBCom course points for PLO5 and PLO6

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain the interplay of political, economic, socio-cultural, legal, technical and corporate sustainability factors.
- CLO2 : Evaluate the impact of these environmental factors on organisational decision-making in international business
- CLO3 : Outline the key features of corporate (social, environmental) responsibility, how this has increased the paradoxical nature of corporate decision-making, and how the business world can contribute to the greater good.

- CLO4 : Apply appropriate search strategies to obtain relevant and valid information from a range of suitable sources for a given task or problem.

Detailed Assessment Description

This assignment involves crafting a comprehensive 2000-word report on your selected company, building upon the weekly "mini" reports you have compiled in recent weeks. The purpose of the report is to offer an integrated view of the wider organizational context and its impact on the company's decision-making processes.

After examining your company/industry from various perspectives in your "mini" reports, you will consolidate your findings to present a report on the intricacies of decision-making within a frequently unpredictable environment. Utilizing academic research and evidence to bolster your analysis, you will identify and discuss the most pertinent factors affecting your company's strategic decision-making—specifically, those factors that will significantly influence the company for better or worse. Essentially, if the company aims to prosper in the coming decades, what are the major risks and opportunities it will encounter? Why are these significant? And how can decision-makers address these risks and capitalize on the opportunities?

You are expected to employ your analytical abilities and exhibit a deep comprehension of the challenges inherent in decision-making by underscoring the complex and diverse nature of the organizational environment.

Assessment Length

Five weekly summaries (10%): 300 - 400 words each; Final report (30%): 2000 words (+ or - 10%)

Assessment information

The initial 10% of this assessment is allocated for the punctual submission of weekly "mini reports" (refer to Assessment 2). An additional 30% is awarded for your 2000-word Integrative Report.

You may incorporate text from your mini-reports into your integrative report without incurring plagiarism penalties. The mini-reports serve as groundwork for your integrative report. However, the integrative report should not be merely a compilation of your mini-reports. It must be a cohesive synthesis that examines the environment through various lenses, highlighting the challenges and contradictions to extract the principal opportunities and threats within the company's environment.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

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General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Topic	The global environment: globalization & complexity
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Topic	The stakeholder perspective
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Topic	Corporate responsibilities in the global environment
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Topic	The socio-cultural lens (1)
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Topic	The socio-cultural lens (2)
Week 6 : 14 October - 20 October	Topic	FLEXIBILITY WEEK - NO CLASSES
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Topic	The political lens
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Topic	The legal lens
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Topic	The technology lens
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Topic	Integration: Doing business in the global environment, now and in the future

Attendance Requirements

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

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

All course materials and resources will be provided via the course Moodle site.

Course Evaluation and Development

Feedback is regularly sought from students and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. At the end of this course, you will be asked to complete the [myExperience survey](#), which provides a key source of student evaluative feedback. Your input into this quality enhancement process is extremely valuable in assisting us to meet the needs of our students and provide an effective and enriching learning experience. The results of all surveys are carefully considered and do lead to action towards enhancing educational quality.

In responding to students' feedback, the structure of course topics, materials, and assessments has been extensively reorganised to clarify the purpose and value of each study section. Assessment instructions and marking rubrics have been significantly improved to clarify expectations and guide your study. Thanks to previous students' inputs, our continuous improvements have synthesised all activities to better aid your understanding of the business environment.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Weiting Zheng		Room 506 Business School Building		by appointment via email	No	Yes
Lecturer	Hokyu Hwang					No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

COURSE POLICIES AND SUPPORT

The Business School expects that you are familiar with the contents of this course outline and the UNSW and Business School learning expectations, rules, policies and support services as listed below:

- Program Learning Outcomes
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Student Responsibilities and Conduct
- Special Consideration
- Protocol for Viewing Final Exam Scripts
- Student Learning Support Services

Further information is provided on the [Policies and Guidelines](#) page.

Students may not circulate or post online any course materials such as handouts, exams, syllabi or similar resources from their courses without the written permission of their instructor.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) – under the Outcomes tab – are what you should be able to demonstrate by the end of this course, if you participate fully in learning activities and successfully complete the assessment items.

CLOs also contribute to your achievement of the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), which are developed across the duration of a program. PLOs are, in turn, directly linked to [UNSW graduate capabilities](#). More information on Coursework PLOs is available on the [Policies and Guidelines](#) page. For PG Research PLOs, including MPDBS, please refer to [UNSW HDR learning outcomes](#).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Code of Conduct](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Code of Conduct, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

SHORT EXTENSIONS

Short Extension is a new process that allows you to apply for an extended deadline on your assessment without the need to provide supporting documentation, offering immediate approval during brief, life-disrupting events. Requests are automatically approved once submitted.

Short extensions are ONLY available for some assessments. Check your course outline or Moodle to see if this is offered for your assessments. Where a short extension exists, all students enrolled in that course in that term are eligible to apply. Further details are available the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances beyond your control interfere with your performance in a specific assessment task or tasks, including online exams. Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable.

Applications can only be made online and will NOT be accepted by teaching staff. Applications will be assessed centrally by the Case Review Team, who will update the online application with the outcome and add any relevant comments. The change to the status of the application immediately sends an email to the student and to the assessor with the outcome of the application. The majority of applications will be processed within 3-5 working days.

For further information, and to apply, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

LATE SUBMISSION PENALTIES

LATE SUBMISSION PENALTIES

For assessments other than examinations, late submission will incur a penalty of 5% per day or part thereof (including weekends) from the due date and time. An assessment will not be accepted after 5 days (120 hours) of the original deadline unless special consideration has been approved. In the case of an approved Equitable Learning Plan (ELP) provision, special consideration or short extension, the late penalty applies from the date of approved time extension. After five days from the extended deadline, the assessment cannot be submitted.

An assessment is considered late if the requested format, such as hard copy or electronic copy, has not been submitted on time or where the 'wrong' assessment has been submitted.

For assessments which account for 10% or less of the overall course grade, and where answers are immediately discussed or debriefed, the LIC may stipulate a different penalty. Details of such late penalties will be available on the course Moodle page.

FEEDBACK ON YOUR ASSESSMENT TASK PERFORMANCE

Feedback on student performance from formative and summative assessment tasks will be provided to students in a timely manner. Assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other than a final assessment, will be assessed and students provided with feedback, with or without a provisional result, within 10 working days of submission, under normal circumstances. Feedback on continuous assessment tasks (e.g. laboratory and studio-based, workplace-based, weekly quizzes) will be provided prior to the midpoint of the course.

Faculty-specific Information

PROTOCOL FOR VIEWING FINAL EXAM SCRIPTS

UNSW students have the right to view their final exam scripts, subject to a small number of very specific exemptions. The UNSW Business School has set a [protocol](#) under which students may view their final exam script. Individual schools within the Faculty may also set up additional local processes for viewing final exam scripts, so it is important that you check with your School.

If you are completing courses from the following schools, please note the additional school-specific information:

- Students in the **School of Accounting, Auditing & Taxation** who wish to view their final examination script should also refer to [this page](#).
- Students in the **School of Banking & Finance** should also refer to [this page](#).
- Students in the **School of Information Systems & Technology Management** should also refer to [this page](#).

COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Feedback is regularly sought from students and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. At the end of this course, you will be asked to complete the [myExperience survey](#), which provides a key source of student evaluative feedback. Your input into this quality enhancement process is extremely valuable in assisting us to meet the needs of our students and provide an effective and enriching learning experience. The results of all surveys are carefully considered and do lead to action towards enhancing educational quality.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Business School is actively monitoring student learning and quality of the student experience in all its programs. A random selection of completed assessment tasks may be used for quality assurance, such as to determine the extent to which program learning goals are being achieved. The information is required for accreditation purposes, and aggregated findings will be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of Business School programs. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential.

TEACHING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Please note that teaching times and locations are subject to change. Students are strongly advised to refer to the [Class Timetable website](#) for the most up-to-date teaching times and locations.