UNSW Course Outline

IEST5021 Corporations, Capitalism, & Transforming Environments - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : IEST5021
Year : 2024
Term : Term 2
Teaching Period : T2
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture
Academic Unit : School of Humanities and Languages
Delivery Mode : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Postgraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook](#) [Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

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 Aims

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Analyse the emergence of key political economic institutions—including large corporations, NGOs, governments, consumers and investors—and critically appraise their environmental impacts
CLO2 : Evaluate the effectiveness of contemporary sustainability reporting frameworks for transforming corporations and other organisations into more ethical, environmentally sustainable, and socially just institutions
CLO3 : Analyse and evaluate pathways of accounting for and addressing social and environmental concerns within alternative models of corporate governance
CLO4 : Use critical and creative synthesis to evaluate the ability of current neoliberal modes of capitalism and corporate governance to address environmental concerns
CLO5 : Evaluate the effectiveness of historic and recent major political, social, and protest movements to initiate change in government policy and corporate actions

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Analyse the emergence of key political economic institutions—including large corporations, NGOs, governments, consumers and investors—and critically appraise their environmental impacts	• Critical Review • Group Presentation • Research Essay
CLO2 : Evaluate the effectiveness of contemporary sustainability reporting frameworks for transforming corporations and other organisations into more ethical, environmentally sustainable, and socially just institutions	• Critical Review • Group Presentation • Research Essay
CLO3 : Analyse and evaluate pathways of accounting for and addressing social and environmental concerns within alternative models of corporate governance	• Critical Review • Group Presentation • Research Essay
CLO4 : Use critical and creative synthesis to evaluate the ability of current neoliberal modes of capitalism and corporate governance to address environmental concerns	• Critical Review • Group Presentation • Research Essay
CLO5 : Evaluate the effectiveness of historic and recent major political, social, and protest movements to initiate change in government policy and corporate actions	• Critical Review • Group Presentation • Research Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Critical Review Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (1 day)	25%	Due Date: 16/06/2024 11:55 PM
Group Presentation Assessment Format: Group	25%	Due Date: Week 5: 24 June - 30 June, Week 6: 01 July - 07 July, Week 7: 08 July - 14 July, Week 8: 15 July - 21 July, Week 9: 22 July - 28 July
Research Essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	50%	Due Date: 07/08/2024 11:55 PM

Assessment Details

Critical Review

Assessment Overview

Students will write a critical review on one or more of the course readings.

Length: 1,500 words

Feedback via mark and individual written comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Analyse the emergence of key political economic institutions—including large corporations, NGOs, governments, consumers and investors—and critically appraise their environmental impacts
- CLO2 : Evaluate the effectiveness of contemporary sustainability reporting frameworks for transforming corporations and other organisations into more ethical, environmentally sustainable, and socially just institutions
- CLO3 : Analyse and evaluate pathways of accounting for and addressing social and environmental concerns within alternative models of corporate governance
- CLO4 : Use critical and creative synthesis to evaluate the ability of current neoliberal modes of capitalism and corporate governance to address environmental concerns
- CLO5 : Evaluate the effectiveness of historic and recent major political, social, and protest movements to initiate change in government policy and corporate actions

Assessment Length

1500 Words

Assessment information

See Moodle for extra details.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Group Presentation

Assessment Overview

Working in small teams students will prepare a biographical note on a nominated individual (or an organisation), of approximately 1,000 words, and give a 10-minute presentation as a team in class.

Feedback via individual comments and oral comments in class.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Analyse the emergence of key political economic institutions—including large corporations, NGOs, governments, consumers and investors—and critically appraise their environmental impacts
- CLO2 : Evaluate the effectiveness of contemporary sustainability reporting frameworks for transforming corporations and other organisations into more ethical, environmentally sustainable, and socially just institutions
- CLO3 : Analyse and evaluate pathways of accounting for and addressing social and environmental concerns within alternative models of corporate governance
- CLO4 : Use critical and creative synthesis to evaluate the ability of current neoliberal modes of capitalism and corporate governance to address environmental concerns
- CLO5 : Evaluate the effectiveness of historic and recent major political, social, and protest movements to initiate change in government policy and corporate actions

Assessment information

See Moodle for extra details.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Research Essay

Assessment Overview

Students will write a research essay on a range of the topics covered in the course.

Length: 3,000 words

Feedback via mark and individual written comments.

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO1 : Analyse the emergence of key political economic institutions—including large corporations, NGOs, governments, consumers and investors—and critically appraise their environmental impacts
- CLO2 : Evaluate the effectiveness of contemporary sustainability reporting frameworks for transforming corporations and other organisations into more ethical, environmentally sustainable, and socially just institutions
- CLO3 : Analyse and evaluate pathways of accounting for and addressing social and environmental concerns within alternative models of corporate governance
- CLO4 : Use critical and creative synthesis to evaluate the ability of current neoliberal modes of capitalism and corporate governance to address environmental concerns
- CLO5 : Evaluate the effectiveness of historic and recent major political, social, and protest movements to initiate change in government policy and corporate actions

<u>Assessment Length</u>

3000 words

<u>Assessment information</u>

See Moodle for extra details.

General Assessment Information

<u>Academic Integrity</u>

The University of New South Wales policy on academic integrity is here: https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism.

PLEASE NOTE: The basis of the plagiarism policy is that you MUST NOT take credit for others' work, and you MUST give credit where you rely on another's work. This means that it is completely permissible (and often encouraged) to quote another source, however you MUST indicate that you are doing so by using quotation marks, and by providing a citation to that work. Failure to do so will result in our turning your work over to the Faculty Plagiarism Officer.

IMPORTANT: No plagiarism or generative AI: You are expected to create all your own work and to cite properly. Plagiarism is not tolerated nor is generative AI assistance, such as ChatGPT. If you plagiarise or use generative AI, this is regarded as serious academic misconduct and you will be reported to UNSW integrity officials and subject to standard plagiarism penalties, which may include failing the course, suspension, and/or exclusion from the program. In light of the rise of AI tools and contract cheating, in order to protect the integrity of assessment processes in this course, we will periodically use spot oral exams to verify that individual assessments are the work of the student who is submitting it as their own.

ALSO NOTE: Your work will be submitted via Turnitin. This is a software suite that checks your work for similarity against existing textual sources as well as ALL OTHER student submissions to Turnitin globally. This means you WILL BE CAUGHT if you violate the University policy on Academic Integrity.

Further guidance provided in class and via Moodle.

<u>Grading Basis</u>

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Seminar	Corporations, Capitalism and Transforming Environments: Overview and Introduction Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Seminar	The evolution of the corporation and the impact on environment and society Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Seminar	Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Seminar	The evolution of western economic theory and practice Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Seminar	Contemporary capitalism and neoliberalism Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Seminar	Ecological economics, limits to economic growth and alternative measures for progress Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Seminar	Doughnut Economics and the circular economy Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Seminar	B-corporations, cooperatives and the commons Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Seminar	Transforming Environments: Conscious Capitalism and Natural Capital Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Seminar	Political, social, and protest movements and their influence on society and corporate actions Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.

Attendance Requirements

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

Course 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. We responded to previous feedback by further integration of online and in-person activity.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Tania Leimbach		Morven Brown	Email contact preferred	Meetings and discussion welcome by appointment.	No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;

- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

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 includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original 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 for the purpose of them plagiarising, 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.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. 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 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

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current 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, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request Special Consideration as early as possible before the deadline. Support with Time Management is available here.

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

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

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