



## UNSW Course Outline

# FINS3626 International Corporate Governance - 2024

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## General Course Information

Course Code : FINS3626

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : UNSW Business School

Academic Unit : School of Banking and Finance

Delivery Mode : In Person

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

Corporate governance is fundamental to the existence and growth of public corporations as it encompasses the mechanisms which help suppliers of finance assure themselves of getting a return on their investment. Its practical importance is also evident in the recent mega corporate

collapses around the world. This course analyses how different governance mechanisms prevent managerial self-dealing, protect minority shareholders and add value to corporations. Specific topics include: directors responsibilities, board structure; regulations; auditing; executive compensation; financial ownership and control; shareholder activism; hostile takeovers and defence mechanisms; and the difference in governance systems in the US, UK, Australia, Japan, Germany and some Asian countries.

## **Course Aims**

The Course aims to foster your critical understandings of the concepts, issues and practices in the governance structures of modern corporations, as well as your ability to synthesise and apply this knowledge in a cooperative working environment.

## Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes	Program learning outcomes
CL01 : Understand the principles of corporate governance and how they are applied in Australia and overseas;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PL01 : Business Knowledge</li> <li>• PL02 : Problem Solving</li> <li>• PL06 : Global and Cultural Competence</li> </ul>
CL02 : Understand the role and responsibilities of directors of public corporations;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PL01 : Business Knowledge</li> <li>• PL02 : Problem Solving</li> </ul>
CL03 : Consider the impact of corporate governance on financial reporting practices and the audit process, and on financing practices;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PL02 : Problem Solving</li> <li>• PL06 : Global and Cultural Competence</li> </ul>
CL04 : Critically evaluate and assess the strengths and weaknesses of different internal governance mechanisms;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PL02 : Problem Solving</li> <li>• PL03 : Business Communication</li> </ul>
CL05 : Apply your knowledge to analyse real corporate examples and cases;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PL01 : Business Knowledge</li> <li>• PL03 : Business Communication</li> <li>• PL06 : Global and Cultural Competence</li> </ul>
CL06 : Construct written work which is logically and professionally presented;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PL03 : Business Communication</li> </ul>
CL07 : Communicate ideas in a succinct and clear manner during class discussions;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PL03 : Business Communication</li> <li>• PL04 : Teamwork</li> </ul>

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Understand the principles of corporate governance and how they are applied in Australia and overseas;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Exam</li> <li>• Quiz</li> <li>• Assignments</li> </ul>
CL02 : Understand the role and responsibilities of directors of public corporations;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Exam</li> <li>• Quiz</li> <li>• Assignments</li> </ul>
CL03 : Consider the impact of corporate governance on financial reporting practices and the audit process, and on financing practices;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz</li> <li>• Assignments</li> </ul>
CL04 : Critically evaluate and assess the strengths and weaknesses of different internal governance mechanisms;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignments</li> </ul>
CL05 : Apply your knowledge to analyse real corporate examples and cases;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Exam</li> <li>• Assignments</li> </ul>
CL06 : Construct written work which is logically and professionally presented;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Exam</li> <li>• Assignments</li> </ul>
CL07 : Communicate ideas in a succinct and clear manner during class discussions;	

# Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

## Assessments

### Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates	Program learning outcomes
Final Exam Assessment Format: Individual	50%	Start Date: See Detailed assessment description Due Date: See Detailed assessment description	• PL01 : Business Knowledge • PL02 : Problem Solving • PL03 : Business Communication • PL06 : Global and Cultural Competence
Quiz Assessment Format: Individual	10%	Start Date: "See Detailed assessment description Due Date: "See Detailed assessment description	• PL01 : Business Knowledge • PL02 : Problem Solving • PL06 : Global and Cultural Competence
Assignments Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: "See Detailed assessment description Due Date: "See Detailed assessment description	• PL01 : Business Knowledge • PL02 : Problem Solving • PL03 : Business Communication • PL06 : Global and Cultural Competence

## Assessment Details

### Final Exam

#### Assessment Overview

The final examination assesses the student's individual understanding of the course material and their knowledge of international corporate governance system.

Assesses: PL01, PL02, PL03, PL06

#### Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Understand the principles of corporate governance and how they are applied in Australia and overseas;
- CL02 : Understand the role and responsibilities of directors of public corporations;
- CL05 : Apply your knowledge to analyse real corporate examples and cases;
- CL06 : Construct written work which is logically and professionally presented;

#### Detailed Assessment Description

FINS3626 Final Exam Paper will be released at 9am (Sydney Time) on the day of the exam as a PDF document on Moodle in the "FINS3626 Final Exam T1 2024" Section.

2. Your answers in a word document must be submitted via Turnitin on Moodle before 5pm (Sydney Time) the same day.
3. It is expected that you will be able to complete this paper within 2 hours. You may take shorter/longer to complete the paper as long as it is submitted before 5pm.
4. This is to cater for students who may have another exam on the day and/or any technical issues with Moodle/Turnitin submission process and/or in different timezones. You can, of course, submit whenever you have completed the paper during the day before 5pm.
5. The exam shall be open book, comprising questions that relate to your opinion and the course material, and any other facts that may be of interest or may have applicability (e.g., any of the examples discussed in lectures and tutorials).
6. It is therefore not at all expected that you will conduct additional research during the exam time.
7. You must not discuss either the content of the Exam or your responses to the questions with any other person prior to the submission deadline.
8. The paper will comprise four (4) questions requiring 'written' answers (typed in a word document) with the following formatting requirements:
  - Each question will have a word limit (which will clearly be stated in the question paper)
  - Use Times New Roman (or equivalent) Font 12 or larger
  - Double-spacing, with margins of at least 2.5cm all sides
  - Note that answers beyond the word limit for each question will not be marked
  - Questions do not need to be repeated in the word document; however, answers must clearly be marked as corresponding to a specific question (e.g., "Question 1" as a heading precedent to your answers)

#### **Assignment submission Turnitin type**

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

## **Quiz**

#### **Assessment Overview**

The Quiz will be based on Topics 1 to 3 and comprise multiple-choice questions to be answered in Moodle.

Assesses: PLO1, PLO2, PLO6

#### **Course Learning Outcomes**

- CL01 : Understand the principles of corporate governance and how they are applied in

Australia and overseas;

- CLO2 : Understand the role and responsibilities of directors of public corporations;
- CLO3 : Consider the impact of corporate governance on financial reporting practices and the audit process, and on financing practices;

#### Detailed Assessment Description

- Online Moodle Quiz is designed to test your factual knowledge in relation to the current international corporate governance issues. It also provides a valuable early feedback prior to Census Date.
- Quiz will be held on Moodle – link will be available in the *Assessments – Online Quiz* Section of the Course Moodle (same location as this document).
- It will comprise questions based on Topics 1 to 3 materials.
- Each question will appear on a new screen (i.e., one question per screen).
- You will be able to go back and forth to review your answers.
- You will only get one (1) try; that is, one “Login” to Moodle Quiz and once you start, you will get **20 minutes** to complete the Quiz.
- You can log in and complete the quiz within the 20-minute time slot of your choice between **10:00am to 5:00pm (Sydney Time) on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**.
- **Please note that the Quiz will close at 5:00pm – that is, your 20-minute time slot must be completed by 5:00pm.**

#### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

## Assignments

#### Assessment Overview

The assignments will be based on Topics 1 to 4 and will involve submissions of answers to case-based questions via Turnitin.

Assesses: PLO1, PLO2, PLO3, PLO6

#### Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand the principles of corporate governance and how they are applied in Australia and overseas;
- CLO2 : Understand the role and responsibilities of directors of public corporations;
- CLO3 : Consider the impact of corporate governance on financial reporting practices and the audit process, and on financing practices;
- CLO4 : Critically evaluate and assess the strengths and weaknesses of different internal governance mechanisms;
- CLO5 : Apply your knowledge to analyse real corporate examples and cases;
- CLO6 : Construct written work which is logically and professionally presented;

## Detailed Assessment Description

### Detailed Assessment Description

Weight	Assessment Name	Assessment Due Date / Timing
20%	In class case presentations	During term
20%	Case Study 2	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April (Week 9)

To help you develop analytical and effective writing skills, this assessment component requires you to prepare written answers to questions about international corporate governance cases. There are one individual case submission, as well as regular in class case presentations and participation. Case Questions will be released two weeks before the due date.

Answers for the written case must be in a word document:

- Times New Roman (or equivalent) Font 12 or larger, double-spaced, with margins of at least 2.5cm all sides
- No more than three (3) A4 pages excluding a references list (if any)
- Answers beyond these formatting and pages will not be marked

Marks are awarded based on your ability to demonstrate: (i) comprehension of the question; (ii) understanding of the relevant concepts; and (iii) the ability to logically communicate your opinion in your own words in a concise manner, in a written format.

### Turnitin submission procedures:

- You can resubmit (i.e., replace) answers as many times as you wish until the due date.
- Originality report will be generated each time you submit for you to check – you are responsible for checking the “match overview” for plagiarism (see below).
- Turnitin will generate originality report “immediately” after the submission for three re-submissions. For further re-submissions, the report will be generated after 24 hours. That is, should you require a fourth re-submission (with an intention to view the originality report), you will need to do so at least a couple of days prior to the due date.
- You can find UNSW policy on academic integrity and plagiarism at: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>

### Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

# General Assessment Information

## Grading Basis

Standard

## Requirements to pass course

In order to pass this course students must:

- Achieve a composite mark of at least 50 out of 100
- Engage actively in course learning activities and attempt all assessment requirements
- Meet any additional requirements specified in the assessment details
- Meet the specified attendance requirements of the course (see Schedule section)

## Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Lecture	Topic 1: Agency problems and corporate governance theory Course Introduction will be available a week prior to the start of Term 2 Readings and other relevant material will be available on Moodle each week.
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Lecture	Topic 2: Executive compensation & performance measurement
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Lecture	Topic 3: Firm level governance, culture and audit
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Lecture	Topic 4: The role of the board of directors and its committees
	Assessment	Moodle Quiz Thursday
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Lecture	Topic 5: Structuring the board of directors and measuring its performance.
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Lecture	Flexibility week
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	Topic 6: Institutional ownership and control
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Lecture	Topic 7: shareholder activism
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Lecture	Topic 8: The market for corporate control
	Homework	Case Submission due on Friday 12th April
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Lecture	Topic 9: The regulation of corporate governance

## Attendance Requirements

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

## Course Resources

## 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.

## Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Sander De Groote		QUAD 3065			No	Yes
Lecturer	John-Paul Monck					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 [key policies and support](#) 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 [key policies and support](#) page. For PG Research PLOs, including MPDBS, please refer to the [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 Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. 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 Student Code, 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

### 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. Students studying remotely who have exams scheduled between 10pm and 7am local time, are also able to apply for special consideration to sit a supplementary exam at a time outside of these hours.

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

Special consideration 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.

Please note the following:

1. Applications can only be made through Online Services in myUNSW (see the UNSW [Current Students](#) page). Applications will not be accepted by teaching staff. The lecturer-in-charge/course coordinator will be automatically notified when your application is processed.
2. Applying for special consideration does not automatically mean that you will be granted a supplementary exam or other concession.
3. If you experience illness or misadventure in the lead up to an exam or assessment, you must submit an application for special consideration, either prior to the examination taking place, or prior to the assessment submission deadline, except where illness or misadventure prevent you from doing so.
4. If your circumstances stop you from applying before your exam or assessment due date, you must apply within 3 working days of the assessment or the period covered by your supporting documentation.
5. Under the UNSW Fit To Sit/Submit rule, if you sit the exam/submit an assignment, you are declaring yourself well enough to do so and are cannot subsequently apply for special consideration.
6. If you become unwell on the day of – or during – an exam, you must stop working on your exam, advise your course coordinator or tutor and provide a medical certificate dated within 24 hours of the exam, with your special consideration application. For online exams, you must contact your course coordinator or tutor immediately via email, Moodle or chat and advise them you are unwell and submit screenshots of your conversation along with your medical certificate and application.
7. Special consideration requests do not allow the awarding of additional marks to students.

Further information on Business School policy and procedure can be found under “Special Consideration” on the [key policies and support](#) page.

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