

NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

FN345 - Corporate Ethics and Governance For Academic Year 2003

Module Titles

Actual: Corporate Ethics and Governance

Administrative: Corporate Ethics and Governance

Module Information

It is of Level 3 ,Size 1 and is worth 10 Credit Points.

This Module is not a Year Long Taught Module and was not evolved.

It is not currently obsolete.

Synopsis of Module:

A brief overview of aims, contents, methods and assessment

This module seeks to provide the students with the vocabulary and frameworks to undertake a critical exploration of corporate objectives and modern systems of corporate governance. This will be achieved through an examination of aspects of moral philosophy and conceptions of distributive justice in the context of the resource allocation decisions made by senior management. In particular students will be invited to reflect upon the obligation of senior management towards the owners of a company and those outside the corporate structure.

Teaching methods include lectures, seminars and student-led discussions. The assessment will involve a research-based assignment..

Prerequisite(s):

Any Module which must already have been taken at a lower level, or any stipulated level of prior knowledge required.

None

Corequisite(s):

Module at the same level which must be taken with this Module.

None

Implications for Choice:

Possible follow-on Modules, or exclusions, or Modules which require this one as a prerequisite.

None

Aims of Module:

Specified in terms of general aim of the teaching in its relation to the subject.

This module aims to:

1. Provide students with alternative theoretical 'moral' frameworks
2. Examine the different conceptions of distributive justice:
3. Provide a detailed consideration of the stakeholder/shareholder debate and the impact and these theories have on corporate objectives; and
4. Explore how management mechanisms express aspects of shareholder/stakeholders theories through the study of the Anglo-Saxon and Continental models of Corporate Governance.

Learning Outcomes:

Specified in terms of performance capability to be shown on completion of the Module.

- 1 Critically appraise the corporate objective in the context of the stakeholder / shareholder debate.
- 2 Analyse the normative basis of the stakeholder / shareholder debate through an examination of moral reasoning and conceptions of distributive justice.
- 3 Evaluate the extent to which different management structures express the imperatives of stakeholder / shareholder theories.

Outline Syllabus:

The content of the Module, identified in a component listing.

Introduction to Moral reasoning, Values, Ideologies and Belief
Framework for ethical and moral reasoning
Teleological, Deontological, etc..

Theories of Distributive Justice and Alternatives

Shareholder and Stakeholder Theories
Corporate Objectives and Mission
Purpose of the Stakeholder Debate
Stakeholder Rights

Corporate Governance
the structure of Companies
Differing conceptions of corporate governance – insider/outsider systems
the role of directors and shareholders

Learning, Teaching And Assessment Strategy:

Student contact will be through formal lectures, seminars and briefing sessions. Use will be made of case studies and discussion questions.

The assessment is a research-based assignment.

The module will involve both directed and independent learning. Directed learning may include a range of activities including pre-reading, preparation for seminar activity, preparing for presentations etc. Guidance will be given on the nature of work to be undertaken either through the Teaching and Learning plan or through specific instruction related to a particular task.

Independent learning is learning which the student identifies by pursuing areas of interest or by providing deeper or broader knowledge of the subject, through a range of learning activities that might include reading, reflection, research etc.

Assessment

Formative assessment will take place through group work, assignment discussion, case study activity and theory/practice related discussions in the context of a teaching and learning plan.

.Summative assessment will take place in the form of a research-based assignment

Distance Learning Delivery:

None

Indicative Reading List or Other Learning Resources:

(Note: all references to be given as per Harvard System)

Indicative Reading List or other Learning Resources

McEwan.T (2001) Managing values and Beliefs in Organisations Financial Times Prentice Hall
ICAEW - Guide to Professional Ethics Members Handbook, ICAEW (latest edition)
Sternberg, E. (1998) - Corporate Governance : Accountability in the Market Place, IEA
Gray, R., Owen, D., Adams, C. (1996) - Accounting and Accountability, Prentice Hall.
Chryssides, G. & Kaler, J. (1993) - An Introduction to Business Ethics, Chapman & Hall.
Davies,A (1999) A Strategic Approach to Corporate Governance Gower
Prentice D & Holland PJR (1993) Contemporary Issues in Corporate Governance Oxford University Press

Other books and journals in particular will be referred to as appropriate including:

Business Ethics - a European Review
Journal of Business Ethics
Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal
MCB University Press

Module Delivery Details - Notional Student Workload (Hours)

Mode and Location	Lectures	Seminars	Tutorials	Lab Work	Directed Learning	Independent Learning	Formal Assessment	Other	Total
Full Time at City Campus (The duration is 15 weeks)	12	12	0	0	36	30	10	0	100
Full Time at Franchised (in English) (The duration is 15 weeks)	12	12	0	0	36	30	10	0	100
Part Time at City Campus (The duration is 15 weeks)	12	12	0	0	36	30	10	0	100
Part Time at Franchised (in English) (The duration is 15 weeks)	12	12	0	0	36	30	10	0	100

Module Summative Assessment

Assessment A	This assessment is Assignment The weighting of this assessment is 100% It does not have an examination The week(s) due are 13
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