

School of Economics and Finance

FINA 414 SPECIAL TOPIC: CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Trimester 2, 2014

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Graeme Guthrie (course coordinator)

Room RH 326

Tel. (04) 463-5763

Email: graeme.guthrie@vuw.ac.nz

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 14th July – Friday 17th October

Study Period: Monday 20th October – Thursday 23rd October

Examination Period: Friday 24th October – Saturday 15th November (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 25th July 2014.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 26th September. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an ‘*Application for Associate Dean’s Permission to Withdraw Late*’ including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty’s Student Customer Service Desks.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lectures will be held on Thursday in room RWW128 from 2:40-4:30pm.

Group Work

None.

Expected Workload

The workload for FINA 414 is intended to be similar to that for other 400-level ECON and FINA courses. The total expected workload is 150 hours, comprising 12-13 hours per week.

Prescription

An intensive examination of modern research in corporate governance based on information asymmetries. Topics include the separation of ownership and control, delegated monitoring, executive compensation and the market for corporate control.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of theories of corporate governance based on asymmetric information
- carry out simple empirical tests of these theories
- assess the merits of more complicated empirical tests of these theories
- interpret observed firm and market behaviour in terms of these theories
- communicate the key implications of modern corporate governance theories to a non-specialist audience

Course Content

Material will be drawn from the following list:

- Manager-shareholder conflict
- Monitoring management
 - Board of directors
 - Large shareholders
- Motivating management
 - Managerial ownership
 - Managerial compensation
 - Reputation and the managerial labour market
- Disciplining management
 - Market for external capital
 - Market for corporate control

Readings

There is no set textbook for this course as comprehensive lecture notes will be available from <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz/>.

Materials and Equipment

None.

Assessment

The final grade will be determined by two assignments (each contributing 20%) and a two-hour final exam (covering the whole course and contributing 60%).

The assignment due dates are

- Assignment 1: 2:40pm on Thursday, August 21 (start of lecture 6).
- Assignment 2: 2:40pm on Thursday October 16 (start of lecture 12).

From Trimester 1, 2014, a revised Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

In particular, there will be a new grade scheme, in which the A+ range will be 90-100% and 50-54% will be a C-.

Penalties

Assignments handed in late will not be marked. If a satisfactory medical certificate is provided, the weight from the assignment will be shifted onto the other pieces of assessment; otherwise, the assignment score will be recorded as 0.

Material exceeding word limits will not be marked.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and submitted to Turnitin. A copy of submitted materials will be retained on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

Examinations

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period. The final examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the following period:

Friday 24th October – Saturday 15th November (inclusive)

Mandatory Course Requirements

A necessary condition for passing the course is that the score on the final exam is at least 50%.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the course coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information

Course documents and other information will be available on the course website at <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>. Announcements will also be posted there.

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Link to general information

For general information about course-related matters, go to <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

Note to Students

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.
