

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS**

**CCGL9067 Companies and People: Friends or Foes?
(Academic Year 2021-2022, Semester One)**

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Consultation times: By Appointment

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Pre-requisites: n/a

Co-requisites: n/a

Mutually exclusive: n/a

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The terms, 'business', 'company', and 'corporation' are often used interchangeably today. Fundamentally, however, they are very different from one another. This class will explore how individuals and groups of people came to transact business through companies, and what increasing impact corporate growth has on the world. The invention of the corporate form and limited liability has been pivotal to the incomplete task of lifting the world out of poverty. Vast wealth is today created by and stored in corporations, and nearly every business larger than a street vendor is conducted within some type of corporate form. Yet with the aggregation of money comes power, political influence, and social inequities, leading to growing calls to reform the regulation of companies. This course will tackle the question of whether the corporation is ultimately more beneficial or harmful to individuals and humanity as a whole. It will address issues relating to the corporation's varieties of impact on society, both locally and globally, and how authorities should, in turn, regulate corporations to enhance human welfare. Specifically, this class will be guided by the key questions, '*What impact do companies have on me, on the community where I live, and on the world?*', '*What influence does the size of companies and their scale of international engagement have on this impact being more negative or positive?*', and '*At what levels of government should we regulate businesses to best eliminate the negative impacts of companies while retaining the positive?*' This course and its assessments are designed to facilitate students to think logically and thoughtfully through these issues, and to form real-world skills like persuasive discussion, drafting letters, and forming mock companies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Help students gain a better understanding of how companies are connected with every aspect of our lives, and motivate them to think critically about how this interconnectedness can best exist for the benefit of humanity
2. Examine the influence of companies on globalization in terms of the spread of ideas, flows of commerce, and sharing of cultures
3. Stimulate students to grapple with these issues on local, regional, and global levels
4. Allow students to critically reflect on these issues, equip them with real-world skills, and introduce ways of building and maintaining strong communities

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

PLO1: Articulate a broader perspective and a deeper critical understanding of the complex connections between issues of profound importance

PLO2: Better navigate the similarities and differences between their own and other cultures

PLO3: More fully participate as individuals, members of social groups, and citizens in global, regional, and local communities

PLO4: Demonstrate the creative, collaborative, and communication skills that will contribute to the quality of their own and others' lives

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Learning Outcomes	Aligned Programme Learning Outcomes
CLO1: Understand the corporate structure and how it is governed and regulated	PLO 1
CLO2: Articulate examples of how activities of specific companies fit into issues that affect individuals, the community, and the larger world	PLO 1, 2
CLO3: Construct formal opinions about domestic and international policies related to corporations	PLO 3, 4
CLO4: Cogently form arguments relating to characteristics of the corporation's effects on individuals and society	PLO 3, 4
CLO5: Demonstrate an ability to actively participate in productive conversations about companies, individuals, and local and global society	PLO 3

COURSE TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Course Teaching and Learning Activities	Expected contact hour	Study Load (% of study)
T&L1. Lectures, in-class discussions and activities	24	19%
T&L2. Tutorials	10	8%
T&L3. Independent study and preparation	48	37%
T&L4. Assessments	46	36%
Total	128	100%

The Below is for Indicative Purposes Only and Final Details Will be Explained in Class.

Assessment Methods	Brief Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcomes
A1. Journaling	<u>Will be discussed in class</u>	20%	2
A2. Public Engagement		25%	1, 3
A3. Current Issues Video		25%	3, 4
A4. Class Participation (Lecture 10%, Tutorials 20%)		30%	5
Total		100%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

STANDARDS FOR ASSESSMENT

Course Grade Descriptors

A+, A, A-	Demonstrate evidence of original thought, strong analytical and critical abilities as well as a thorough grasp of the topic from background reading and analysis; should demonstrate excellent organizational, rhetorical and presentational skills.
B+, B, B-	Demonstrate evidence of critical and analytical thinking but not necessarily original in their thinking; show adequate grasp of the topic from background reading and analysis; should demonstrate strong organizational, rhetorical and presentational skills.
C+, C, C-	Demonstrate evidence of a reasonable grasp of their subject but most of their information is derivative, with rather little evidence of critical thinking; should demonstrate fair organizational, rhetorical and presentational skills.
D+, D	Demonstrate evidence of being able to assemble the bare minimum of information, poorly digested and not very well organized in presentation. There is no evidence of critical thinking.
F	Demonstrate evidence of poor knowledge and understanding of the subject, a lack of coherence and organization, and answers are largely irrelevant. Work fails to reach degree level.

Assessment Rubrics for Each Assessment – See instructions for each assignment

COURSE CONTENT AND TENTATIVE TEACHING SCHEDULE

Week	Topics (schedule is tentative and subject to change)	Pre-class Readings/Viewings
1	The Global Corporation and Me	Please refer to Moodle for specific readings and course material.
2	History of the Corporation	Please refer to Moodle for specific readings and course material.
3	Nature of the Corporation	Please refer to Moodle for specific readings and course material.
4	The Purpose of a Company	Please refer to Moodle for specific readings and course material.
5	Where are Companies from: Arbitrating Tax and other Regulatory Regimes	Please refer to Moodle for specific readings and course material.
6	The Dark Side: Companies as Facilitators of Criminal Enterprises	Please refer to Moodle for specific readings and course material.
7	Reading Week	Please refer to Moodle for specific readings and course material.
8	The Corporation as a Criminal	Please refer to Moodle for specific readings and course material.

9	Who is in Control, Countries or Companies?	Please refer to Moodle for specific readings and course material.
10	Are Companies Endangering the Environment?	Please refer to Moodle for specific readings and course material.
11	Can Companies Be a Force for Good in the World?	Please refer to Moodle for specific readings and course material.
12	How will the Future of Global Corporations Affect Me?	Please refer to Moodle for specific readings and course material.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED READINGS & ONLINE MATERIALS (e.g. journals, textbooks, website addresses etc.)

Essential:

- Course reading material is provided through Moodle. You are expected to read all of the pre-class readings before the class discusses the related topic.

(Optional):

- Course reading material is provided through Moodle.

MEANS/PROCESSES FOR STUDENT FEEDBACK ON COURSE

Online response via Moodle site

COURSE POLICY (e.g. plagiarism, academic honesty, attendance, etc.)

Academic Honesty and Integrity

You are expected to do your own work whenever you are supposed to. Incident(s) of academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated. a of any kind will result in an automatic Fgrade for the course plus strict enforcement of all Faculty and/or University regulations regarding such behavior.

The University Regulations on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced! Please check the University Statement on plagiarism on the web: <http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism/>.

Academic dishonesty is a behavior in which a deliberately fraudulent misrepresentation is employed in an attempt to gain undeserved intellectual credit, either for oneself or for another. It includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following types of cases:

- Plagiarism** - The representation of someone else's ideas as if they are your own. Where the arguments, data, designs, etc., of someone else are being used in a paper, report, oral presentation, or similar academic project, this fact must be made explicitly clear by citing the appropriate references. The references must fully indicate the extent to which any parts of the project are not one's own work. Paraphrasing of someone else's ideas is still using someone else's ideas, and must be acknowledged.
- Unauthorized Collaboration on Out-of-Class Projects** - The representation of work as solely one's own when in fact it is the result of a joint effort.
- Cheating on In-Class Exams** - The covert gathering of information from other students, the use of unauthorized notes, unauthorized aids, etc.
- Unauthorized Advance Access to Assessment Materials** - The representation of materials prepared at leisure, as a result of unauthorized advance access (however obtained), as if it were prepared under the rigors of

the exam setting. This misrepresentation is dishonest in itself even if there are not compounding factors, such as unauthorized uses of books or notes.

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION (e.g. e-learning platforms & materials, penalty for late assignments, etc.)

This course will utilize the MOODLE framework.