

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

BUSN 5310/CRN 35932
ISSUES IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
Course Syllabus
6/27/2020 to 8/8/2020

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

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REQUIRED COURSE MATERIAL

- ❖ Corporate Governance, 3rd Edition, 2010, by Kim, Nofsinger, and Mohr. Prentice-Hall, ISBN 13:978-0136096986, **OR**
- ❖ Corporate Governance Matters, 2nd Edition, 2015, by Larcker and Tayan. Published by Pearson. ISBN: 13:978-0-13-403156-9. You can find this book here <https://www.amazon.com/Corporate-Governance-Matters-Organizational-Consequences-ebook/dp/B0119THDPK> . It is an eTextbook.
- ❖ Link to the course pack of cases: <https://hbsp.harvard.edu/import/734235>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides in-depth coverage of the relationship between corporate ownership and corporate control as well as the various social and ethical responsibilities to both external and internal stakeholder groups. Corporate governance concerns how ethical or moral considerations are included in the public issues facing organizations and the decision-making process of managers. Specific topics include: external governance-law and regulation; internal controls and accountability; financial market supervision and

control; best practices and norms of behavior and governance and financial market economics. Topics may vary at the discretion of the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students taking this course will gain an understanding of:

- ❖ the various aspects of corporate governance (responsibility, accountability, transparency, accuracy, sustainability, etc.) within its legal, financial, ethical and political environment;
- ❖ the roles and responsibilities of the governing board of directors and the CEO and senior management, in particular;
- ❖ the roles and responsibilities of the external stakeholders and government regulating agencies;
- ❖ the root cause of financial crisis of 2007-2009 and the corporate governance oversight failures; and
- ❖ the assessment of the quality of a corporate governance structure.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND GRADE COMPONENTS (TENTATIVE)

The final course grade (total 100 points) is based on the assessment of both individual and group performance, including active class participation, case assignments, and exams. See below for the details.

- ❖ Individual Assessment (60% of final grade):
 - 40% Exams (25% for mid-term and 15% for final).
 - 20% Discussion Board Participation:
 - Your posts in response to the provided guiding questions (10%).
 - Your reply to the entries of at least two of your classmates for each assigned discussion (10%).
- ❖ Group Assessment (40% of final grade):
 - 20% Two (2) team case presentations including oral presentations and written reports.
 - 20% Four (4) team written case reports NOT including the presentation cases.

Details on Grade Components

- ❖ Exams:
 - The mid-term exam consists of two parts: Mid-term exam (Part I) and Mid-term exam (Part II), and is based on textbook chapters. For students who use the textbook by Kim, Nofsinger, and Mohr (KNM), the exam consists mostly true/false and multiple-choice questions. For students who use the

textbook by Larcker and Tayan (LT), the exam consists essay questions. Students are allowed to take only one Mid-term Exam (Part I and Part II). Students are required to inform the professor of their exam option (KNM or LT) by Monday 7/6/2020, otherwise the exam option will be the KNM exam. Students have two (2) hours for each part of the exam. Respondus monitor will be implemented to proctor the mid-term exam.

- The final exam is a case analysis. The case will be assigned ahead of time. The relevant essay type of questions will be available at the time of the exam. Students have four (four) hours to answer the questions and submit via Blackboard. Respondus lockdown browser will be implemented.

❖ Discussion Board (DB) Participation:

- Posts: there are a total of ten (10) discussion boards. Each student is required to post his/her response to the guided questions with a minimum of 250 words for each post.
- Replies: Each student is required to reply to at least two (2) of their peers' posts for each discussion board unless noticed otherwise. Each reply is to have a minimum of 100 words.

❖ Case Study and Team Work:

- The website of course pack of cases: will be available soon.
- All case work except the final exam is team-based.
- Case assignments and due dates: will be available soon. Also refer to class calendar.
- Instruction for team formation:
 - A team should consist of no more than four persons.
 - Team formation is due by 7/6/2020. Please email me (fxie@utep.edu) your team information (Team members' names). I will assign a team for those who do not have a team by 7/6/2020.
 - Each team will have an assigned number once I have the team information.
- Instruction for written case reports:
 - A written report should include a cover page and your concise analysis of the case.
 - The cover page should provide the following information
 - course title, course number, semester;
 - title of the case and the assigned case number;
 - the assigned team number and names of team members, and the due date.
 - The body of the report should be double-spaced and numbered,

with normal margins. Please use Times New Roman font 12.

- Though the maximum number of pages is not set, a minimum of four (4) double-spaced pages per report is expected.
- All written reports are submitted via Blackboard.
- The case questions will be provided later.
- Instruction for oral presentation:
 - Each team member is required to present and discuss the team's case.
 - Each team is expected to have about 30 minutes to present its case.
 - Presentation platform: Blackboard Collaborate, MS Teams, or Zoom
 - Please schedule your presentation times with the professor as early as possible.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Because this is an online course, attendance is determined by class participation online. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- ❖ Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements.
- ❖ Participating in engaging discussion with your peers on the Discussion Boards.
- ❖ Completing all Module Activities, all Assignments and Exams.

DUE DATE and MAKE-UP LATE WORK POLICY

- ❖ Exams are due at midnight (11:59 PM MT) of the scheduled dates. No make-up exams will be allowed.
- ❖ Written reports are due on scheduled Saturdays at midnight (11:59 PM MT). No written reports will be accepted.
- ❖ Oral presentation: please schedule your presentation time with the Professor ASAP as it has to fit in the professor's schedule as well. Oral presentation is due by Friday of the assigned week. No late presentation will be accepted. You can use Blackboard Collaborate for team presentation.
- ❖ Discussion Boards close at midnight (11:59 PM MT) on the scheduled dates. No late posting or replies will be accepted.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system (LMS). Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are the most supported browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications with the LMS. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.
- ❖ You will need to have or have access to a computer/laptop, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe, Flashplayer, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.
- ❖ If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

NETIQUETTE

- ❖ Always consider audience. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading any postings.
- ❖ Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- ❖ When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a F2F situation.
- ❖ Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).
- ❖ Please see the Netiquette Guide for Online Courses.

DROP POLICY

To drop this class, please contact the Registrar's Office or the MBA Office to initiate the drop process. If you cannot complete this course for whatever reason, please contact me. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). If you feel you may have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact CASS at 747-5148, go to the Union Bldg. East, room 106, or e-mail cass@utep.edu.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. It is imperative, therefore, that the members of this academic community understand the regulations pertaining to academic integrity and that all faculty insist on adherence to these standards.

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP), and available in the Office of the Dean of Students, and the homepage of The Dean of Students (DOS) at www.utep.edu, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others.

STUDENT RESOURCES

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

- ❖ Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- ❖ Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.
- ❖ University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- ❖ Military Student Success Center: UTEP welcomes military-affiliated students to its degree programs, and the Military Student Success Center and its dedicated staff (many of whom are veterans and students themselves) are here to help personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- ❖ RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.