BUSN 5394: Special Topic in International Business
Tentative Course Syllabus
Spring 2015

Topic focus: Comparative Corporate Governance
Regional focus: Asia and the U.S.

Course Facilitator:

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Meeting dates and locations:

- Required meetings prior to the field trip:
  - Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015: 12:30 – 4:30 PM
  - Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015: 12:30 – 4:30 PM
  - In GBC Rm. 110C

- International field trips
  - March 8 – 14, 2015
    - Beijing and Shanghai, China

- Meeting after the field trip
  - Saturday, March 28, 2015, 12:30 – 4:30 PM
**Required Course Materials:**


2. Required Readings Materials: To be handed out in class meetings prior to the field trip

**Course Description:**

Corporate governance is the system by which companies are directed and controlled (Cadbury 1992:15). The governance structures of companies are constructed around the financial and market institutions and institutions of law and regulation in a country that form the environment in which companies and boards must operate. Good corporate governance structure should provide proper incentives for the board and management to pursue objectives that are in the interests of the company and its shareholders, and should facilitate effective monitoring (OECD 2004).

This course focuses on the comparative analysis and assessment of corporate governance across nations and regions. As a field study in comparative corporate governance, this course is designed to provide MBA students with a hands-on introduction to this inherently complex yet compelling topic for the corporate enterprise - domestic or multinational.

The course has two components. The first and also the most important component involves the March 8th - 14th, 2015 international field trip experience in Beijing and Shanghai, China, which consists of academic seminars, corporate visits, and discussions with experts in corporate governance and individuals from regulatory organizations and businesses. The second component includes required class meetings in El Paso before the field trip that help launch the course and wrap things up after the field trip.

**Course Objectives:**

Students in this course will gain an understanding of:

1. all facets of corporate governance (responsibility, accountability, transparency, accuracy and accessibility, sustainability, etc.) within its legal, financial, ethical and political environment;
2. the roles and responsibilities of the governing board of directors and the CEO and senior management, in particular;
3. alternate corporate governance systems;
4. the international development and ongoing global best practices in corporate
5. the current corporate governance oversight failures; (Why have there been so many corporate and financial failures in recent years?) and
6. how to assess the quality of a corporate governance structure.

This course also enables students to

7. experience direct contact with and to engage in the debate and assessment of corporate governance in settings outside the United States with national and international organizational leaders, who are charged with policy analysis as well as the development and implementation of corporate governance frameworks; and
8. immerse themselves in the multicultural setting under different corporate governance structures.

Course Structure:

The course consists of two components: Class Meetings in El Paso and Field Visits to China.

Class Meetings in El Paso
The class meets twice before and once after the trip to China. The class meetings are held at the UTEP Graduate Business Center.

The purpose of the two pre-trip meetings is to get students familiar with the key aspects of corporate governance and the course work. The pre-trip meetings focus on the selected chapters from the textbook, using a lecture/discussion/exam approach:

Meeting #1 (Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015, 12:30 - 4:30 pm, GBC Rm. 110C)
- Introduction of the course: expectations and required course work.
- Handing out required reading materials and discussions

Meeting #2 (Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015, 12:30 - 4:30 pm, GBC Rm. 110C)
- Review textbook chapters and reading materials
- Exam.

Meeting #3 (Saturday, March 28th, 2015, 12:30 – 4:30 pm, GBC Rm. 110C)
- Submission and presentation of Research Report.
Field Visits to Beijing and Shanghai, China

Study Tour Program Itinerary of Activities is forthcoming!

Primary Responsibilities of the Students:

Given the short time frame and activity arrangement of the course, students are required to quickly familiarize themselves with relevant topics covered in the required reading materials. Advance preparation is essential. Specifically, students are required
1. to prepare thoroughly and participate actively in all group and seminar discussions;
2. to participate fully in all scheduled institution/corporate visits and interact actively with the speakers, and
3. to submit and present group research report.

Course Assignments and Grade Assessment:

1. Exam on Textbook and reading materials: 30% of final grade.
2. Corporate/Institute Visits and Discussions: 25% of final grade.
3. Seminar Participation and Summary on Seminars: 25% of final grade.

Instructions on Group Organization and Written Reports

Students are required to self-organize into groups. The ideal size for a group is three students. Each group is required to conduct a substantive research into one of the major topics in comparative corporate governance. Each group is required to submit a research paper on the project and present findings to the class.

We will discuss some potential topics in the meetings prior to the field trip.

Scholastic 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.