BUSN 5394: **Special Topic in International Business**  
Course Syllabus (tentative)  
Spring 2014

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

**Course Facilitator:**

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**Instructional & Logistical Support:**

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**Course structure/class meetings:**

1. Before the HK field trip:  
   - Course overview  
   - Course materials and handouts  
   - Dates/time/location: TBD

2. HK field trip: March 9 – 15, 2014, Hong Kong

3. After the HK field trip:  
   - Exams  
   - Group reports due  
   - Group presentations  
   - Dates/time/location: TBD

**Course Description:**

Corporate governance is the system by which companies are managed and controlled. Corporate governance structures are constructed based on the financial and market institutions, and institutions of laws and regulations in a country. Good corporate governance structure should
provide effective incentives and tools for the board and management to pursue objectives that are in the interests of the company and its shareholders, and should facilitate effective monitoring.

The focus of the class is the comparative analysis of corporate governance across nations and economies. Due to the wide variations of laws and institutions, and cultures around the world, corporate governance structures also vary widely across markets. Having a good understanding/knowledge of global governance structures is important for international portfolio analysts/managers, MNE managers, FDI analysts, and cross-border M&A’s. As a field study in comparative corporate governance, this course is designed to provide MBA students with a hands-on learning experience concerning two of the most important economic regions in the world, the U.S. and Asia.

The field trip in Hong Kong, China, consists of academic seminars, corporate visits, and discussions with corporate governance experts, government regulatory officials, and business owners. The class will meet twice before and twice after the field trips (details TBD).

**Course Objectives:**

After taking this class, students are expected to gain insights of the important aspects of corporate governance in the U.S. and the major Asian economies. Specifically, students are expected to gain a good understanding of various corporate by-laws, board structures, management structures, executive compensations, and the role of cultures.

**Course Materials:**

Details will be in the handout packet.

**Grading components:**

1. Reading assignments and exams (details to come): 30%
2. Corporate/business visits (written report and discussions): 15%
3. Seminar participation (written summary and discussions): 15%
4. Group Research Paper (written and presentation): 40%

**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.