



BS613 Ethics, Governance & Citizenship Unit Outline

School/Division: Business

Unit Title: Ethics, Governance and Citizenship

Unit Code: BS613

Level: **Introductory**

Advanced

Prerequisites: A minimum of four School of Business units

Corequisites: Nil

Exclusion(s): Nil

Credit Points: 15

ASCED Code: 080301

Objectives: On successful completion of the unit the students will be able to:

Knowledge

- Identify the nature and theoretical underpinnings of business ethics
- Understand the nature of corporate governance
- Understand the arguments stemming from a range of perspectives on the purposes and responsibilities of businesses and professionals
- Assess the relationship between ethics, corporate citizenship, governance and professional advisors

Skills

- Analyse ethical issues and formulate recommendations for their management
- Use stakeholder analysis to identify the important business and social relationships that need to be managed
- Assess the risks, internal and external, to the enterprise of operating on a shareholder value/single bottom line basis alone



- Analyse contrasting governance systems
- Develop a business plan for corporate citizenship

Values

- Appreciate the ethical dimensions in business practice
- Value the role of governance in corporate functioning
- Appreciate contrasting perspectives on corporate citizenship
- Develop a broad perspective on the stakeholders of the organisation
- Recognise multiple agendas and perspectives in the wider business community

Content:

This unit provides understanding and skills in the management of ethical issues and the social responsibility of organisations. It is about defining and managing the boundaries of the corporation. The unit focuses on five questions: why should enterprises act as socially responsible citizens rather than simply concentrating on their bottom line; how should an enterprise be organised to enable it to be socially responsible towards its internal and external stakeholders; what constitutes good corporate governance; how does this influence the nature and direction of corporate citizenship; and what it means to be a professional. Specific topics include:

- The nature of ethics in the business and managerial context
- Approaches to business ethics, including Utilitarianism, Theory of Rights and Social Contracts theory
- Business ethics in practice
- The modern corporation and the Principal – Agent problem
- Corporate governance and external markets for corporate control
- Regulatory and social constraints in internal and external corporate activities
- The nature of social responsibility and corporate citizenship; classical and socioeconomic perspectives
- Current issues in social responsibility
- Developing a corporate citizenship plan
- The nature of professional responsibilities and ethics

Learning Tasks & Assessment:

Learning Task	Assessment	Weighting
Essay/ report	Written report	25% - 40%
Report	Corporate citizenship plan (Group task)	20%-40%
Case Study	Time constrained assessable task	30%-40%

Adopted Reference Style

- APA Australian MLA Chicago

Other (please specify)



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