



Course syllabus

School of Business and Economics

Department of Management Accounting and Logistics

4FE007 Bolagsstyrning, normer och riskanalyser, 30 högskolepoäng
Corporate Governance, 30 credits

Main field of study

Business Administration

Subject Group

Business Administration

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2009-12-16

Revised 2014-03-19 by School of Business and Economics.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2014

Prerequisites

165 credits within the Business and Administration Programme, where the third year courses should be within the financial economy and/or accounting specialization, including 15 credits in Statistics

alternatively

General entry requirements for studies on second level, and specific entry requirements: at least 90 credits within the main field of Business Administration or Economics and a minimum of 15 credits in statistics, or equivalent.

Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- account for and independently reason about the governance of corporations that takes place by means of owners, boards of directors, bondholders, auditors and institutional arrangements such as regulatory frameworks and capital markets
- describe how the design of corporate governance varies on an international level
- account for dominating theories that are used in research on corporate governance, and apply these for reasoning about corporate governance related problems in ways that shows evidence of understanding of the theories' possibilities and limitations
- independently reason from societal and business ethical perspectives about issues that pertain to corporate governance, such as the limited liability of shareholders or prioritization among stakeholders of corporations
- account for the foundations of collecting information about risks and analyzing risks in companies, and independently reason about a company's problems and

- opportunities in dealing with risk management
- apply risk management for value creation in companies by critically relating to various ways of organizing risk management for various types of companies
- theoretically and practically relate issues of responsibility and development pertaining to risk management to corporate governance and regulation
- plan and execute oral presentation with a pedagogy that is attuned to the audience
- within given time limits, carry out tasks that imply independent analysis and problem solving and report these in written form in ways that shows evidence of academic skills such as application of theory and scientific method

Content

The course covers the following themes:

- introduction: historical background to the corporate legal form, introduction to foundational theories in corporate governance
- international and national corporate governance systems: types of systems, convergence between systems
- norm setting and regulation within corporate governance systems: norms, norm setters and normsetting processes, ethical and social perspectives on corporate governance
- capital owners: the role of shareholders and bondholders in the corporate governance system, types of financial instruments, valuation of these
- boards of directors: the role and function of boards of directors, the significance of the composition, structure and processes of the board, gender aspects on boards
- auditors: the role of the auditors in the corporate governance system, reputation and independence of the auditor, gender perspectives on the auditing industry
- Risk Management: analysis of risk, methods of risk and risk management for companies with different preconditions and risks, aided by integration of theoretical and practical perspectives
- system in balance and balance in systems: integration of previous themes, the interplay between different parts of corporate governance systems

Type of Instruction

The course is taught by means of lectures, seminars and practical exercises. Guest lectures and peer-teaching may be a part of the course. Obligatory parts are stated in the schedule.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

Students are assessed by means of individual essays, literature reviews, exams, and by group assignments. The course includes mandatory seminars that are a part of the examination.

Results are graded using one of the terms Passed with distinction, Pass or Fail, and A-F according to the ECTS scale. For the grade pass, the objectives have to be reached; the grade is based upon the degree to which the objectives are met. The weighing of the grades to the course grade is following the principles in the document "Principer för betygsrapportering dnr: ELNU 2011/160".

Students who do not achieve a satisfactory result in the examinations are permitted to make a second attempt approximately 5-8 weeks after the normal examination date. The student will have a minimum of five occasions for written exams in relation to the syllabus to which the student was accepted. Usually 3 occasions per academic year. Students that do not pass reports can complement after consultation with the examiner.

Course Evaluation

A written course evaluation is carried out and compiled in a report, which is archived at the faculty. The results and possible measures taken are communicated by the course coordinator and presented to the students the next time the course is given, or in another way deemed suitable by the course coordinator. Other types of course evaluations, for example regular evaluations throughout the course or discussions with students, will be included and encouraged with the aim of ensuring continuous quality development.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Required reading

Power, M. *Organized uncertainty - designing a world of risk management*. Oxford University Press. Latest edition. 232 pages.

School of Business and Economics: Collection of articles from scholarly journals, encompassing classics and the frontier of contemporary corporate governance research. About 2500 pages.

Reference literature

Jansson, A., Jonnergård, K. & Larsson-Olaison, U. *Bolagsstyrning – lokala traditioner under global press* Studentlitteratur. Latest edition. 181 pages.