



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University



# **IEST5021**

## Corporate Environmental Sustainability Reporting

Term Two // 2020

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Aaron Magner	<a href="mailto:a.magner@unsw.edu.au">a.magner@unsw.edu.au</a>	Meetings and discussion welcome by appointment.	Room 112 Chancellery Building	Email contact preferred.

### School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: [hal@unsw.edu.au](mailto:hal@unsw.edu.au)

## **Course Details**

### **Credit Points 6**

### **Summary of the Course**

This course provides an overview of corporate environmental sustainability reporting, focusing on today's interplay between large corporations and governments, intergovernmental institutions, investors and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In the course we consider environment, social and corporate governance (ESG) and the role of corporate reporting on sustainability through, for example, the Global Reporting Initiative's (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Guidelines and other sustainability and corporate social responsibility standards, as well as the matter of external report assurance. We focus on large Australian and multinational corporations and examine tools used to improve corporate social risk management, materiality, accountability and transparency and tools used to enhance corporate social innovation and shared value. We examine the limits of corporate environmental sustainability reporting and the future of CSR. In the course we survey the literature and examine topical examples drawn from Australian and global experiences.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

1. identify and explore key drivers of corporate environmental sustainability and corporate sustainability reporting, including the role and relevance of stakeholders.
2. evaluate corporate performance on environmental and sustainability issues by applying a triple bottom line (environmental, social, economic) sustainable development perspective and materiality evaluation.
3. evaluate and critically appraise the range of solutions or potential solutions a corporation could consider in responding to drivers of corporate environmental sustainability.
4. explain developments and practices in corporate social responsibility, accountability and reporting.

### **Teaching Strategies**

The method of delivery involves a mix of formal lectures and seminars as well as participation-oriented case studies, role playing, debate and small group exercises.

## Assessment

Further guidance provided in class and via Moodle.

### Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Individual Assignment	50%	07/08/2020 11:55 PM	1,2,3,4
Group Presentation	20%	Week 7	2,3
Literature Review Assignment	30%	19 June 2020 11:59PM	1,3

### Assessment Details

#### Assessment 1: Individual Assignment

**Start date:**

**Length:** 3,000 words

**Details:**

Students will prepare an individual report of 3000 words from a choice of topics. Written feedback. Final assessment of course.

**Additional details:**

See Moodle for extra details

**Submission notes:** Submit via Moodle

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

#### Assessment 2: Group Presentation

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Details:**

Working in small teams, students will undertake a small project analysis on corporate environmental sustainability and reporting and make a team presentation on the last day for about 20 minutes. For online students individual presentation will be made via Moodle. Written and oral feedback provided.

**Additional details:**

See Moodle for extra details.

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment

### **Assessment 3: Literature Review Assignment**

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 1500 Words

**Details:**

A total of 1500 words providing a critical analysis of set readings. Written feedback provided.

**Additional details:**

See Moodle for extra details.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

## Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 1 June - 5 June	Blended	<b>Corporations, capitalism and the evolution of Sustainability Reporting</b>  Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 2: 8 June - 12 June	Blended	<b>Current status of Sustainability Reporting in Australia and internationally</b>  Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 3: 15 June - 19 June	Blended	<b>Sustainability Reporting Frameworks</b>  Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 4: 22 June - 26 June	Blended	<b>Practical Foundation in Sustainability Reporting</b>  Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 5: 29 June - 3 July	Blended	<b>Stakeholder Engagement and Corporations</b>  Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 6: 6 July - 10 July	Blended	<b>Materiality and Assurance</b>  Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 7: 13 July - 17 July	Blended	<b>Greenwashing and CSR</b>  Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 8: 20 July - 24 July	Blended	<b>Case Studies: Contemporary Sustainability Reports</b>  Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 9: 27 July - 31 July	Blended	<b>Drivers shaping the future of sustainability reporting</b>

		Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.
Week 10: 3 August - 7 August	Blended	<p><b>Political, social, and protest movements and their influence on government policy and corporate actions: Case Study: Divestment</b></p> <p>Three hour blended lecture and workshop in seminar style.</p>

## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

These will be provided via your Moodle site, using the LEGANTO system, and via your own research.

### **Recommended Resources**

These will be provided via your Moodle site, using the LEGANTO system, and/or via your own research.

### **Course Evaluation and Development**

Feedback will be gathered via MyExperience. Previous commentary suggests the need for further integration of on-line and in-class activity. Developments across the MEM program give focus to the experience of distance students and the better use of on-line forums and independent research by students.



## **Submission of Assessment Tasks**

### **Turnitin Submission**

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on [externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au](mailto:externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au) . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

**Copying:** using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

**Inappropriate paraphrasing:** Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

**Collusion:** working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

**Inappropriate citation:** Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

**Duplication ("self-plagiarism"):** submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

## Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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## CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G

## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.