



School of Economics and Management

## **BUSN43, Corporate Social Responsibility, 7.5 credits**

*Corporate Social Responsibility, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

**Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus is an old version, approved by The Board of the Department of Business Administration on 2011-05-20 and was valid from 2011-05-20, autumn semester 2011.

### **General Information**

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Business Administration

Business Administration

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

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### **Learning outcomes**

A passing grade on the course will be awarded to students who:

#### Knowledge and understanding

- Have a thorough understanding of the central concepts and the theories discussed in the courses.
- Have an awareness of changing social, ethical, regulatory, and political environments and their impact on business organizations.
- Have an understanding of how corporate action is influenced by both markets and government.

#### Skills and abilities

- Having familiarity with the complex relationships between business, governments and society in different national contexts.
- Understanding how to apply different ethical frameworks to cases of corporate social responsibility.
- Developing the capacity to listen and communicate with precision and clarity both orally and in writing.

#### Judgement and approach

- Developing proficiency in analyzing complex organizational situations, identifying key problem areas, and formulating strategies for corporate responsibility.
- Developing an ability to critically evaluate corporate action in cases relating to social responsibility.
- Independent critical thinking with relevance to complex social situations.
- Group problem solving in culturally diverse teams.

## **Course content**

This course examines the social obligations that are increasingly demanded of corporations and investigates the different strategies adopted by organizations that are striving to be socially responsible entities. This course will also look at the range of pressures placed on corporations by different stakeholders such as governments, labor unions, consumer rights groups and environmentalists.

The first part of the course focuses on some of the theoretical frameworks commonly used to understand corporate social responsibility. These would include ethical positions such as Kantian ethics, utilitarianism and Confucianism, stakeholder theories, theories of market discipline and institutional theory.

A central part of the course will focus on common dilemmas of corporate social responsibility faced by enterprises both internally and externally. Internal dilemmas included corporations' responsibility in the areas of workplace safety, fair and equitable treatment of employees and internal governance of the firm. External dilemmas would relate to corporate obligations to shareholders, the manufacture of harmful products and impacts on the biospheric environment.

Throughout the course, students will be exposed to concrete cases such as the tobacco industry, the case of ENRON and Shell in Nigeria. The course will also look at 'model' corporations and their efforts to develop socially responsible strategies in diverse contexts.

## **Course design**

Instruction will take place through lectures, case analyses, and group discussions. Students are expected to read assigned materials prior to class and to participate vigorously in class discussions.

Grading will take place through examinations, student reports, group assignments and presentations. Class attendance is mandatory. Opportunities will be made available for re-examination as well.

## Assessment

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

## Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

### *Grading scale*

At the School of Economics and Management grades are awarded in accordance with a criterion-based grading scale A-U (A-F). Students have to receive a grade of E or higher in order to pass a course.

Grade, characteristic	Points/percentage of total score, criteria
A-Excellent	100-85, A distinguished result that is excellent with regard to the following aspects –theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.
B-Very good	84-75, A very good result with regard to the above mentioned aspects.
C-Good	74-65, The result is of a good standard with regard to the above mentioned aspects and lives up to expectations.
D-Satisfactory	64-55, The result is of a satisfactory standard with regard to the above mentioned aspects and lives up to expectations.
E-Sufficient	54-50, The result satisfies the minimum requirements with regard to the above mentioned aspects, but not more.
U/F-Fail	49-0, The result does not meet the minimum requirements with regard to the above mentioned aspects.

*Plagiarism is considered to be a very serious academic offence. The University will take disciplinary actions against any kind of attempted malpractice in examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other improper practices in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University for a specific period of time.*

## **Entry requirements**

Students admitted to a Master Programme where this course is either a compulsory or elective part, are qualified for the course. For other students, at least 60 UCP or ECTS-cr in Business Administration is required. These must include a course in basic Business Administration, (e.g. FEK502 Business Administration: General Course, FEKA01 Business Administration: Introductory Course, or FEKC01 Introductory Course in Business Administration, including Business Communication or the equivalent).

## **Further information**

The course BUSN43 Corporate Social Responsibility cannot be combined with BUSM43 in a degree.

## Subcourses in BUSN43, Corporate Social Responsibility

Applies from H11

1101 Corporate Social Responsibility, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A