

Syllabus

Instructor

Steven Schmeiser
121 Skinner Hall
sschmeis@mtholyoke.edu
<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/~sschmeis>

Class

Monday 1:15 p.m. to 4:05 p.m.
212 Skinner Hall

This seminar course studies the theory and practice of corporate governance. Topics include the separation of ownership and control, the legal environment, executive compensation, the board of directors, investor activism, takeovers, and stakeholder rights. We will analyze and evaluate current events and trends in corporate governance using the tools discussed in class. Lectures will focus on domestic policy, but students will study international governance practices in independent research.

Grades

15% Discussant for weekly reading

With a partner, lead a class discussion on a paper or article from the previous week's assigned readings. The specific paper and date will be known ahead of time.

40% Series of three short papers

Three papers discussing how corporate governance structures in a foreign country differ from those in the United States. The first paper will focus on executive compensation, the second on boards of directors and the third on corporate externalities. The country under consideration will remain constant for all three papers. More details in class.

20% One technical problem set

10% Participation

15% Agency activity

Schedule

This is flexible and will probably change.

14-SEP-2009	Corporations
21-SEP-2009	Principal Agent Problem
28-SEP-2009	Agency Continued
05-OCT-2009	Executive Compensation
19-OCT-2009	Executive Compensation
26-OCT-2009	Board of Directors
02-NOV-2009	Board of Directors
09-NOV-1009	Board of Directors
16-NOV-2009	Shareholder Activism
23-NOV-2009	Takeovers
30-NOV-2009	Stakeholder Rights
07-DEC-2009	Corporate Responsibility
14-DEC-2009	TBA