BS2246 Business Government and Society

Module Number: BS2246

Module Title: Business, Government and Society

Number of Aston Credits: 10 credits

Total Number of ECTS Credits: 5 credits
(European Credit Transfer)

1. Staff Member Responsible for the Module:

Dr Josie Kelly
Economics and Strategy Group (ABS)
South Wing 9th Floor
j.t.kelly@aston.ac.uk
Extension 3148
Office hours and appointments are available on Blackboard
Please make an appointment via the on-line booking system https://wass.aston.ac.uk/wass/ .

2. Pre-Requisite(s) for the Module:

None

3. Module Objectives

Knowledge and understanding:

To complete successfully the module students will be required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding by;

- Identifying and explaining the external, environmental and internal factors, including those from government and society that affect, inform and shape the development of companies' corporate social responsibility and sustainable development policies and strategies;

- Identifying and explaining the major international, supra national and national government bodies and their role and actions in promoting, implementing and monitoring corporate social responsibility and sustainable development in national international businesses.

Cognitive skills:
To successfully complete the module, students are required to demonstrate their cognitive skills by their capability to review and evaluate multiple information sources in order to;

- Analyse the major contemporary normative debates that shape international, national and local corporate social responsibility and sustainable development policies and strategies;
- Comprehend and critique how normative values embedded in national and supra national government policies affects business and the commercial sector.

Subject-specific skills:
To successfully complete the module; students are required to demonstrate their subject-specific knowledge and understanding, specifically;

- The implications for business and the commercial sectors of supra national, national and local government policies and strategies to promote corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Transferable skills:
To successfully complete this module, students are required to demonstrate their competence in

- Critical thinking and analytical reasoning when using different source material, such as conventional academic texts in learned journals, government documents and other primary sources, including policy documents from companies and non governmental organisations.
- The synergy of critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills in relation to new knowledge and understanding when responding to novel circumstances.

4. Module Content:
The teaching and learning activities are provided by a number of different mediums; in additional to conventional lectures, which will provide an outline of the core themes, there will be on-line material and supported structural learning for students to complete. These sources will provide students with the background knowledge to participate in fortnightly seminars and to discuss the themes in depth with their colleagues in preparation for the exam. More information about these sources and how to use them to best effect will be provided in the module handout.

Module Themes
1) Introduction to the module.
2) Theories, models and concepts: Business, Government and Society in a globalised world;
3) Theories and practice: Business, Government and Society and the institutions of the global economy.
4) Corporate Social Responsibility; Theories, models and concepts
5) Corporate social Responsibility; Theory into practice
6) Sustainability; mediating different priories' between business, government and society.

5. International Dimensions:
Central to the module are the relationships between international actions and the implications and consequences for localities. The course will use examples of social responsibility and sustainable development to explore these connections. In addition, the module will also consider how international policy on corporate and sustainable development is interpreted differently at national and sub-national level and the

implications of such variation and diversity for business, consumers and citizens. This will enhance students' cultural sensitivities and competencies and prepare them for living and working in international environments

6. Corporate Connections:

Case studies and examples will be taken from:

- The international and UK business and commercial sectors
- Government and non government organisation in the UK and internationally.

7. Links with Research

The teaching will be informed by contemporary research and scholarship previously and currently undertaken by the tutors.

8. Learning and Teaching Rationale and Methods:

(Including composition of learning hours)

Lectures will provide students with an overview of core themes and concepts and these will be complemented by on-line material and structured learning on case studies, these will be discussed in seminars. Additional material will be provided during the module. Recommendations for reading will be provided electronically to students, via Blackboard and by weekly (or even more frequently) email.

9. Contact and directed learning

Teaching Activities

Lectures	6
Use of on-line materials	6
Directed learning in preparation for seminars	15
Seminars and discussion of cases	5
Examination	2

Learning Activities

Self-identified learning	26
Other independent learning, including exam revision	40
Total	**100**

10. Ethical Approval:

(If primary research is involved)

Not applicable

11. Assessment and Feedback Rationale and Methods:

Assessment information; The assessment will be by a two-hour examination at the end of the module. The exam will consist of three sections and student swill be invited to attempt one question from each section. All questions will be weighted equally.

Revision and exam preparation is integrated into the learning and teaching strategy and supplementary material will be provided throughout the module.

Previous exam papers or model questions with answers will not be made available to students; revision themes and topics will be advised and discussed in seminars and lectures.

Feedback
A summary of common issues and advice on future exam technique will be sent electronically to all students once the exam scripts are marked.