Course Coordinator: Visiting Fellow, Dr Robert Gale
Email: r.gale@unsw.edu.au
Course code: IEST 5021
Eligibility: Postgraduate and non-award
Credit weight: 6 Units
Mode of study: ONLINE March 13 to May 7, 2015
Contact Student Advisor: Alana McHattan

Drawing on the environmental management and ecologically sustainable development (ESD) literature, the aim of this course is to develop competencies among learners in analysing the external drivers of corporate performance in sustainability reporting and to assess the range of responses corporations are implementing or could implement to address these drivers.

The course content is divided into the following themes:

- Identifying the drivers of sustainability (e.g. carbon disclosure, legislative compliance, perceptions of future regulatory risks, economic instruments, green markets);
- theoretical insights into sustainability reporting (from ecological modernisation theory, risk society, and social-ecological resilience);
- analysing performance in sustainability reports (e.g. EMS, corporate reporting on sustainability and assurance);
- assessment of environment, social and corporate governance (ESG) initiatives in selected businesses; and
- making sustainability principles operational in organisational processes and practices.

In analysing sustainability performance in corporations, we will undertake comparative assessments of Environment, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) initiatives at both the Board of Directors and management level. This includes considering the role of Environmental Management Systems, the Global Reporting Institute’s Sustainability Reporting Guidelines and methods of report assurance in assessing corporate performance.