COURSE NAME: Seminar- Corporate Governance, Compliance and Social Responsibility in the Multinational Corporation

PROFESSOR: Marcia Narine

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: Business Organizations


MAJOR LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THIS COURSE: Students will learn the multiple factors that drive corporate behavior and decision-making.

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE: Students will be graded on class participation and a paper, which may be used to satisfy the upper-class R&W writing requirement. Students will make short presentations to the seminar describing their research project and eliciting constructive feedback from the group. Maximum number of 15 students. 20-page paper requirement (unless class is being used to satisfy writing requirement), and an initial first draft will be graded.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: In the wake of another wave of corporate scandal, the near collapse of financial markets and the unprecedented government bailout of private institutions, what do corporate executives, auditors, attorneys and boards need to do to comply with the state, federal and international laws related to compliance and governance? What happens when these laws conflict or clash with cultural norms? How effectively do the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, Securities and Exchange Commission and Department of Justice rules dictate corporate behavior? What effects do reputational factors, pressures from institutional investors, shareholders and shareholder service organizations, activists, organized labor and nongovernmental organizations have on corporate behavior and decisionmaking? Will regulations such as Sarbanes-Oxley and Dodd-Frank really protect the shareholders or are they stifling the competitiveness of US companies? Do corporations have a duty be “socially responsible” or should they focus on maximizing shareholder value? The class will read relevant portions of current and pending legislation and commentary from practitioners and academics, law review articles, blogs, and examine best practices and discuss and debate these current issues in corporate law.