MGT 840 Corporate Governance

The goal of this course is to understand how to organize governance of organizations to create value. While much of the material will concern for-profit organizations and shareholder value, the course will also cover not-for-profit organizations and values creation for other participants in organizations (e.g., employees, customers, and community). The course will address the following questions: How do we assess value created by an organization? How is this value distributed among investors, employees, and customers? Why are investors especially vulnerable to breakdown in corporate governance? What governance arrangements are helpful in creating value and making sure that the investors get what is due to them? How do we interpret, understand, and implement corporate social responsibility? What ownership structures are conducive to value creation (private equity / hedge funds / partnership / family ownership)? What countries provide better governance arrangements that allow entrepreneurs and firms to raise more money to realize profitable projects? What is the difference between the governance structures of organizations that produce private versus public goods? How should managers be incentivized and compensated? Can investors disengage themselves from badly governed companies by simply selling their shares ("Wall Street Walk") or is it better to become an activist? The course also highlights recent failures of corporate governance and what we can learn from them.