

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING & COMMERCIAL LAW

ACCY 320: ACCOUNTING THEORY

Trimester Two 2006

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

<i>Course Coordinator/Lecturer</i>	Prof Judy Brown Email:	RH 621 Phone: 463 5233 Ext 7054 Judy.Brown@vuw.ac.nz
<i>Lecturer</i>	David Carter Email:	RH 727 Phone: 463 5233 Ext 7009 David.Carter@vuw.ac.nz
<i>Administrative</i>	Jan May Email:	RH 708 Phone: 463 7465 Janet.May@vuw.ac.nz

Class Times and Room Numbers

Monday and Wednesday, 9.30-11.20am in RWW 501.

There is no additional tutorial. However, group discussions will form an integral part of the class sessions and students are expected to prepare for and actively participate in these discussions. Also see Class Participation under Assessment Items below.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should have:

- an overview of the historical development of theoretical frameworks in accounting;
- an understanding of different approaches to accounting theory and the roles of accounting in capital markets, organisations and the wider society;
- the ability to reflect critically on key theoretical concepts used in accounting frameworks; and
- an appreciation of theory-practice relationships.

Course Content

This course provides students with an introduction to accounting theory, building on and drawing together concepts and frameworks introduced in 100- and 200- level courses. It explores the historical development of theoretical frameworks, provides an overview of current accounting theories and illustrates the application of specific theories in accounting research.

Required Text and Course Materials

There is no set text. Selected readings will be provided, amounting to approximately two articles per week. A *Course Materials Fee* will be charged for this. It is expected that the reading for each session will be completed before coming to class as it will often form the basis for class discussion.

Assessment Requirements

(See below for further details)

Assessment will be based on the following:

Essay	40%	Due 18 September
Class Participation	10%	
Final Exam	50%	

Penalties – Late Assignments

In fairness to other students, assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a 5% penalty of the original mark for each day (including weekends) they are late. Assignments handed in more than 10 days after the due date will not be accepted. Extensions may be granted with no penalty to those who meet the University's aegrotat rules (e.g. medical certificate, family bereavement) **only**. You must discuss such extensions with the course coordinator at your first opportunity.

Mandatory Course Requirements

To pass the course it is necessary to

- (a) Complete all assessment items
- (b) Attend at least 75% of the lectures
- (c) Obtain a minimum of 40% in the Final Exam

Assessment Items

Essay

40%

Due by 5pm Monday 18 September

Critically evaluate the following statement:

"Theory is irrelevant to a practical discipline like accounting."

Expected length: 3,000-3,500 words.

Class Participation

10%

Class participation will be assessed on the basis of attendance, effort and quality of contribution.

Final Exam

50%

The final exam will be comprehensive and will consist of essay type questions. It will be two hours in length. Please note that students must obtain a minimum of 40% in this exam to pass the course (see Mandatory Course Requirements).

Lecture Programme

Week

beginning:

Weeks 1-2

An Introduction to Accounting Theory (JB)

July 10-17

What does 'accounting theory' mean?
Key concepts (e.g. ontology, epistemology)
The role(s) of accounting theory (e.g. normative, descriptive and predictive theories)

Weeks 3-4

Different Approaches to Accounting Theory (DC)

July 24-31

History and development of accounting theory
Conceptual framework projects
Accounting theory and accounting research

Weeks 5-10

Illustration of Key Concepts (DC and JB)

Aug 7-Sept 25

Illustrations of key theoretical concepts across various sub-disciplines of accounting and utilizing a variety of research approaches

Weeks 11-12

Relationship between Accounting Theory and Practice (JB)

Oct 2-9

Theory and 'common-sense' understandings of the world
Approaches to theory-practice relationships
Accounting theory and policy-making

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student and Academic Services Office

The Faculty's Student and Academic Services Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Education/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, Education and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building - it includes the ground floor reception desk (EA005) and offices 125a to 131 (Level 1). The office is available for the following:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.

- Forms for FCA Student and Academic Services (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at www.vuw.ac.nz.

Student and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct. The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct.

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Policy which is published on the VUW website at www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other student or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalised severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website at www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

Students with Impairments

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the Course Coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building, telephone (04) 463 6070, email disability@vuw.ac.nz. The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each Faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Māori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

In addition, the Student Services Group (email student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/.

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and Faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 04 463 6983 or 04 463 6984, email education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.

Manaaki Pihipihinga - Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme (Faculty of Commerce and Administration)

This is a mentoring service for Maori and Pacific students studying at all levels. Weekly one hour sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade, and Room 210 and 211, Level 2, Railway West Wing. Sessions cover drafting and discussing assignments, essay writing, and any questions that may arise from tutorials and/or lectures. A computer suite networked to Cyber Commons is available for student use.

To register with Manaaki Pihipihinga, please contact one of the following:

Puawai Wereta
Room 210, Level 2
Railway West Wing
Tel. (04) 463 8997
Email: Puawai.Wereta@vuw.ac.nz

Fa'afoi Seiuli
Room 109 B
14 Kelburn Parade
Tel. (04) 463 5842
Email: Faafoi.Seiuli@vuw.ac.nz