



SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING & COMMERCIAL LAW

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ACCY 412 CURRENT ISSUES IN FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

Trimester Two 2006

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details	Office	Telephone	Email
Course Coordinator & Lecturer: Tony van Zijl	RH 606	463 5329	Tony.vanZijl@vuw.ac.nz
Lecturer: Rachel Baskerville	RH 625	463 6474	Rachel.Baskerville@vuw.ac.nz
Administrative Assistant: Chloe Thompson	RH 708	463 5383	chloe.thompson@vuw.ac.nz

Class Times and Room Numbers

Mid-Trimester break:
21 August – 1 September

University lectures resume:
Wednesday, 12 July, 16.40-18.30 GB04

The final examination will take place during the examination period:
16 October – 11 November

Lecture Programme

week	Lecturer	Topic
1	Tony van Zijl	Standard Setting,
2	Tony van Zijl	Conceptual Framework
3	Tony van Zijl	Measurement Issues; Accounting for Intangibles
4	Rachel Baskerville	GAAP for Small and Medium Entities
5	Rachel Baskerville	Income Measurement,
6	Rachel Baskerville	Leases
7	Tony van Zijl	Fair Value Issues
8	Tony van Zijl	Share Based payments
9	Tony van Zijl	Management Discussion and Analysis
10	Rachel Baskerville	Special Purpose Entities and “Off-Balance Sheet” Issues
11	Rachel Baskerville	Liability recognition and Pension Scheme reporting
12	Rachel Baskerville	Accounting issues in Emerging Economies

The readings for each week will be supplied separately.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, participants should have an understanding of:

- Some of the principal factors shaping the environment of financial reporting and accounting policy choice.
- The usefulness and the impact of accounting information.
- The development of conceptual frameworks for financial reporting.
- Differing perspectives on the concept of income and measurement in accounting

Course Content

This course aims to provide a critical insight into, and develop an understanding of, a selection of current issues relevant to the role of financial accounting organised around the major topics which are being debated in 2006. However, this is not a simple examination of the issues in the standard-setters' current work plans, but a review of the economic and political situation within which the standard setters go about their business, and the impact of these factors on the standards that emerge.

It is expected that students will draw on their knowledge of accounting theory derived from other courses in order to identify three major drivers underlying the changes students will be analysing: (1) the incentives of the parties (managers, directors, auditors, accounting firms, regulators and users); (2) the environment (governance problems, harmonisation, and the growing importance of intangible assets); and (3) the legacy of unresolved conceptual problems.

The course will be grounded firmly in the knowledge derived from research.

Materials and Equipment

A fee may be charged for course materials. Students will be advised accordingly.

Assessment Requirements

Assessment will be based on the following:

Component	Weighting
Presentations	10%
One essay	25%
Final exam	65%

Presentations and Essays

Each student is required to make a presentation on each of two assigned articles during the course. Students making presentations are to prepare a précis of the article (1-2 pages) and distribute it to other members of the class and the lecturer by noon on the Monday before the session. All students are expected to contribute to all class discussions.

The essay is due on Monday 16 October.. Choose your own topic relevant to the themes of the course. Please discuss your choice of topic with the relevant lecturer at your earliest opportunity. A draft of the essay is due with the lecturer by Monday 18 September. Email submissions are acceptable.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Students must complete all items of assessment.

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).
- Examination 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

You should familiarise yourself 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 dissatisfied, 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 students 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'afai Seiuli
Room 109 B
14 Kelburn Parade
Tel. (04) 463 5842
Email: Faafoi.Seiuli@vuw.ac.nz