



## SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING & COMMERCIAL LAW

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### ACCY 412 CURRENT ISSUES IN FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING - Trimester One 2007

#### COURSE OUTLINE (Draft)

##### Staff contact details

Course Coordinator & Lecturer:

Tony van Zijl

Office Telephone Email

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Lecturer:

Rachel Baskerville

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Administrative Assistant:

Chloe Thompson

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##### Class Meeting

Class meetings: Wednesday, 1.40 – 3.30 pm, RWW 315 (commence in Week 1)

Mid-Trimester break: 6 April – 22 April

Class meetings resume week beginning 23 April

##### Programme

week	Lecturer	Topic
1	Rachel Baskerville	Overview and key issues
2	Rachel Baskerville	Research Issues and Approaches in a Post-Transgression Era
3	Rachel Baskerville	Research on the impact of transgressions in corporate activities and governance
4	Rachel Baskerville	Capital markets research and EMH
5	Rachel Baskerville	Self-generating and re-generating assets
6	Rachel Baskerville	Pensions: accounting and financial reporting
7	Tony van Zijl	Standard setting
8	Tony van Zijl	Conceptual framework
9	Tony van Zijl	Intangibles
10	Tony van Zijl	Fair value issues
11	Tony van Zijl	Share based payments
12	Tony van Zijl	Comprehensive Income

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 examination	65%

The **final examination** will take place during the June 2007 examination period.

## 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 May 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 April 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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).
- 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 or go to [www.vuw.ac.nz/policy](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy).

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty's website [www.vuw.ac.nz/fca](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/fca) under Important Information for Students:

- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

## **Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme**

Manaaki Pihipihinga is an academic mentoring programme for undergraduate Māori and Pacific students in the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade (back courtyard), Room 109D, and Room 210, Level 2, Railway West Wing. There is also a Pacific Support Coordinator who assists Pacific students by linking them to the services and support they need while studying at Victoria. Another feature of the programme is a support network for Postgraduate students with links to Postgraduate workshops and activities around Campus.

For further information, or to register with the programme, email [manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz) or phone (04) 463 5233 ext. 8977. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email [pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz) or phone (04) 463 5842.