

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

## **ACCY 407: HISTORY OF ACCOUNTING THOUGHT**

Trimester Two 2007

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

#### **Course Objectives**

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding and appreciation of the historical approach to accounting research, the evolution of accounting principles and practices, and the uses of accounting. Students will be expected to explore and evaluate the environments that have influenced developments in accounting.

Completion of the course includes:

- a. Preparation and presentation of one or more selected readings;
- b. The handing in and presentation of a proposal for the research project by the stated date, and;
- c. The completion of this research project and presentation of the findings of your research to the class.

In addition, students are expected to participate and prepare fully for all classes.

#### **Contact Details**

- Dr Bhagwan Khanna                      RH 602                      463-5843                      Bhagwan.Khanna@vuw.ac.nz  
(Course Coordinator)
- Ms Carolyn Fowler                      RH 603                      463-6506                      Carolyn.Fowler@vuw.ac.nz

#### **Class Times and Room Numbers**

- Tuesday 12.40 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. in RLWY 128
- Classes in Week 6 will be on a different day – day, location and time to be advised.

#### **Expected Workload**

There will be an average of 2-3 hours per week of scheduled class seminar contact time. In addition to this contact time students are expected to spend at least an additional 14 hours per week on private study and assessment.

## Course Content

	Dates		Topic	Lecturer(s)
1	Jul	10	Introduction – What is Accounting History.	Carolyn Fowler
2	Jul	17	Historical Research	Carolyn Fowler
3	Jul	24	Public Sector Accounting History	Carolyn Fowler
4	Jul	31	Colonial New Zealand Accounting	Carolyn Fowler
5	Aug	07	Project Proposal Preparation	No class. Staff available for consultation
6	Aug	TBA	Student Project Proposals	Bhagwan Khanna Carolyn Fowler
<b>Mid Trimester Break</b>				
7	Sept	04	The Development of Management Accounting	Bhagwan Khanna
8	Sept	11	The Emergence of Double Entry Bookkeeping	Bhagwan Khanna
9	Sept	18	History of the Accounting Profession	Bhagwan Khanna
10	Sept	25	Accounting and Religion	Bhagwan Khanna
11	Oct	2	Project Preparation	No class Staff available for consultation
12	Oct	9	Presentation of Projects.	Bhagwan Khanna Carolyn Fowler

TBA – to be advised

## Materials and Equipment

Copies of all readings will be provided for students during the course.

## Communication of Additional Information

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students either in class or via email.

## Assessment Requirements

- |   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| 1. Synopsis preparation and presentation, and class participation | 15% | As allocated  |
| 2. Research Project Proposal                                      | 15% | Due 9.00 a.m. 16 August.                                    |
| 3. Research Project and Presentation                              | 70% | Due Week 12 (presentation) & 5.00 p.m. 17 October (project) |

***Synopsis Preparation and Presentation, and Class Participation***

**15%**

Class sessions will be primarily in the form of seminars, involving discussion of assigned weekly readings along with other material as determined and presented by the lecturer.

***Synopsis Preparation and Presentation***

Each student is required to present one or two assigned reading during the course (depending on class numbers). This presentation will be for 20 - 30 minutes, with a further 10 minutes for questions and discussion. Students are to select the readings for their presentation from the list below for weeks 3 to 10. Only **two** readings may be presented in each class. Selection of reading will take place in the second class.

Students presenting assigned readings are to submit to the lecturer(s) a précis of the article (maximum 10% of the length of the article) by noon on the Monday before the class.

***Class Participation***

For effective discussion of each topic it is very important that you read and understand the assigned articles (usually between two and three per class session) beforehand. Marks will be awarded for class participation.

Students are expected to attend all classes and participate fully in discussions. In order to assist you in this process of class participation you are required, for your assigned topic articles to:

- Select what to you is the most interesting or significant sentence and prepare yourself to discuss why it is interesting or significant.

This significant sentence and a brief explanation as to why you find it interesting or significant is to be submitted to the lecturer(s) by 9.00 am on the Tuesday of class.

***Research Project Proposal***

**15%**

Students are required to submit a formal research proposal (max 4 pages) outlining the objective of their research project and identifying proposed sources of information. Students must discuss their choice of topic with the lecturers during the first 5 weeks. These proposals will be presented to the class during week 6 (day and time to be advised).

A copy of the proposal is to be emailed to the lecturers by 9.00 a.m. on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August.

***Research Project and Presentation***

**70%**

Each student is required to complete a major research paper reporting his or her investigation of the history of any area of accounting, auditing, taxation or related areas. The report should be no longer than 6500 words. This research paper is a major project, which can be a critical and comprehensive literature review, a detailed research proposal or an empirical study. Topics for the project must be discussed with and approved by your lecturers.

Students are required to present their project to the class during the last week of the course. The research project is due at 5.00 p.m. on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October. The project is to be submitted in electronic form (Microsoft Word document or PDF) and in paper format.

**Penalties**

In fairness to other students, work submitted after the deadline will incur a 5% penalty (of the mark obtained) for each day late. Extensions may be granted with no penalty to those who meet the University's aegrotat rules (e.g. medical certificate, family bereavement).

## **Seminar Readings**

### ***Week 1: Introduction – What is Accounting History***

1. Previts, G.J., Parker, L.D. and Coffman, E.N., 1990, Accounting history: definition and relevance, *Abacus*, 26:1, 1-16.

### ***Week 2: Historical Research***

1. Fleischman, R. K., Mills P. A., and Tyson T. N., 1996, A theoretical primer for evaluating and conducting historical research in accounting, *Accounting History*, 1:1, 55 – 75.
2. Parker L.D., 1997, Informing historical research in accounting and management: traditions, philosophies and opportunities, *The Accounting Historians Journal*, 24:2, 111-148.

### ***Week 3: Public Sector Accounting***

1. Hoskin, K.W., and Macve R.H., 1988, The Genesis of Accountability: The West Point Connection, *Accounting Organizations and Society*, 13:2, 37-73.
2. Fleischman, R.K., and Tyson T.N., 1997, Developing Expertise: Two Episodes in Early Nineteenth Century US Management Accounting History, *Business and Economic History*, 26:2, 365-380.
3. Tyson, T, 1993, Keeping the Record Straight: Foucauldian Revisionism and Nineteenth Century US Cost Accounting History, *Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal*, 6:2, 4-16. (Not eligible for critique)

### ***Week 4: Colonial New Zealand Accounting***

1. Hooper, K., Pratt, M. and Kearins K., 1993, Accounting, auditing and the business establishment in Colonial Auckland 1880- 1895, *Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal*, 6:1, 79-98.
2. Fowler C.J., (2007), Financing, Accounting, and Accountability in Colonial New Zealand: The Nelson School Society (1842-1852), *Centre for Accounting, Governance and Taxation Research, Victoria University of Wellington, Working Paper Series No. 49.* (Not eligible for critique)

### ***Week 6: The Development of Management Accounting***

1. Kaplan, R.S., 1984, The evolution of management accounting, *Accounting Review*, July, 390-418.
2. Edwards, J.R. and Newell E., 1991, The development of industrial cost and management accounting before 1850: A survey of evidence, *Business History*, 33:1, 35-57.

### ***Week 7: The Emergence of Double Entry Bookkeeping***

1. Bryer, R.A., 1993, Double entry bookkeeping and the birth of capitalism: accounting for the commercial revolution in medieval northern Italy, *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*, 4:2, 113-140.
2. Mills, G.T., 1994, Early accounting in Northern Italy: The role of commercial development and the printing press in the expansion of double entry from Genoa, Florence and Venice, *The Accounting Historians Journal*, 21:1, 81-96.

### **Week 8: History of the Accounting Profession**

1. Willmott, H. 1986, Organising the profession: a theoretical and historical examination of the development of the major accountancy bodies in the UK, *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, 11:6, 555-580.
2. Walker, S.P., 2004, The genesis of professional organization in English accountancy, *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, 29:2, 127-156.

### **Week 9: Accounting and Religion.**

- Readings to be advised by lecturer– Not eligible for critique.

### **Additional Readings**

There is no set text for the course. However, the following books may provide supplementary reading for many of the issues examined in the course.

- Edwards, J. R., 1989, *A History of Financial Accounting*, Routledge: London.
- Lee, T. A., A Bishop and Parker R H. (eds), 1996, *Accounting History from the Renaissance to the Present*, Garland Publishing Inc.: New York & London
- Lee, T.A. (ed.), 1990, *Accounting History and Thought*, Garland Publishing Inc: New York
- Littleton, A. C. and Yamey B. S. (eds), 1956, *Studies in the History of Accounting*, Sweet & Maxwell London:
- Parker, R. H. and Yamey B. S. (eds), 1994 *Accounting History - Some British Contribution* , Clarendon Press: Oxford.
- Yamey, B. S., 1978, *Essays on the History of Accounting*, Arno Press: New York.
- Yamey, B. S., 1982, *Further Essays on the History of Accounting*, Garland Publ Inc: New York.
- Hammond, T A., 2002, *A White-collar profession - African American Certified Public Accountants since 1921*, University of North Carolina Press: Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- Fleishman R.K., Radcliffe V.S. and Shoemaker P.A. (eds), 2003, *Doing Accounting History*, JAI Press: Greenwich.

As well the following journals may provide additional material:

- *Accounting History*
- *The Accounting Historians Journal*
- *Accounting, Business and Financial History*
- *Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal*
- *Accounting, Organizations and Society*
- *Critical Perspectives on Accounting.*

## **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.

## **Notice of Turnitin Use**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <<http://www.turnitin.com>>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

## **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.