

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING & COMMERCIAL LAW

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ACCY 430 RESEARCH PROJECT IN ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS LAW

Trimester Two 2008

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Course Coordinator: Chris Hunt
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Lecturers: Staff from the School of Accounting & Commercial Law will be available to act as supervisors.

Trimester Dates

The second trimester in 2008 runs from Monday 7 July to Saturday 8 November 2008.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Whilst there are no formal classes and students are expected to meet regularly with their allocated supervisor, all students will be required to attend for a meeting with the honours coordinator on the following dates: 18/7/08; 25/7/08; 5/9/08; and 10/10/08. The meeting will be in RWW 315 from 9:30am - 10:30am. These meetings will be informal and are designed to support student progress in completion of their research project.

Course Objectives

1. To provide students with an opportunity to study in-depth a topic area of interest.
2. To provide students with the experience of completing a significant research paper, in an intellectually independent and largely self-directed fashion.
3. To demonstrate the application of knowledge of research methodology and methods gained through coursework in ACCY 401 and ACCY 421.
4. To develop students' skills of critical inquiry and ability to write an academic paper that demonstrates an in-depth understanding of an area of research.

Course Content

This special topic is a supervised research project that provides students with the opportunity to undertake independent research in a specific area of accounting or commercial law.

Assessment Requirements

The assessment is 100% for the final submitted project and presentation.

Types of Research Projects Acceptable

A variety of different types of research projects are encouraged, subject to the availability of a supervisor. Examples include:

1. Empirical work within a particular research paradigm (e.g. content analysis of annual reports).
2. Theoretical work within a particular research paradigm (e.g. development of a key concept).
3. An in-depth review of the research literature on a particular topic (e.g. balanced scorecard).
4. An historical study on a particular topic (e.g. development of a specific accounting standard).
5. A critical comparison of different research approaches to a particular topic. E.g. TBLR, corporate governance, environmental accounting, business ethics. "Differences" explored might include differences in theories used, research methods and/or social/political philosophies.
6. Exploration of a public policy issue e.g. reviewing relevant conceptual and empirical literature and making policy recommendations.

In all cases you should demonstrate an understanding of how the methods you are using or ideas/concepts you are developing "fit" within the framework of research approaches introduced in ACCY 401 and/or ACCY 421.

General Guidelines

1. Students are responsible in the first instance for selecting a topic and approaching potential supervisors. Once agreement between a student and staff member is reached, the co-ordinator will be advised by the staff member. Should a student experience difficulty with selecting a topic and/or finding an appropriate supervisor they should advise the co-ordinator as soon as possible but certainly before the 18th of July.
2. Word limit 15,000. This is a guideline only. Some types of work may be shorter or longer than this. Your supervisor will advise you on the appropriate length of your project.
3. Each student is required to adhere strictly to deadlines set. Extensions will only be granted in extenuating circumstances and can only be approved by the co-ordinator. Students must not request extensions from their supervisor.

DUE DATES

- Agreement reached on supervisor and topic area July 17
 - One page description of the project as agreed with the supervisor July 24
 - A first draft approximately 30% complete Sept 4
 - A second draft – a good draft with the project essentially complete Oct 9
 - Final version submitted for assessment Oct 31
4. Assessment. During the course of the trimester, supervisors will be in a position to provide some guidance in this area.
 5. Your supervisor will provide academic advice only. They will not edit your writing.
 6. Your supervisor will read and provide comments on your two drafts. Individual supervisors may request other written work as you proceed.
 7. You should expect to meet regularly with your supervisor, ie. at least once a fortnight. You should expect these meetings to average approximately one half hour a week (i.e. fortnightly meetings would last approximately one hour). Individual supervisors may request you to attend meetings more often if they deem it necessary.

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 on the ground floor (EA005). This counter is the first point of contact for :

- 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.

Use of Turnitin

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.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/students.aspx

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty's website www.victoria.ac.nz/fca under Important Information for Students:

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

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: including the work of others will not be considered plagiarism as long as the work 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:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

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 or phone (04) 463 6015. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5842.