

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING & COMMERCIAL LAW

ACCY 430 RESEARCH PROJECT IN ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS LAW

Trimester Two 2009

COURSE OUTLINE

Name and Contact Details

<i>Course Coordinator:</i>	Lisa Marriott Email:	RH 604 Phone: 463 6107 Lisa.Marriott@vuw.ac.nz
<i>Administrative:</i>	Danielle Van Resseghem Email:	RH 708 Danielle.VanResseghem@vuw.ac.nz
<i>Lecturers:</i>	Staff from the School of Accounting & Commercial Law will be available to act as supervisors.	

Trimester Dates

Monday 13 July to Friday 16 October 2009

Teaching Period: Monday 13 July to Friday 16 October 2009

End of Year Study Period: Monday 19 October to Monday 26 October 2009

Examination Period: Tuesday, 27 October to Saturday 14 November 2009

Withdrawal dates: Information available via

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

Class Times and Room Numbers

Whilst there are no formal classes, students are expected to meet regularly with their allocated supervisor.

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 business law.

Course Learning 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.

Assessment Requirements

The assessment is 100% for the final submitted project.

Note: Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCA programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

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.
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 Aug 21
- A second draft – a good draft with the project essentially complete Oct 2
- Final version submitted for assessment Oct 16

All progress due date outcomes must be met to the satisfaction of the supervisor(s).

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, i.e., at least once a fortnight. As a guideline, 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.

For the following important information follow the links provided:

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

General University Policies and Statutes

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/academic.aspx>

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/Contactus.aspx>

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/mentoring/