

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

MMPA 506 ADVANCED FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

Trimester Two 2010

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator/Lecturer

Dr David Carter		RH 727
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Office Hours:	To be advised	

Administrative Coordinator

Rainet Mutwanda		RH 708
Phone:	463 5775	
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Office Hours:	Mon – Fri 8.30am – 5pm	
Office Closed:	Mon – Fri 10.30-10.45am & 3.30-3.45pm	

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 12th July – Friday 15th October 2010

Study Period: Monday 18th October – Thursday 21st October 2010

Examination Period: Friday 22nd October – Saturday 13th November 2010 (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Courses:

Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before **23 July 2010.**

The last date for withdrawal from this course is the three-quarter point of the teaching period, i.e. **Friday 24 September.** After that date, withdrawal requires the permission of the Associate Dean (Students) as set out in section 8 of the Personal Courses of Study Statute.

<http://policy.vuw.ac.nz/Amphora!~~policy.vuw.ac.nz~POLICY~000000001743.pdf>

To apply for permission, fill in the Late Withdrawal form available from either of our Student Customer Service Desks.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lectures:

Class meets Mondays from 17:40 – 20:30 in the Old Government Buildings, Lecture Theatre 3

There are 12 lectures in total. Students are expected to attend all classes. Class involves a mixture of lecture material, tutorial discussion, and group work.

Test and Examination:

The **Test** will take place around Week 6. Date, time and room to be advised (always check Blackboard for announcements). The time and room will be advised as soon as possible. The **Final examination** will take place during the examination period, Friday 22nd October – Saturday 13th November 2010 (inclusive)

Course Content

As an advanced financial accounting paper, this course focuses on developing core theoretical and practical issues in respect of financial accounting. We emphasise key issues that face accountants in practice and the development of an understanding of how different contexts affect accounting and financial reporting. Thus the overarching theme underpinning the course is the different reporting entities in New Zealand. Throughout the course we will seek to illustrate the importance of this issue by considering the impact of the entity on accounting choices, policies and other matters. This theme extends to considering entities of different legal structure, profit-orientation, sector and scale as well as the nature of the accounting group.

We will also seek to illustrate this by a series of meso-themes related to the reporting entity. These are:

- The qualitative characteristic of “relevance” – and how this concept may be interpreted in the context of different issues and/or different entities;
- The qualitative characteristic of “faithful representation”, which encompasses aspects of neutrality, prudence and completeness – we will explore the impact of and difficulties associated with the concept. There will be a particular focus on the concept of “substance over form” – we will explore the implications and challenges of this concept; and
- The impacts of harmonisation (both international and across sectors) – we will consider what this means, and the practical implications for accounting for different entities in New Zealand.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- a) Explain how the nature of different reporting entities affects the financial reporting by those entities;
- b) Assess the implications of recent developments in external reporting in respect of both business and the wider context of society (including harmonisation and corporate social responsibility);
- c) Describe the applications and implications of various financial reporting standards in complex environments;
- d) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the current financial reporting requirements for particular entities, transactions and events against underlying concepts of accounting;
- e) Develop new approaches to at least one circumstance where a weakness has been identified in the current reporting requirements.

Course Delivery

Week	Topic	Textbook Chapter(s)	Assessment
Week 1 <i>12 July</i>	Introduction of Course Meso-themes Income Recognition	D&S 1 NZ Framework D&S 16	
Week 2 <i>19 July</i>	The Reporting Entity Earnings Management	D&S 1 Framework for Differential Reporting D&S 16	
Week 3 <i>26 July</i>	Introduction to Accounting for Business Combinations Concepts and Principles of Consolidation	D&S 24, 25 & 26	
Week 4 <i>2 August</i>	Consolidated Financial Statements	D&S 24, 25, 26 & 27 NZ IFRS 3, NZ IAS 27	
Week 5 <i>9 August</i>	Consolidated Financial Statements	D&S 24, 25, 26 & 27 NZ IFRS 3, NZ IAS 27	
Week 6 <i>16 August</i>	Accounting for Equity Investments	D&S 29 NZ IAS 28	Test
MID-TERM BREAK			
Week 7 <i>6 September</i>	Leases Share-based Payments	D&S 11, NZ IAS 17 D&S 14, NZ IFRS 2	
Week 8 <i>13 September</i>	Disaggregated/Segment Reporting	D&S 14, NZ IFRS 2 D&S 21, NZ IFRS 8	
Week 9 <i>20 September</i>	Financial Instruments	D&S 15, NZ IAS 32,39 & NZ IFRS 7,9	
Week 10 <i>27 September</i>	Foreign Currency	D&S 31 & 32, NZ IAS 21	
Week 11 <i>4 October</i>	Corporate social responsibility	D&S 33 Gaffikin 8 & 9	Assignment
Week 12 <i>11 October</i>	Re-thinking and Re-Conceptualising Accounting	NZ Framework	Essay

The course is delivered in one three-hour lecture a week. The course lecturer will assign readings and out of class work that is expected to be completed. A thorough understanding on all assigned material is essential. The lecture will involve a range of activities from group work to tutorials to more conventional lecturing. Course lecturers will post material on blackboard. It is suggested that students regularly check blackboard for updates, announcements and materials.

Expected Workload

As a 15-point paper, it is expected that students will work for 150 hours across this course (this includes the 12 teaching weeks, mid-trimester break, study week and the examination period). Class accounts for 36 hours of this time. Accordingly, students are expected to give 7 hours per week during the teaching weeks outside of class to lecture preparation, lecture review, readings, and assignments, and a further 30 hours spent on preparing for the Test and Final examination.

Group Work

All of the assessment in this course is based on your own work. There is no group assessment of any kind and no group work can be submitted for assessment: see also under *Academic Integrity and Plagiarism* on page 6.

Readings

There are two **required texts** for the course:

- Deegan, C. and Samkin, G. (2009) *New Zealand Financial Accounting, 4th edition*, McGraw Hill (“D&S”)
- Applicable Financial Reporting Standards (Volumes 1 and 2) - *New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards*. New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants. (2009 or 2010 editions ONLY)

Strongly recommended:

- Gaffikin, M. (2008) *Accounting Theory: Research, Regulation and Accounting Practice*, Pearson Education (“Gaffikin”)

Materials and Equipment

Relevant teaching materials, extra readings, practice examples, assignments, the essay, etc will be provided for students on an ongoing basis, primarily on Blackboard.

Silent, non-programmable electronic calculators may be used in the Test and Final Examination. Calculators that have alphanumeric keyboards will not be permitted.

Assessment Requirements

For the assignment and essay, please clearly include **your name and student ID**. Submit your assignment or essay by 3.00 pm on the due dates shown below.

No assignment/essay will be accepted for assessment purposes after the deadline of 3.00 pm, unless accompanied by certification by a doctor or similar. However because it is a mandatory course requirement that a reasonable attempt is made at the assignment, take-home test and the essay, late items must be submitted to enable an assessment of whether this mandatory course requirement has been met.

There are **four** assessment items in this course:

Assessment Item	Specifications	Percentage	Course Learning Objectives*	Date
Test	90 minutes	25%	a, b, c, d	Date, Time, venue To be advised
Assignment	10 pages	25%	a, b, c, d	3 pm, Friday, 8 October
Essay	3,000 words	25%	a, b, c, d, e	3 pm, Friday, 15 October
Final Examination	120 minutes	25%	a, b, c, d, e	<i>Time and place to be advised</i>

* For the Course Learning Objectives, refer to page 2 above. The letters a, b, c, d, and e correspond with the objective.

Suggested solutions and/or feedback on the Test, Assignment and Essay will be posted on Blackboard.

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.

To pass the course, students must obtain 50% across the course assessment.

Examinations

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period. The final examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the period from: **Friday 22nd October – Saturday 13th November 2010 (inclusive)**

Penalties

No assignment/essay will be accepted **for assessment purposes** after the deadline of 3.00 pm, unless accompanied by certification by a doctor or similar. However because it is a mandatory course requirement that a reasonable attempt is made at each of these assessment items, late items must be submitted to enable an assessment of whether the mandatory course requirement has been met.

Mandatory Course Requirements

In addition to obtaining an overall course mark of 50% or more, students must:

- Attend at least 10 out of 12 lectures; and
- Make a reasonable attempt at each of the assignments and the essay.

Class Representative

Students will have the opportunity to elect a class representative in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information will be conveyed by Blackboard or by email to all class members. Once you have registered for this course you should be able to connect to Blackboard at <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>. If you are not registered, please contact the FCA office on the ground floor of the Railway West Wing opposite Rutherford House. If you cannot access Blackboard after 48 hours please come to our office at RH708 where we can enrol you on Blackboard.

Use of Turnitin (if applicable)

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 compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. 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.

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>

AVC (Academic) Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcademic/Publications.aspx

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

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

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

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