TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

ACCY 430 RESEARCH PROJECT IN ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS LAW

Trimester Two 2011

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details		Office	Telephone
Course Coordinator & Lecturer	Michael Fraser Michael.Fraser@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: TBA	RH 622	463 8093
Lecturers	Staff from the School of Accounting & Commercial Law will be available to act as supervisors.		
Course Administrator	Rebekah Sage Rebekah.Sage@vuw.ac.nz Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8.30am-5pm (Note: Office closed 10.30am-10.45am and 3.30pm-3.45pm)	RH 708	463 7465

Trimester Dates
From Monday 11 July to Tuesday 25 October.

Withdrawal from Course

1.   Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before 22 July 2011.

2.   The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 23 September. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an '*Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late'* including supporting documentation.

The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

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

- Demonstrate the application of knowledge of research methodology and methods gained through coursework in ACCY 401 and ACCY 421; and
- Complete a significant academic research paper that demonstrates an in-depth understanding of an area of research, demonstrating skills in the collection, synthesis, analysis, interpretation and presentation of data.

Assessment Requirements
The assessment is 100% for the final submitted project.

Quality Assurance 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 Acceptable Research Projects
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.

4. Each student will be required to **give a 10 minute presentation** to the school faculty and Honours students on **14 October (11am start time).**

DUE DATES

- Agreement reached on supervisor and topic area: Friday, July 15 2011
- One page description of the project as agreed with the supervisor: Friday, July 15 2011
- HEC Applications due (if necessary): Wednesday, July 20 2011
- 30% progress report complete: Friday, 19 August 2011
- First full draft (project essentially complete): Friday, 30 September 2011
- Final version submitted for assessment: Tuesday, 25 October 2011

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

5. Assessment. During the course of the trimester, supervisors will be in a position to provide some guidance in this area.

6. Your supervisor will provide academic advice only. They will not edit your writing.

7. Your supervisor will read and provide comments on your drafts. Individual supervisors may request other written work as you proceed.

8. 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.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made 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.

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 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

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study

Find out about academic progress and restricted enrolment at
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx

The University's statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Further information about the University's academic processes can be found on the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/default.aspx

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

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

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

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

Te Pūtahi Atawhai
Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/index.aspx