

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

ACCY 430 RESEARCH PROJECT IN ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS LAW

Trimester Two 2012

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details	Office	Telephone
<i>Course Coordinator & Lecturer</i> Lisa Marriott Lisa.Marriott@vuw.ac.nz	RH 603	463 5938
<i>Course Administrator</i> 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

Monday 16 July to Friday 19 October 2012.

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 27 July 2012.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 24 August. 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

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.

You are also required to present the results of your research at a seminar on Friday 19th October. You will have 10 minutes for your presentation, plus another 5 minutes for questions.

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	20-Jul
One page description of the project as agreed with the supervisor	27-Jul
A first draft approximately 30% complete	24-Aug
A second draft – a good draft with the project essentially complete	5-Oct
Final version submitted for assessment	19-Oct
Present your research findings to a School of Accounting and Commercial Law Seminar	19-Oct

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.

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.

Penalties

Research projects that are submitted after the due date will incur a penalty. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Mandatory Course Requirements

In order to pass ACCY 430 it is necessary to submit a satisfactorily completed research project.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information will be communicated via email.

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 Office

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

Te Putahi Atawhai

Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/tpa/>