



School of Accounting and Commercial Law

ACCY 309
INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING TOPICS

Trimester 2, 2013

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details	Office	Telephone
<i>Course Coordinator</i>	Dr Noor Houqe Noor.Houqe@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours : Tuesday and Thursday 12 - 2.00pm	RH 712 463 6591
<i>Lecturer</i>	Dr Bhagwan Khanna Bhagwan.Kanna@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: TBA	TBA TBA
<i>Course Administrator</i>	Ms Lee Vassiliadis lee.vassiliadis@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 5383

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 15 July – Friday 18 October

Study Period: Monday 21 October – Thursday 24 October

Examination Period: Friday 25 October – Saturday 16 November (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 26 July 2013.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 27 September 2013. 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

Lectures will be held on:

Tuesday 3.40pm – 5.30pm in GBLT4

Friday 3.40pm – 4.30 in GBLT4

Course Delivery

There are no tutorials. Some hand-outs will be given out during class times while other materials could be posted on Blackboard at the lecturer's discretion.

Tentative Lecture Schedule (Teaching Topics):

Dr Bhagwan Khanna will lecture during the first half of the course. Dr Noor Houqe will lecture during the second half of the course.

Date & Topic	Prescribed readings
Week 1 – week beginning 16th of July 2012	Chapters 1 and 2, Nobes and Parker
Introduction to international accounting Causes and examples of international differences	
Week 2 – week beginning 23rd of July 2012	Chapter 3, Nobes and Parker
International classification of financial reporting	
Week 3 – week beginning 30th of July 2012 International harmonization efforts The context of financial reporting by listed groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 4 and 5, Nobes and Parker • Ball, R. (2006). International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS): pros and cons for investors, <i>Accounting and Business Research</i>, International Accounting Policy Forum (Special Issue), pp. 5-27.
Week 4 – week beginning 6th of August 2012 The requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6, Nobes and Parker • Penman, S. (2007). Financial Reporting Quality: Is Fair Value a Plus or a Minus? <i>Accounting and Business Research</i>, Special Issue, International Accounting Policy Forum, 33-44.
Week 5 – week beginning 13th of August 2012 Different versions of IFRS in practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7, Nobes and Parker
Week 6 – week beginning 20th of August 2012 Financial reporting in the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8, Nobes and Parker • Whittington, G. (2005). The Adoption of International Accounting Standards in the European Union, <i>European Accounting Review</i>, 14 (1):127-53.
MID-TRIMESTER BREAK 26th August – 8th September 2013	

Date & Topic	Prescribed readings
Week 7 – week beginning 9th of September 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11, Nobes and Parker
Financial reporting in China and Japan	
Week 8 – week beginning 16th of September 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12, Nobes and Parker
The context of financial reporting by individual companies	
Week 9 – week beginning 23rd of September 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 17, Nobes and Parker
Foreign currency translation	
Week 10 – week beginning 30th of September 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 21, Nobes and Parker
International financial analysis	
Week 11 – week beginning 7th of October 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion topics will be advised in week 7
Social environmental and ethical issues	
Week 12 – week beginning 14th of October 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion topics will be advised in week 7
Professionalism and the public interest	

Group Work

No group assignment except non-assessed presentations in class, where everyone is required to participate in small groups. Further details on discussion topics will be provided. These will be part of the examinable material.

Expected Workload

Students are expected to devote at least 4 hours of preparation time per lecture. Students are also expected to have read the assigned readings and to have done the assigned homework before each class. The minimum total hours that students are expected to reasonably devote to the course are on an average 12 hours per week.

Prescription

Accounting standards setting and corporate financial reporting practices in selected countries. Accounting issues affecting multinational enterprises such as foreign exchange translations, transfer pricing, segment reporting, financial statement analysis and harmonisation of accounting standards.

Course Learning Objectives

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

1. state national accounting concepts and procedures;
2. present and analyse financial statements as per nations' contextual variables;
3. explain major differences between countries in their approaches to financial reporting;
4. understand harmonisation and standardisation;
5. understand functional currencies;
6. explain the development of international financial accounting standards and the role of the International Accounting Standards Board;
7. analyse the social, environmental and ethical issues that are involved in the internationalisation of business and the role of accounting within that; and
8. analyse the implications of professionalism and the “public interest” in the international business environment.

Course Content

This course builds on knowledge acquired in other accounting courses and will cover topics such as the need for and importance of studying international accounting; the role of cultural and societal values in understanding differences in accounting and reporting practices in the USA, the UK, Australia, France, China, India and Japan; international harmonisation process and the role of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

The course will also examine the nature and growth of multinational corporations and financial reporting issues such as segment reporting, consolidation and financial statement analysis, foreign exchange and accounting for foreign currency transactions. In addition, international transfer pricing and taxation issues will be discussed. This course of International Accounting is geared to examine the international dimensions of accounting, accounting history, financial reporting and analysis. It aims to provide students with an in-depth look at the multinational enterprise and the preparation and presentation of financial statements in different countries.

We intend to cover the reasons for the study of international accounting, the concepts involved, influence of stages of economic growth on accounting development etc, financial disclosure, auditing, international corporate taxation, international accounting harmonization, a comparison of global accounting methods and financial reporting, social and environmental issues, and ethics and the “public interest”. Some topics may be covered lightly, with a view to enabling students to undertake in-depth study for their assigned tasks.

Readings

The recommended text book is:

Christopher Nobes and Robert Parker, *Comparative International Accounting*, (Pearson, 2012), 12th edition. ISBN 978-0-273-76379-6.

In addition, you are strongly encouraged to refer to any book on International Accounting. A few are mentioned as follows:

- Timothy Doupnik and Hector Perera, *International Accounting*, (McGraw-Hill Irwin, 2012), 3rd edition. ISBN 978-0-07-811095-5.
- Shahrokh M. Saudagar, *International Accounting: A User Perspective*, 3rd edition, 2009, CCH, ISBN 9780808020585.
- Lee H. Radebaugh and Sidney J. Gray and Ervin L. Black, *International Accounting and Multinational Enterprises*, 6th edition, 2006.

Materials and Equipment

Silent, non-programmable electronic calculators may be used in the end-trimester exam.

Assessment

Lectures will be the primary method of teaching and students are required to actively participate in the class discussions. Students will be required to complete a Research Essay as outlined below, (topic to be approved by at least one lecturer) dealing with current issue(s) of international accounting. The mid trimester test will be during the normal lecture hours. Other details about assessments are due as follows:

Mid Trimester Test (Thursday 22 August, 2013)	25%
Research Essay (Friday 20 September, 2013 at 2pm)	25%
Final Examination (2 hours)	50%

Every piece of work submitted for assessment is to be substantially your own, although you are encouraged to discuss your ideas and approaches as they develop with other students. Submitting another's work as your own would be unethical, whether you are detected or not, and is not consistent with the behaviour expected of students. There are substantial penalties (detailed in the University Calendar) for academic misconduct.

Students must complete the research essay to a satisfactory standard. Maximum length: 2000 words excluding reference list and footnotes. Students must submit the research essay topic as approved by Dr Noor Houqe or the other lecturer in the course.

The due date for the **research essay** is: **Friday 20 September, 2013 at 2pm**

The research essay is designed to give scope to the students to explore systematically and in more depth areas of international accounting practice and their role in globalization processes. Issues that students would be able to interrogate include, but are not limited to, the state national accounting concepts and procedures; the cause of differences between countries in their approaches to financial reporting; the politics and social effects of harmonization; the history and evolution of international accounting institutions such as the IASB; emission trading schemes, carbon accounting and climate change mitigation; and the social and ethical issues raised by accounting's implication in global economic and financial flows.

Penalties

Late submission will incur a penalty of 10% per day of the allocated marks for the research essay.

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 submitted to Turnitin. A copy of submitted materials will be retained 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.

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 following period:

Friday 25 October – Saturday 16 November (inclusive)

Mandatory Course Requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

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.

Communication of Additional Information

Information such as course notices will be posted on Blackboard.

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at:

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Link to general information

For general information about course-related matters, go to:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

Note to Students

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 academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.
