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 2, 2014

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator	Lisa Marriott lisa.marriott@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: TBA	RH 617	463 5203
Course Administrator	Lisa Lowe lisa.lowe@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 14 July – Friday 17 October 2014

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 25 July 2014.

2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 26 September 2014. 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.

Expected Workload

The expected workload for your ACCY 430 research project is approximately 20-25 hours per week for each week of the trimester. Overall, your research project should reflect approximately 300 hours of work.

Prescription

A specific research project chosen by the student.

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.

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.

Readings
Your supervisor will assist you with relevant readings. However, you will be expected to primarily engage in independent research.

Assessment
From Trimester 1, 2014, a revised Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf.

In particular, there will be a new grade scheme, in which the A+ range will be 90-100% and 50-54% will be a C-.

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 17th October**. You will have 15 minutes for your presentation, plus another 5 minutes for questions.

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. 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	18-Jul
One page description of the project as agreed with the supervisor	25-Jul
A first draft approximately 30% complete	22-Aug
A second draft – a good draft with the project essentially complete	3-Oct
Final version submitted for assessment	**17-Oct**
Present your research findings to a School of Accounting and Commercial Law Seminar	**17-Oct**

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

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

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

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

4. 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.

Penalties

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

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.

Mandatory Course Requirements

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

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
Additional information will be communicated via email or 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.

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