School of Accounting and Commercial Law

ACCY412 CURRENT ISSUES IN FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

Trimester 1 2015

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator & Lecturer
Dr Noor Houqe
noor.houque@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: TBA

Lecturer
Dr Thu Phuong Truong
thuphuong.truong@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: TBA

Course Administrator
Rachel Qi
rachel.qi@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8.30am-5pm
(Note: Office closed 10.30am-10.45am and 3.30pm-3.45pm)

Trimester Dates
Teaching Period: Monday 2 March – Friday 5 June
Study Period: Monday 8 June – Thursday 11 June
Examination Period: Friday 12 June – Wednesday 1 July (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course
1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 13 March 2015.

2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 15 May 2015. 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 or online.

Class Times and Room Numbers
Wednesday 8:30 – 11:20 in Railway West Wing RWW311
Course Delivery
The course is made up of a combination of lectures, workshops and student presentations. Students are asked not to use any electronic equipment in class except with the express permission of the lecturer that week. It is important all students appreciate that the dialogue involves all class members.

Expected Workload
The expected workload for ACCY 412 is around 180 hours over the trimester (approximately 12 hours per week over the 15 week period (12 teaching weeks, mid-trimester break, study week and examination period).

Prescription
A critical examination of policy issues related to accounting professionalism, the determination of a body of knowledge, and the scope and control of financial reporting practices.

Course Learning Objectives
By the end of the course students should:

- Understand current financial accounting issues such as and be able to critically evaluate current practices and put propose alternative treatments;
- Be able to explain the relevance and implications of financial accounting based on identified frameworks and accounting theory;
- Understand the standard setting process and standard accounting practices, including international issues;
- Appreciate the shortcomings of and alternatives to established financial performance measures;
- Be able to understand current issues impacting on the audit profession; and
- Demonstrate improvement in communication skills, both written and spoken, in their class involvement.

Course Content
This course aims to achieve the above objectives by critical examination of current issues relevant to the role of financial accounting and reporting. This is not a simple examination of issues in IFRS adoption for financial accounting or standard-setters’ and regulators’ current work plans, but a review of the economic and political situation within which those regulating and supporting the efficient operation of capital markets go about their business. The course also considers the manner in which research can assess and inform such activities in financial reporting and it is grounded firmly in the knowledge derived from research.

Readings
A list of readings and course topics is part of this Outline. All students are required to send to Dr Noor Houqe or Dr Thu Phuong Truong a PDF copy of the paper they have taken responsibility to present in class (this should be done four days before), so that it can be uploaded onto Blackboard if other students wish to download the paper. Copies of a handout should be provided at all presentations.

Materials and Equipment
A fee may be charged for course materials although this is highly unlikely.
Assessment
The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see

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

Assessment will be based on the following (see Schedule on pages 5 – 6):
   a) Class presentations and critiques, 30%1
   b) Project, 30%2
   c) Final examination, 40%

Marking guide for presentation in ACCY 412
This will be provided to the class. It will include assessment of the presentation offering
   1. Overview of the study
   2. Research question; how else could this question have been answered?
   3. Motivation and contribution
   4. Literature review
   5. Theoretical framework and hypotheses
   6. Research design including the sample, variables, and method of analysis
   7. Results; what does it contribute to practice?
   8. Conclusion, Limitations, future research

Penalties
In the event of unusual, unforeseen circumstances (e.g., serious illness, family bereavement),
causing absence from a class meeting students should discuss the waiver of any penalty with the
Course Coordinator as soon as possible after the event. Doctor’s certificate or similar evidence
should be provided

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 testing
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 party for other purposes.

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 12 June – Wednesday 1 July (inclusive)

Mandatory Course Requirements
Students must complete this course with a fair attempt at all items of assessment except where
non-completion is supported by a Doctor’s certificate or similar.

1 Each student will present on three papers during the semester, for up to 45 minutes.
2 Information about the project requirements will be distributed in Week 1.
If you cannot complete any required assessment or sit an examination, refer to
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegoratat

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 formal communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information
Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students via Blackboard.

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.
# ACCY 412 Course Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Learning objectives relevant to the assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Part 1: Dr Thu Phuong Truong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>Introduction Part 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>Issues in financial accounting research</td>
<td>Presentation on an article and leading discussion for up to 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>Corporate governance</td>
<td>Presentation on an article and leading discussion for up to 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Disclosure and regulation</td>
<td>Presentation on an article and leading discussion for up to 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>Accounting conservatism</td>
<td>Presentation on an article and leading discussion for up to 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mid-trimester break (April 6-19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Apr 22</td>
<td>Management compensation</td>
<td>Presentation on an article and leading discussion for up to 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Part 2: Dr Noor Houqe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Apr 29</td>
<td>Introduction Part 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>MAY 6</td>
<td>IFRS adoption and international accounting</td>
<td>Presentation on an article and leading discussion for up to 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Earnings quality</td>
<td>Presentation on an article and leading discussion for up to 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>Accounting information and share price</td>
<td>Presentation on an article and leading discussion for up to 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Activity Description</td>
<td>Assessment Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 May 27</td>
<td>Auditing</td>
<td>Presentation on an article and leading discussion for up to 45 minutes</td>
<td>Class involvement, spoken communication skills, evaluation of a research article (methods, findings strengths, weaknesses re methods)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 June 3</td>
<td>Corporate Social Responsibility</td>
<td>Presentation on an article and leading discussion for up to 45 minutes</td>
<td>Class involvement, spoken communication skills, evaluation of a research article (methods, findings strengths, weaknesses re methods)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Project</td>
<td></td>
<td>The overview of the project, research question, motivation and contribution, literature review, conceptual model and hypotheses, research design including the sample, variables and methods of analysis, results and conclusions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comprehensive final examination</td>
<td>Three hour examination</td>
<td>Reflection and critical analysis, synthesis, applying understanding of strengths and weaknesses of different research methods, written communication ability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Programme and Readings**

**Week 1: Introduction to the Course and Part 1, Dr Thu Phuong Truong**

- Presentation guidelines
- Assessment issues
- Core readings for weeks 2 to 6


**Week 2: Issues in financial accounting research**

Week 3: Corporate governance


Week 4: Disclosure and regulation


Week 5: Accounting conservatism


**Week 6: Management compensation**


**Week 7: Introduction Part 2, Dr Noor Houqe**

► Presentation guidelines
► Assessment issues
► Core readings for weeks 7 to 12


**Week 8: IFRS adoption and international accounting**

Week 9: Earnings quality


Week 10: Accounting information and share price


Week 11: Auditing

Week 12: Corporate Social Responsibility


******************************************************************************