BUSN7005

Contemporary Issues in Accounting

Course Description

This course engages students in critical analysis of the major approaches to the formulation of an accounting theory. The features, similarities, differences and merits or otherwise of alternative theoretical approaches to analysing and dealing with contemporary problems facing accounting and accountants are examined.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester and Year</th>
<th>S1 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mode of Delivery</td>
<td>On campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>BUSN7008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incompatible Courses</td>
<td>BUSN3001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Convener</td>
<td>Dr Colleen Hayes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Location</td>
<td>PAP Moran Room 2049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>61-2-6125 5597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:colleen.hayes@anu.edu.au">colleen.hayes@anu.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation hours</td>
<td>To be advised (on Wattle)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bio and research interests</td>
<td>Colleen Hayes has over twenty years of teaching experience at the tertiary level. She has taught financial accounting, accounting theory, corporate financial reporting and corporate social responsibility, accountability and reporting at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Her research interests include corporate governance, auditing, accounting history and reporting for sustainability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutors</td>
<td>Paul Grandoni, Syeda Haider &amp; Colleen Hayes. The contact details for Paul, Syeda and Colleen will be provided on Wattle at the beginning of the Semester.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the requirements for this course, students should be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the major approaches to the formulation of an accounting theory in relation to financial reporting
2. Critically evaluate the major accounting approaches to the measurement of income and capital
3. Explain the role of positive accounting theory in explaining and predicting accounting policy choice and the behaviour of the capital markets.
4. Evaluate ethical issues that arise in companies’ choice of accounting treatments
5. Critically evaluate the role of regulation in financial reporting
6. Research and analyse complex contemporary financial accounting issues, and formulate well-reasoned and coherent arguments and reach well-considered conclusions in relation to those issues
7. Critically analyse a selected contemporary issue in financial accounting and to communicate effectively in writing;
8. Apply the Harvard referencing system appropriately to written submissions

The specific learning objectives identified at the commencement of the lecture material for each of the topics are an integral part of the course/broad learning outcomes above.

Research-Led Teaching

This course builds on current research to examine contemporary issues in accounting, which includes research in other disciplines such as finance and economics. The course adopts an interactive approach to learning and teaching and draws from active learning pedagogies. Students are strongly encouraged to be an active participant in the learning process.

Continuous Improvement

We use feedback from students, professional bodies and staff to make regular improvements to the course. In response to this feedback, design improvements from the previous version of the course include:

- emphasis on critical thinking and critical analysis skills;
- emphasis on written communication, particularly on clear articulation of ideas and arguments;
- focusing on process and logic that lead to more robust conclusions; and
- expanding on the tutorial participation assessment criteria.

Requisites

It is a prerequisite of this course that students have satisfactorily completed BUSN7008, and you are not able to enrol in this course if you have previously completed BUSN3001
**Staff Feedback**

Students will be given feedback in various ways in this course, including verbal or written feedback on the return of assessment tasks, during class discussion, or during consultation with lecturers and tutors.

**Student Feedback**

All CBE courses are evaluated using Student Experience of Learning and Teaching (SELT) surveys, administered by Planning and Statistical Services at the ANU. These surveys are offered online, and students will be notified via email to their ANU address when surveys are available in each course. Feedback is used for course development so please take the time to respond thoughtfully. Course feedback is anonymous and provides the Colleges, University Education Committee and Academic Board with opportunities to recognise excellent teaching and to improve courses across the university. For more information on student surveys at ANU and reports on feedback provided on ANU courses, visit [http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/selt/students/](http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/selt/students/) and [http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/selt/results/learning/](http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/selt/results/learning/)

**Examination material or equipment**

Details regarding materials and equipment that is permitted in an examination room can be found on the ANU website:

[http://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/assessments-exams/examination-conduct](http://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/assessments-exams/examination-conduct)

Information regarding permitted examination materials for the course will be available on the examination timetable website when the examination timetable is released: [http://timetable.anu.edu.au/](http://timetable.anu.edu.au/)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>Summary of Activities/Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Corporate social responsibility accounting</td>
<td>KPMG 2015 Omran &amp; Ramdhony 2015 Other to be advised</td>
<td>Tutorial Questions Topic 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>No Lecture No Tutorial</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mid-semester examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Week beginning</td>
<td>Summary of Activities/Topic</td>
<td>References</td>
<td>Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
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<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tutorial Questions Topic 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COURSE ASSESSMENT**

**Assessment Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Linked Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>Each tutorial</td>
<td>Refer to Learning Outcomes (1) to (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week beginning April 18</td>
<td>Refer to Learning Outcomes (1) to (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mid-semester Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week beginning March 28</td>
<td>Refer to Learning Outcomes (1) to (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>University Examination Period</td>
<td>Refer to Learning Outcomes (1) to (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order to pass this course you must satisfactorily complete all of the foregoing items of assessment, including a mark of not less than 50% in the final examination; and an overall result of not less than 50% for the semester.

The details of the assignment will be distributed in a separate handout.

**Assessment Task 1: Tutorial Participation**

Details of task: Active contribution to tutorial discussions.

Assessment of your contributions in tutorials is designed to encourage you to participate in class discussion, motivate you to keep up to date with the weekly course lecture and reading materials and to prepare answers to the tutorial questions before coming to class. Active participation in tutorials helps you to learn the body of theoretical knowledge involved in the course and to develop practical and generic skills. The generic skills include oral, aural and language communication skills, social interaction, the sharing of ideas and concepts, respect for others’ points of view and the capacity to critique your peers’ responses.

Assessment Criteria:

Your participation in tutorials is graded on a scale of 0 (lowest) through 4 (highest), using the criteria listed in the marking template on the following page. The assessment will commence in the first week of tutorials. Your tutor will select who will be assessed each week and will record their performance, and the date, on the template. You will not know in which week you
will be assessed. All students will be assessed an equal number of times. You will be advised of your progressive mark during the mid-semester break and the final mark at the end of the semester. You will be provided with a copy of your assessment templates at those times.

**Marking template for tutorial participation and contribution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>- Absent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1     | - Tries to respond when called on but does not offer much  
- Demonstrates very infrequent involvement in discussion |
| 2     | - Demonstrates adequate preparation: knows basic reading materials, but does not show evidence of trying to interpret or analyse them.  
- Offers straightforward information (e.g., straight from the reading materials), without elaboration, or does so very infrequently (perhaps once a class).  
- Does not offer to contribute to discussion, but contributes to a moderate degree when called on.  
- Demonstrates sporadic involvement. |
| 3     | - Demonstrates good preparation: knows reading materials well, has thought through implications of them.  
- Offers interpretation and analysis of reading materials (more than just facts) to class.  
- Contributes well to discussion in an ongoing way: responds to other students’ points, thinks through own points, questions others in a constructive way, offers and supports suggestions that may be counter to the majority opinion.  
- Demonstrates consistent ongoing involvement. |
| 4     | - Demonstrates excellent preparation: has analysed the reading materials well.  
- Offers analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of materials.  
- Contributes in a very significant way to ongoing discussion: keeps analysis focused, responds very thoughtfully to other students’ comments, contributes to the cooperative argument-building.  
- Demonstrates ongoing very active involvement. |

**Assessment Task 2: Assignment**

Details of task:

The Assignment consists of an essay and referencing exercise. The referencing aspect of the Assignment highlights the standard of referencing required in a scholarly paper and at the same time, the related issue of plagiarism. Full details of the task, including the learning outcomes, will be provided early in the semester.

Assessment Criteria:

The assignment will be marked on the basis of your performance with respect to the learning outcomes that underpin the assessment item. Your overall performance will be assessed against the *Grade Related Descriptors* shown below.
Grade Related Descriptors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Depth and breadth of coverage</th>
<th>Critical elements</th>
<th>Structure, language and conventions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Distinction</td>
<td>80 - 100%</td>
<td>All aspects of the topic were addressed and researched in great depth.</td>
<td>All aspects of the writing conform to a high academic or professional standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>70% - 79%</td>
<td>Most aspects of the topic were addressed and researched in great depth.</td>
<td>Most aspects of the writing conform to a high academic or professional standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Pass</td>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
<td>Most aspects of the topic were addressed and researched adequately.</td>
<td>Most aspects of the writing conform to an acceptable academic or professional standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>50% - 59%</td>
<td>Key aspects of the topic were addressed and researched adequately.</td>
<td>The writing is presented with a basic structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>&lt;50%</td>
<td>The essay was superficial and / or inadequately addressed and researched the topic.</td>
<td>The essay demonstrates limited understanding of the context.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assignment Submission

The assignments is to be submitted via Turnitin using the course Wattle site. Please keep a copy of the assignment for your records.

The ANU uses Turnitin to enhance student citation and referencing techniques, and to assess assignment submissions as a component of the University's approach to managing Academic Integrity. For additional information regarding Turnitin please visit ANU Online.

Extensions and Penalties

Late Assessment Task Submission

No extensions will be granted on the due date for submission of the assignment.

The ANU policy dealing with extensions is available at the following web site: https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_004604
Returning Assignments

The Assignment will be returned via Wattle (Turnitin).

Examinations

Mid-semester Examination

The mid-semester test will be held in Week 7. Information on the general form and content of the test will be provided closer to the date.

Final Examination

The Final Exam will be held during the University’s Examination Period. Information on the form and content of the final examination will be provided closer to the date.

Scaling

Your final mark for the course will be based on the raw marks allocated for each assignment or examination. However, your final mark may not be the same number as produced by that formula, as marks may be scaled. Any scaling applied will preserve the rank order of raw marks (i.e. if your raw mark exceeds that of another student, then your scaled mark will exceed or equal the scaled mark of that student), and may be either up or down.

Referencing Requirements

This course adopts the Harvard referencing system.

READING LISTS

Prescribed Text


Recommended Reading


References for Weekly Reading List


TUTORIAL AND/OR SEMINAR REGISTRATION

Tutorial and/or Seminar signup for this course will be done via the Wattle website. Detailed information about signup times will be provided on Wattle or during your first lecture. When tutorials are available for enrolment, follow these steps:

1. Log on to Wattle, and go to the course site.
2. Click on the link “Tutorial signup here”
3. On the right of the screen, click on the tab “Become Member of …….” for the tutorial class you wish to enter.
4. Confirm your choice
If you need to change your enrolment, you will be able to do so by clicking on the tab “Leave group...” and then re-enrol in another group. You will not be able to enrol in groups that have reached their maximum number. Please note that enrolment in ISIS must be finalised for you to have access to Wattle.

COMMUNICATION

Email

If necessary, the lecturers and tutors for this course will contact students on their official ANU student email address. Information about your enrolment and fees from the Registrar and Student Services' office will also be sent to this email address.

Announcements

Suggested wording: Students are expected to check the Wattle site for announcements about this course, e.g. changes to timetables or notifications of cancellations. Notifications of emergency cancellations of lectures or tutorials will be posted on the door of the relevant room.

Course URLs

More information about this course may be found on:

- Programs and Courses (http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/2016/course/BUSN7005)
- the College of Business and Economics website (https://www.cbe.anu.edu.au/students/student-information/college-courses/) and
- Wattle (https://wattle.anu.edu.au), the University's online learning environment. Log on to Wattle using your student number and your ISIS password.

POLICIES

The University offers a number of support services for students. Information on these is available online from http://students.anu.edu.au/studentlife/

ANU has educational policies, procedures and guidelines, which are designed to ensure that staff and students are aware of the University’s academic standards, and implement them. You can find the University’s education policies and an explanatory glossary at: http://policies.anu.edu.au/

Students are expected to have read the Academic Misconduct Rules 2014 before the commencement of their course. Other key policies include:

- Copyright (http://copyright.anu.edu.au/)