

Course Outline

Code: ACC620

Title: Contemporary Accounting Issues

School:	Business
Teaching Session:	Semester 2
Year:	2019
Course Coordinator:	Associate Professor Monte Wynder
Course Moderator:	Leanda Garvie

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1 Description

In this course, you develop a deeper understanding of the function of accounting in today's complex business environment. You will be introduced to the role of theory in the development and application of accounting. You will reflect on the role of theory and research in understanding existing practice and guiding the evolution of accounting within a changing economic environment.

1.2 Field trips, WIL placements or activities required by professional accreditation

N/A

2. What level is this course?

600 level Specialised - Demonstrating a specialised body of knowledge and set of skills for professional practice or further learning. Advanced application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

Specific Learning Outcomes On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	Assessment tasks You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Explain and interpret contemporary commerce related knowledge and theory.	1, 2 and 3	Career-adaptive (Knowledgeable)
Demonstrate advanced written communication skills in a business context.	2	Written Communication (Empowered)
Develop a portfolio of strategic business skills for career progression.	1	Career-adaptive (Knowledgeable, Empowered)
Demonstrate an appreciation of the need to embrace, respect and manage diversity and foster inclusivity in a business context.	2	Cultural Awareness (Sustainability-focussed)

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1 Enrolment restrictions

Must be enrolled in a postgraduate program

5.2 Pre-requisites

ACC512 or ACC510

5.3 Co-requisites

Nil

5.4 Anti-requisites

Nil

5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

You will have a general knowledge of accounting principles and practice

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1 Grading scale

Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)

6.2 Details of early feedback on progress

Formative feedback will be provided through weekly tutorial discussion from Week2. Online quizzes will be provided on Blackboard.

6.3 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Product	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Portfolio	Individual	20%	1000 words	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
2	Literature Review (or component)	Individual	30%	1,500 words	Week 9, Friday, 5pm AEST	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
3	Examination	Individual	50%	2 hours	Central examination period	Exam Venue
			100%			

Assessment 1: Portfolio

Goal:	Develop a personal portfolio that demonstrates your understanding of the requirements for success in the accounting profession.
Product:	Portfolio
Format:	<p>This is an individual assessment with multiple means of presentation. Not to exceed five pages. Further details are provided on Blackboard.</p> <p>This task is being used for measuring assurance of learning towards Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation. The following Program Learning Objectives will be assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Learning Objective 6.1 Develop a portfolio of strategic business skills for career progression.
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate digital literacy skills for advanced communication and information sharing in a business context. • Develop a portfolio of strategic business skills for career progression.

Assessment Task 2: Literature Review

Goal:	Demonstrate your ability to apply theoretical frameworks
Product:	Literature review (or component)
Format:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an individual assessment. You will apply an assigned theoretical framework to a contemporary business context. Further details are provided on Blackboard. <p>This task is being used for measuring assurance of learning towards Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation. The following Program Learning Objectives will be assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Learning Objective 1.1 - Demonstrate advanced written communication skills in a business context. • Program Learning Objective 5.1 Demonstrate an appreciation of the need to embrace, respect and manage diversity and foster inclusivity in a business context.
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate advanced written communication skills in applying theory to a contemporary accounting issue. • Recognise the importance of diversity and inclusivity in evaluating a business scenario.

Assessment Task 3: Final examination

Goal:	To demonstrate your understanding of the role of accounting theory, generally, and to apply specific theory to accounting issues
Product:	Examination
Format:	This is an individual assessment – two hours comprising short and long answer questions.
Criteria:	The accuracy of your interpretation and application of accounting theory.

7. Directed study hours

The directed study hours listed here are a portion of the workload for this course. A 12 unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

Location:	Directed study hours for location:
On campus	Lecture (2 hours) Tutorial (1 hour)

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note that course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site. Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1 Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below as they are required:

Author	Year	Title	Publisher
Rankin, M., Ferlauto, K., McGowan, S., and McGowan, P.	2017, 2 nd edn.	<i>Contemporary Issues in Accounting</i>	Brisbane: Wiley
NOTE: You are expected to read the financial press (for example, the Australian Financial Review) and apply the concepts developed in this course to current financial topics.			

8.2 Specific requirements

Access to a computer with an internet connection, either on-campus or at home

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low.

It is your responsibility as a student to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers, and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1 Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2 Assessment: Additional requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
- b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- c) You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3 Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks will be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day
- 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late.

To request an extension, you must contact your Course Coordinator and supply the required documentation to negotiate an outcome.

10.4 Study help

In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to [Student Hub](#).

Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au

10.5 Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website:

<http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.6 General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au

Appendix 1 Course content

Week # / Module #	What key concepts/content will I learn?	Directed Study Activities: teaching components
1	Accounting theory construction	Lecture
2	Building a personal portfolio	Lecture and tutorial Assigned questions
3	Conducting a research project	Lecture No Tutorial – Materials available online
4	Theories of regulation and standard setting	Lecture and tutorial Assigned questions
5	Sustainability and environmental accounting	Lecture and tutorial Assigned questions
6	Accounting measurement systems	Lecture and tutorial Assigned questions
7	Theories in accounting	Lecture and tutorial Assigned questions
8	Products of the Financial Reporting Process	Lecture and tutorial Assigned questions
9	Earnings management	Lecture and tutorial Assigned questions
10	Capital Markets Research	Lecture and tutorial Assigned questions
11	Behavioural research in accounting	Lecture and tutorial Assigned questions
12	Contemporary accounting issue	Lecture and tutorial Assigned questions
13	Revision	Lecture

Please note that the course activities may be subject to variation.

Mid Semester Break:

30th September 2019–6th October 2019 (Between Week 10 and Week 11)

Public Holidays

Queen's Birthday- Monday 7th October(Week11)