Course Outline

Code: ACC620
Title: Contemporary Accounting Issues

School: Business
Teaching Session: Semester 2
Year: 2020
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 will develop a deeper understanding of the changing nature of the accounting profession and how you can be career-adaptive in the modern business world. Using advanced critical thinking and communication skills, you will evaluate, analyse, and theorise about developments that contribute to professional practice in accounting. Current issues include questioning the need for regulation and the form that accounting standards should take, the challenges of reporting on sustainability and the way in which assets and liabilities should be measured. Articulating your arguments with reference to contemporary research, you will increase your analytic skills and your cultural awareness as you investigate the effect of business upon the environment and society.

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?

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

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

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

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

**Assessment 1: Portfolio**

**Goal:** Develop a personal portfolio that demonstrates your understanding of the requirements for success in the accounting profession.

**Product:** Portfolio

**Format:** Multiple means of presentation. Further details are provided on Blackboard. 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:

- Program Learning Objective 6.1 Develop a portfolio of strategic business skills for career progression.

**Criteria:**

- Demonstration of digital literacy skills for advanced communication and information sharing in a business context.
- Development of 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:** You will apply an assigned theoretical framework to a contemporary business context. Further details are provided on Blackboard. 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:

- 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:**

- Demonstration of advanced written communication skills in applying theory to a contemporary accounting issue.
- Recognition of the importance of diversity and inclusivity in evaluating a business scenario.
Assessment Task 3: Final examination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal:</th>
<th>To demonstrate your understanding of the role of accounting theory, generally, and to apply specific theory to accounting issues.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Product:</td>
<td>Examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Format:</td>
<td>Three hours open book exam comprising short and long answer questions. Further information will be provided on Blackboard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria:</td>
<td>Interpretation and application of accounting theory.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Directed study hours

This course will be delivered via technology-enabled learning and teaching. All lectures will remain in this mode for Semester 2 2020.

When government guidelines allow, students that elected on-campus study via the class selection process will be advised when on campus tutorials and practical sessions will resume.

Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

Each week:
- 1 hour on-line lecture
- 1 hour interactive tutorial
- 1 hour digital content
- 9.5 hours independent study (including assessment work)

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


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 Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing Support Staff are available to assist on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your success. Student Wellbeing is comprised of professionally qualified staff in counselling, health and disability Services.

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, mental health issue, learning disorder, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability, AccessAbility Services can provide assistance, advocacy and reasonable academic adjustments.

To book an appointment with either service go to Student Hub, email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or accessibility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226

10.6 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

10.7 General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** – Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **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

Appendix 1 Course content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week # / Module #</th>
<th>What key concepts/content will I learn?</th>
<th>Directed Study Activities: teaching components</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Accounting theory construction</td>
<td>Narrated PowerPoints and digital content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Building a personal portfolio</td>
<td>Lecture, interactive tutorial, and digital content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Conducting a research project</td>
<td>Lecture, interactive tutorial, and digital content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Theories of regulation and standard setting</td>
<td>Lecture and digital content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sustainability and environmental accounting</td>
<td>Lecture, interactive tutorial, and digital content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Accounting measurement systems</td>
<td>Lecture, interactive tutorial, and digital content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Theories in accounting</td>
<td>Lecture, interactive tutorial, and digital content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Products of the Financial Reporting Process</td>
<td>Lecture, interactive tutorial, and digital content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Earnings management</td>
<td>Lecture, interactive tutorial, and digital content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Capital Markets Research</td>
<td>Lecture, interactive tutorial, and digital content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Behavioural research in accounting</td>
<td>Lecture, interactive tutorial, and digital content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Contemporary accounting issue</td>
<td>Lecture, interactive tutorial, and digital content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Revision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Mid Semester Break:**
28th September 2020-4th October 2020 (Between Week 10 and Week 11)

**Public Holidays**
Queen's Birthday - Monday 5th Oct 2020 (Week 11)