



COURSE OUTLINE

ACC620 Contemporary Accounting Issues

Course Coordinator: Monte Wynder (mwynder@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Business and Creative Industries

2021 | Semester 2

USC Southbank

ON CAMPUS

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

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. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop 1	1hr	Not applicable	Not Yet Determined
Lecture	2hrs	Not applicable	Not Yet Determined

1.3. Course Topics

- 1 Accounting theory construction
- 2 Building a personal portfolio
- 3 Conducting a research project
- 4 Theories of regulation and standard setting
- 5 Sustainability and environmental accounting
- 6 Accounting measurement systems
- 7 Theories in accounting
- 8 Products of the Financial Reporting Process
- 9 Earnings management
- 10 Capital Markets Research
- 11 Behavioural research in accounting
- 12 Contemporary accounting issue

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?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business
1 Explain and interpret contemporary commerce related knowledge and theory.	Knowledgeable	PC1.1 - Written Communication PC3 - Creative and Critical Thinking
2 Demonstrate advanced written communication skills in a business context.	Empowered Engaged	PC1.1 - Written Communication
3 Develop a portfolio of strategic business skills for career progression.	Knowledgeable Empowered	PC1.3 - Digital Literacy PC6 - Career-adaptive
4 Demonstrate an appreciation of the need to embrace, respect and manage diversity and foster inclusivity in a business context.	Ethical Sustainability-focussed	PC4 - Community Consciousness PC5 - Cultural Awareness

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. Pre-requisites

ACC510 and enrolled in any PGRD Program

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. 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 Grading (GRD)

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 Week 2.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Portfolio	Individual	20%	1000 words	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Literature Review (or component)	Individual	30%	1,500 words	Week 9	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	50%	2 hours	Exam Period	Online Test (Quiz)

All - Assessment Task 1: Portfolio

GOAL:	Develop a personal portfolio that demonstrates your understanding of the requirements for success in the accounting profession.		
PRODUCT:	Portfolio		
FORMAT:	This is an individual assessment with 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:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstrate digital literacy skills for advanced communication and information sharing in a business context.	2
	2	Develop a portfolio of strategic business skills for career progression.	3

All - Assessment Task 2: Literature Review

GOAL:	Demonstrate your ability to apply theoretical frameworks		
PRODUCT:	Literature Review (or component)		
FORMAT:	This is an individual assessment. 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:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstrate advanced written communication skills in applying theory to a contemporary accounting issue.	1
	2	Recognise the importance of diversity and inclusivity in evaluating a business scenario.	4

All - 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 - Centrally Scheduled	
FORMAT:	This is an individual assessment - two hours comprising short and long answer questions.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 The accuracy of your interpretation and application of accounting theory.	1

7. Directed study hours

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.

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

Please note: 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. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	PUBLISHER
Required	Rankin, M., Ferlauto, K., McGowan, S., and McGowan, P.	2017	Contemporary Issues in Accounting	Brisbane: Wiley

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 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 and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training 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

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

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may 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 to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. 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>

10.8. 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 Manly and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au