



ACCG950

Contemporary Accounting Practice

S1 Evening 2015

Dept of Accounting & Corporate Governance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Catriona Lavermicocca

catriona.lavermicocca@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email or Phone on 9850-8528

E4A308

Monday 10 am till 12 noon

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

16cp in units at 800 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit aims to consolidate learning across postgraduate studies in accounting with focus on strategic issues in financial accounting, management accounting, audit and assurance, information systems and business law preparing students for employment in a complex business environment. As a key member of a business organisation, an accountant needs to have an awareness of contemporary issues affecting business, be able to identify and manage business risk while maintaining an entrepreneurial and innovative approach. Using real life case studies, through work experience opportunities and presentations by industry leaders, this unit develops the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare students to deal with contemporary issues and develop their leadership and entrepreneurial skills. This unit will require students to think critically, ethically and strategically in solving business problems whilst integrating technical knowledge and professional skills. This unit also provides an opportunity for students to further develop and consolidate their graduate capabilities, particularly their analytical, critical and integrative thinking skills, their professional judgement and problem solving capabilities and most importantly their role as engaged global citizens.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.

Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.

Demonstrate professional judgment and problem solving capabilities.

Demonstrate the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to accountants and non-accountants

Demonstrate an awareness of emerging social, ethical and regulatory issues relevant to an accounting practitioner.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Presentation</u>	10%	Week 4
<u>Report</u>	20%	Week 7
<u>Case Study</u>	30%	Week 11
<u>Reflective portfolio</u>	40%	Week 13

Presentation

Due: **Week 4**

Weighting: **10%**

The Future for Professional Accountants - Class Debate

This assessment task requires students to research recent articles and professional commentary on the role of professional accountants today and in the future.

Each student will be allocated a role in completing the assessment task as detailed in the Assessment Guide.

The Debate will be conducted in class in Week 4 (on 19 March 2015).

This assessment task requires students to make an oral presentation as well as a written submission.

Submission: Must be submitted in your designated class

Extension: No extensions will be granted.

Penalties: Students who have not submitted the task prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for this task, except for cases in which an application for disruption to studies is made and approved.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.
- Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
- Demonstrate professional judgment and problem solving capabilities.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to accountants and non-accountants
- Demonstrate an awareness of emerging social, ethical and regulatory issues relevant to an accounting practitioner.

Report

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **20%**

Based on an ethical issue identified, must be completed individually and the word limit that applies to this report is 2000 words.

Further details are provided in the Assessment Guide available on ilearn.

Submission: This report must be submitted in class on 23 April 2015.

Extension: No extensions will be granted.

Penalties: Students who have not submitted the task prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for this task, except for cases in which an application for disruption to studies is made and approved.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.
- Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
- Demonstrate professional judgment and problem solving capabilities.
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- Demonstrate an awareness of emerging social, ethical and regulatory issues relevant to an accounting practitioner.

Case Study

Due: **Week 11**

Weighting: **30%**

The case study will require students to analyse a set of facts and relevant information to draft a report (Max 2,500 words) including a set of recommendations to address and advise on the issues raised in the case study. The case study will focus on business strategy and require a consideration of corporate social responsibility issues. Students will be required to exercise professional judgement as well as to work in a team.

This assessment task is to be completed in groups and you will be allocated to a group by the unit convenor.

Guidelines used in marking the case study will be provided on ilearn.

Submission: Must be submitted in class on 18 May 2015.

Extension: No extensions will be granted.

Penalties: Students who have not submitted the task prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task, except for cases in which an application for disruption to studies is made and approved.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.
- Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
- Demonstrate professional judgment and problem solving capabilities.
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Reflective portfolio

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

A written comprehensive portfolio of work that is worth 40% of the overall grade is to be completed throughout the duration of this unit, with a final report/reflective journal due for submission in class on 4 June, 2015. The comprehensive portfolio will be marked out of 40 and comprise of individual tasks, which are to be completed in class and will require further work and writing up after class (25/40) and a final report/reflective journal (15/40). The portfolio of work will

form the content required to complete the final report/reflective journal that is submitted and graded at the completion of the session. Individual student reflections will be presented by students in Week 13.

Please see more detailed information provided in the Assessment Guide.

Without exception, any evidence of plagiarism discovered in submitted assignments will result in a detailed investigation and may result in a fail grade in the unit and exclusion from the University.

Submission: Must be submitted in class on 4 June 2015.

Extension: No extensions will be granted.

Penalties: Students who have not submitted the task prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task, except for cases in which an application for disruption to studies is made and approved.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.
- Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
- Demonstrate professional judgment and problem solving capabilities.
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Delivery and Resources

Classes

- This unit includes thirteen three-hour weekly seminars (classes) as detailed in this unit guide.
- The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/>
- Class attendance for this unit is compulsory.
- Students are expected to get involved in class discussion and debate including in-class completion of simulations and case studies.

Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials

Prescribed textbooks:

There are no recommended texts for this unit however materials will be provided under each of the week headings in ilearn and in some cases distributed in class.

You must have read the relevant materials before coming to class and in completing the assessment tasks as well as undertaking your own further research. Direction will be provided by the lecturer on additional research materials.

Unit Web Page

You are required to access a computer and the internet at various times in completing this unit, to download course material available on the learning management system (ilearn) and to complete assessment tasks.

Unit Schedule

Week	Lecture	Presentation	Seminar date
01	Seminar 1 Introduction, what we will be doing in this unit, graduate capabilities, program learning goals and reflective practice. Challenges faced in transition to the workplace and employer's expectations.		Week commencing 23 February
02	Seminar 2 Developing the ability to think critically and communicate ideas - core skills required in a professional accountant. Putting together a reflective portfolio.		Week commencing 2 March
03	Seminar 3 Business and regulatory environment - Current domestic and international issues facing business. Student alumni presentations on their accounting journey to date.		Week commencing 9 March
04	Seminar 4 Debate - The future for professional accountants.		Week commencing 16 March
05	Seminar 5 Ethical challenges including case studies in financial crime, fraud, money laundering and tax evasion.		Week commencing 23 March

06	<p>Seminar 6</p> <p>Beyond financial reporting - a corporate social responsibility perspective.</p>		Week commencing 30 March
		Mid-session break	3 April to 19 April
07	<p>Seminar 7</p> <p>Business Strategy - formulation and implementation.</p>		Week commencing 20 April
08	<p>Seminar 8</p> <p>The importance of leadership as a capability - theory and practice.</p> <p>Harvard Simulation project in class.</p>		Week commencing 27 April
09	<p>Seminar 9</p> <p>Employment strategies, human resources environment, setting career goals and performance management.</p>		Week commencing 4 May
10	<p>Seminar 10</p> <p>Business culture.</p>		Week commencing 11 May
11	<p>Seminar 11</p> <p>Managing risk - entrepreneurship, innovation and productivity.</p>		Week commencing 18 May
12	<p>Seminar 12</p> <p>Linkedin, twitter and getting connected.</p> <p>Professional programs and further education.</p> <p>Networking and alumni.</p>		Week commencing 25 May
13	<p>Seminar 13</p> <p>Student reflective presentations.</p>		Week commencing 1 June

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit <ask.mq.edu.au>.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at <ask.mq.edu.au>

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.
- Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
- Demonstrate professional judgment and problem solving capabilities.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to accountants and non-accountants
- Demonstrate an awareness of emerging social, ethical and regulatory issues relevant to an accounting practitioner.

Assessment tasks

- Presentation
- Report
- Case Study
- Reflective portfolio

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of

professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.

- Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
- Demonstrate professional judgment and problem solving capabilities.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to accountants and non-accountants
- Demonstrate an awareness of emerging social, ethical and regulatory issues relevant to an accounting practitioner.

Assessment tasks

- Presentation
- Report
- Case Study
- Reflective portfolio

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.
- Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
- Demonstrate an awareness of emerging social, ethical and regulatory issues relevant to an accounting practitioner.

Assessment tasks

- Presentation
- Report
- Case Study
- Reflective portfolio

Changes from Previous Offering

Addition of research and practice, global and sustainability.

No other changes from the previous offering of ACCG924

Research & Practice, Global & Sustainability

This unit addresses global and sustainability issues and the relevant implications arising from the materials, assessment, academic discussion and debate in classes/seminars. The unit promotes sustainability by developing the ability in students to research and locate information relating to recent developments in the accounting profession, ethics, leadership and strategy. Throughout the unit additional references and materials are provided to facilitate research.