ACCG927
Current Issues in Accounting and Corporate Governance
S1 Day 2016
Dept of Accounting & Corporate Governance

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http://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/55221/unit_guide/print
General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor
Johannes Dumay
john.dumay@mq.edu.au
Contact via Email
329 E4A
Tuesday 17:00 to 18:00 Room E3B 117

Adjunct Lecturer
Mark McCoy
mark.mccoy@mq.edu.au
Contact via Email
E4A Level 2
TBA

Adjunct Lecturer
Allyson Cox
allyson.cox@mq.edu.au
Contact via Email
E4A Level 2
TBA

Adjunct Lecturer
Charles Koh
charles.koh@mq.edu.au
Contact via Email
City Campus
TBA

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
ACCG848 or ACCG921 or ACCG923

Corequisites

Co-badged status
Unit description
This is an advanced unit in financial accounting and corporate governance which examines
accounting theories and their relationship to a broad range of issues of current concern to
both the accounting profession and accounting information users. Given the current focus and
importance of global harmonisation and the convergence of accounting and corporate
governance, students are required to examine current issues and problems in complex
contexts using social, ethical, economic, political and global perspectives. Students will also
be required to analyse relevant scholarly research papers. The objective of the unit is for
students to critically evaluate accounting theories, governance policies and procedures.
Students will use critical analysis skills to evaluate, synthesise and judge through research
and essay writing. Research findings are used to underpin all theories. Students will be
challenged to question the foundations of accounting and corporate governance and to think
critically about current issues in accounting and accountability.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an advanced level of theoretical accounting knowledge, including
knowledge in financial and management accounting, and corporate governance
2. Identify relevant research methods and principles applicable to accounting
3. Conduct independent research to recommend appropriate solutions to complex business
problems
4. Demonstrate communication skills relevant to an appropriate professional environment
5. Demonstrate awareness of the need for corporate social responsibility and ethical
behaviour

General Assessment Information

Expected workload for students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly seminars including in-class case studies</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for case studies and tests</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research and Practice, Global and Sustainability

This unit addresses global and sustainability issues as direct areas of study and as necessary implications arising from the materials, assessment and academic discussion and debate in classes/seminars. We promote sustainability by developing ability in students to research and locate information within accounting discipline. We aim to provide students with an opportunity to obtain skills which will benefit them throughout their career.

The unit materials have a reference list at the end of each chapter/module/text containing all references cited by the author. These provide some guidance to references that could be used to research particular issues.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>Weeks 3,4,5,7,8,10,11,12,13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class tests</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>Weeks 6 and 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>9 am 23 May 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>During examination period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Presentation

Due: **Weeks 3,4,5,7,8,10,11,12,13**
Weighting: **16%**

- Task Description

For 9 of the 13 weeks you will participate in group case studies which are designed to help you develop skills for working together as you might in a work situation. The case studies are formative assessments that engage you directly with the concepts covered in the weekly readings and with a real life accounting and corporate governance situation. It allows you to
develop skills to analyse a real life accounting or corporate governance situation and argue for taking a particular course of action. The first case study will not be used for your final grade and each of subsequent eight case studies is worth 2% or your grade.

● **Assessment Criteria**

1. Presentation, communication & style (written)
2. Use of literature/ Knowledge of theory
3. Data/information gathering/processing
4. Conclusions
5. Critical reasoning / critical thinking
6. Time management/self management
7. Interactive and group skills (include. Teamwork, Negotiation/micro-politics & empathy)
8. Presentation / communication (oral)

● **Other Information**

The group case study will be assessed by the lecturer using the following criteria:

- How the argument and critique shows a good appreciation of the weekly lectures and readings.
- Shows evidence of an overall integrative view how the issues raised in the readings are used and applied to the case study with some reflection on past.
- Evidence that the group has participated as a whole and no one member dominates.

**Extensions**

There are no extensions for this assessment. Students must be present in Class when the presentation is prepared and given or else they will receive a zero grade and the group members present will only receive a grade.

**Penalties**

Students not attending the class to prepare the presentation will be given a 0 grade. This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Disruption to Studies is made and approved. In an approved Disruption to Studies case your averaged grade for classes attended will be used.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an advanced level of theoretical accounting knowledge, including knowledge in financial and management accounting, and corporate governance
- Demonstrate communication skills relevant to an appropriate professional environment
Class tests

Due: Weeks 6 and 9
Weighting: 14%

Task Description

For 2 of the 13 weeks you will have an in-class case study test designed to help you develop skills for your essay assignment and final exam. The case studies are formative assessments that test your knowledge of concepts covered in the weekly lectures and readings and with a real life accounting and corporate governance situation.

● Assessment Criteria

1. Presentation, communication & style (written)
2. Use of literature/ Knowledge of theory
3. Data/information gathering/processing
4. Conclusions
5. Critical reasoning / critical thinking
6. Time management/self management

● Other Information

The case study will be assessed by the lecturer using the following criteria:

- How the argument and critique shows a good appreciation of the weekly readings.
- Shows evidence of an overall integrative view how the issues raised in the lectures and readings are used and applied to the case study.

Extensions

There are no extensions for this assessment. Students must be present in Class to participate.

Penalties

Students not attending the class test will be given a 0 grade. This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Disruption to Studies is made and approved. In an approved Disruption to Studies case you will be asked to sit a makeup test under the supervision of the Unit Coordinator or your Lecturer.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an advanced level of theoretical accounting knowledge, including knowledge in financial and management accounting, and corporate governance
Research Essay
Due: 9 am 23 May 2016
Weighting: 40%

● Task Description
The purpose of the individual essay is to allow you to put accounting and corporate governance concepts into practice in a real life setting and allow you to demonstrate your research and writing skills on an individual basis. The assignment and the arguments you develop should help you reflect on your learning and link accounting theory to practice. This is a formative assessment designed to prepare you for the final exam.

● Assessment Criteria
- Conforming with instructions (e.g. word length, font, other instructions)
- Clarity of expression (including grammar, spelling, referencing)
- Presentation, communication & structure
- Use of literature/ Knowledge of theory
- Analysis / critical reasoning / evaluation
- Problem solving / synthesis or evaluation / reflection

Extensions
No extensions will be granted. Late tasks will be accepted up to 72 hours after the submission deadline.

Penalties
There will be a deduction of 20% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 40% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Disruption to Studies is made and approved. In an approved Disruption to Studies case you will be granted a new submission date submission deadline.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- Identify relevant research methods and principles applicable to accounting
- Conduct independent research to recommend appropriate solutions to complex business problems
- Demonstrate communication skills relevant to an appropriate professional environment
- Demonstrate awareness of the need for corporate social responsibility and ethical behaviour
Final exam

Due: During examination period
Weighting: 30%

● Task Description

The final exam is summative assessment designed to let you demonstrate the knowledge and skills you have attained in the previous three formative assessments.

● Assessment Criteria

1. Conforming with instructions (e.g. word length, font, other instructions)
2. Presentation, communication & style (written)
3. Clarity of expression (incl. accuracy, spelling, grammar, punctuation)
4. Use of literature/ Knowledge of theory
5. Conclusions
6. Conceptualisation

A two hour final examination for this unit will be held during the University Examination period. The University Examination period in the First Half Year 2016 is from 13 - 24 June, 2016. You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations.

http://exams.mq.edu.au/ The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Disruption to Studies. The University’s policy on Disruption to Studies is available at


If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Disruption to Studies the examination will be scheduled as per the Supplementary Examination timetable of the Faculty. Please note that the supplementary examination will be of the similar format as the final examination.

The Macquarie university examination policy details the principles and conduct of examinations at the University. The policy is available at: http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/examination/policy.htm Further details about the final exam for this unit will be available in the final week of classes and also on the unit web page (iLearn).
To pass this unit you must pass (obtain at least 50%) in the overall performance and you must pass (obtain at least 50%) in the final examination.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an advanced level of theoretical accounting knowledge, including knowledge in financial and management accounting, and corporate governance
- Demonstrate awareness of the need for corporate social responsibility and ethical behaviour

**Delivery and Resources**


It is essential that all students purchase a text as it will be used as a learning resource in and out of the classroom on a weekly basis. Students purchasing an e-Book will need to ensure they bring their laptop or tablet to class every week. Students purchasing a hard copy must also bring the text with them every week. Failure to bring the book and or copies of assigned readings to class will demonstrate that you are not prepared to participate in your weekly group work and will cause your group to lose marks.

**ACCG927 Additional Readings**

**Week 01**


**Week 02**


**Week 03**


**Week 04**

Week 05


Week 06


Week 07


Week 08


Week 09


Week 10


Week 11


Week 12


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**Unit Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Start date</th>
<th>Part 1 - Application</th>
<th>Part 2 - Lecture</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

http://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/55221/unit_guide/print
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reference(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>29/2/2016</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Accounting (CH1)</td>
<td>Facione (2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>21/3/2016</td>
<td>Group Case study 1</td>
<td>Corporate Failure (CH13)</td>
<td>Carnegie &amp; O’Connell (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/4/2016</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18/4/2016</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2/5/2016</td>
<td>Group Case study 4</td>
<td>Fair Value Accounting (CH10)</td>
<td>Cairns et al (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>16/5/2016</td>
<td>Group Case study 5</td>
<td>Earnings Management (CH9)</td>
<td>Habib &amp; Hossain (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>6/6/2015</td>
<td>Group Case study 8</td>
<td>Exam review</td>
<td>Essay Feedback</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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:


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/](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](http://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/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://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
Student Enquiry Service
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

Equity 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.

IT Help
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities
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
- Demonstrate an advanced level of theoretical accounting knowledge, including knowledge in financial and management accounting, and corporate governance
- Identify relevant research methods and principles applicable to accounting
- Conduct independent research to recommend appropriate solutions to complex business problems
- Demonstrate awareness of the need for corporate social responsibility and ethical behaviour

Assessment tasks
- Presentation
- Class tests
- Research Essay
- Final exam

http://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/55221/unit_guide/print
PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Demonstrate an advanced level of theoretical accounting knowledge, including knowledge in financial and management accounting, and corporate governance
• Identify relevant research methods and principles applicable to accounting
• Conduct independent research to recommend appropriate solutions to complex business problems
• Demonstrate communication skills relevant to an appropriate professional environment

Assessment tasks

• Presentation
• Class tests
• Research Essay
• Final exam

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment tasks

• Class tests
• Final exam

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:
Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an advanced level of theoretical accounting knowledge, including knowledge in financial and management accounting, and corporate governance
- Identify relevant research methods and principles applicable to accounting
- Conduct independent research to recommend appropriate solutions to complex business problems
- Demonstrate communication skills relevant to an appropriate professional environment
- Demonstrate awareness of the need for corporate social responsibility and ethical behaviour

Assessment tasks

- Presentation
- Research Essay