



# ACCG8127

## Current Issues in Accounting and Corporate Governance

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

*Department of Accounting & Corporate Governance*

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#### Disclaimer

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor and Lecturer

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See iLearn

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Contact via Email

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

ACCG848 or ACCG8048 or ACCG921 or ACCG8121 or ACCG923 or ACCG8123

Corequisites

Co-badged status

with ACCG7027

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

available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

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

**ULO1:** Demonstrate an advanced level of theoretical accounting knowledge, including knowledge in financial and management accounting and corporate governance, and critically apply knowledge in a range of contexts.

**ULO2:** Evaluate relevant quantitative research methods and principles applicable to accounting.

**ULO4:** Demonstrate communication skills relevant to an appropriate professional environment.

**ULO3:** Conduct independent research to recommend appropriate solutions to complex business problems.

**ULO5:** Appreciate the need for corporate social responsibility and ethical thinking

## Assessment Tasks

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Assessment details are no longer provided here as a result of changes due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students should consult [iLearn](#) for revised unit information.

[Find out more about the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and potential impacts on staff and students](#)

## Delivery and Resources

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19.

Please check here for updated delivery information: [https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit\\_status](https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status)

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Required Text:</b>                     | <p><b>Required Texts and/or Materials</b></p> <p>The text book for ACCG927 is Rankin M., Ferlauto K., McGowan S. and Stanton P. (2018) <i>Contemporary Issues In Accounting</i> (Second Edition) John Wiley and Sons, Milton, Qld. ISBN 9780730343530</p> <p>Textbook can be purchased through:</p> <p><a href="https://www.wiley.com/en-au/Contemporary+Issues+in+Accounting%2C+2nd+Edition-p-9780730343530">https://www.wiley.com/en-au/Contemporary+Issues+in+Accounting%2C+2nd+Edition-p-9780730343530</a>.</p> <p><b>Please note: The 1st edition of the required text, either hard copy or ebook, is no longer appropriate for ACCG927.</b></p> <p>It is essential that all students bring their device to access the E Book on a weekly basis as it will be used as a learning resource each week throughout the semester. Failure to bring your device 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. Individual students not coming to class prepared to participate in group work will not be able to share in the group mark for that week.</p> |
| <b>Unit Web Page:</b>                     | <p>Course material is available on Macquarie University's learning management system (iLearn).The unit web site (iLearn) is available via the link below: <a href="https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/">https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/</a></p> <p>Technology Used and Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· iLearn</li> </ul> <p>This unit will use Macquarie University's online technology for students to access course material, announcements as well as any other documents related to this unit. Students are required to regularly check the website for accessing up-to-date information about this unit. The unit web site is available via the link below: <a href="https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/">https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/</a></p> <p>Students need to have username and password to access to the unit web site. Please contact iLearn directly if you have any difficulties to access to the unit site. iLearn Student Help can be found from the following link: <a href="http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/help-pages/students.htm">http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/help-pages/students.htm</a></p>  |
| <b>Technology Used and Required:</b>      |  |
| <b>Delivery Format and Other Details:</b> | <p><b>Classes</b></p> <p>This unit is taught in the form of weekly three-hour class. Students are required to enrol in one class for this unit. You can also access details of scheduled classes through the university's timetable facility (<a href="https://timetables.mq.edu.au/2019/">https://timetables.mq.edu.au/2019/</a>). Changes to lecture time are managed by the on-line enrolment system. Please note that it is students' responsibility to check your class time and venue and ensure that you attend your registered class each week. The attendance records will be kept by lecturers. On-line registration changes to lectures will be shut down at the end of <b>Week 1</b> so all changes must be made by then.</p>  |
| <b>Recommended Readings:</b>              |  |
| <b>Other Course Materials:</b>            |  |

## Consultation Times

The consultation timetable will be posted on the unit iLearn webpage at the beginning of the session. You are encouraged to seek help at a time that is convenient to you from a staff member teaching on this unit during their regular consultation hours. In special circumstances, an appointment may be made outside regular consultation hours. Staff will not conduct consultations by email. You may, however, phone staff during their consultation hours. In order to gain access to staff located at levels 2 and 3 of building E4A during their consultation hours please ring the staff member from the phones available in the lobby (phone numbers of relevant

staff members will be provided on iLearn and are available next to the phones).

Students experiencing significant difficulties with any topic in the unit must seek assistance immediately.

## Unit Schedule

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The unit schedule/topics and any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19. Please consult [iLearn](#) for latest details, and check here for updated delivery information: [https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit\\_status](https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status)

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Week 1 | Introduction to Critical Thinking (Lecture)  |
|        | Enron Corporate Collapse videoclip<br>The ABC of a Corporate Collapse videoclips<br>Essay structuring using IDEALS framework (Handout)<br>Academic writing and argumentation |
|        |  |
| Week 2 | Research skills (Topic)  |
|        | Demonstration - End note and referencing (Handout)<br>Library Databases (Handout)  |
|        | Critical thinking reflection - Introduction<br>Review of common quantitative methods in research   |
|        |  |
| Week 3 | CH 1: Contemporary issues in accounting  |
|        | CH 5: Theories in Accounting   |
|        | Presentation 1- Case Study   |
|        |  |
| Week 4 | CH 4: Measurement  |
|        | CH6: Products of the financial reporting process   |
|        | Presentation 2 - Quantitative Research Critique  |
|        | Amar and Zeghal (2016)   |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
|                |  |
| Week 5         | CH7: Corporate Governance  |
|                | Christensen, Kent and Stewart (2010)                               |
|                | Presentation 3 - Case Study  |
|                |  |
| Week 6         | CH7: Corporate Failure   |
|                | Carnegie and O'Connell (2014)<br>Hamilton and Micklethwaite (2006) |
|                | <b>Class Quiz 30 March 2020</b>                                    |
|                | Group Critical Reflection  |
|                |  |
| Week 7         | CH9: Earnings management   |
|                | Presentation 4 - Quantitative Research Critique                    |
|                | Critique article_TBD   |
|                |  |
| Semester break | Work on Essay  |
|                |  |
|                |  |
| Week 8         | CH10: Fair value accounting  |
|                | Presentation 5 - Quantitative Research Critique                    |
|                | Critique article_TBD   |
|                | <b>Essay due 1 May 2020 1pm</b>                                    |
|                |  |
| Week 9         | CH12: International accounting                                     |
|                | Morris, Gray, Pickering and Aisbitt (2014)                         |
|                | Presentation 6 - Quantitative Research Critique                    |

|         |  |
|---------|--|
|         |  |
| Week 10 | CH11: Sustainability and environmental accounting                                    |
|         | Milne and Gray (2014) & GRI Guidelines   |
|         | Presentation 7 - Case Study  |
|         |  |
| Week 11 | Integrated reporting (Topic)   |
|         | Dumay, Bernardi, Guthrie, and Demartini (2016) & Integrated Reporting Framework 2013 |
|         | Presentation 8 - Case Study  |
|         |  |
| Week 12 | Essay feedback workshop  |
|         | Exam structure   |
|         |  |
| Week 13 | Exam preparation and review  |
|         | Essay revision and critical reflection   |

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/unitguides/mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/122548/unit_guide/print) ([https://students.mq.edu.au/unitguides/mq.edu.au/unit\\_offerings/122548/unit\\_guide/print](https://students.mq.edu.au/unitguides/mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/122548/unit_guide/print))

[mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway](http://mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway)). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@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](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

## 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](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)



## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](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.