

ACFI3009: Contemporary Accounting Issues 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

MISSION: Our mission is to advance responsible and impactful business knowledge. To achieve our mission, we develop life ready graduates and build global and local partnerships through ethical and innovative practices.

OVERVIEW

Course Description

Focusing upon a wide range of resources incorporating both accounting standards and national and international information sources, the course evaluates issues arising from the use of financial accounting data and management accounting. As a capstone course, this course is designed to enhance students' understanding of the nature and development of accounting as it relates to the management of the organisation, the course extends into addressing professional challenges, the social contexts of the discipline, and specific discipline-based issues.

Sustainable Development Goals



Contact Hours

Lecture

Face to Face On Campus

Two (2) hour(s) workshop per week for Full Term.

Students are expected to complete 4 hours of guided learning via online preparation, lectures, interactive workshops, tutorials, discussion groups or self-directed learning and an additional six (6) hours of independent study per week.

Unit Weighting Workload

10

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

Please refer to the course CANVAS site for details of teaching staff for ALL course offerings. The primary contact for courses is the Course Coordinator, whose details are listed on the course CANVAS site.

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply modes of inquiry and research processes to investigate and engage in contemporary accounting issues reflective of social and cultural changes;
2. Demonstrate advanced understanding of appropriate professional practice and ethical conduct across diverse accounting contexts and environments;
3. Apply critical and reflective thinking to contemporary accounting issues regarding their impact on future career prospects and plans;
4. Engage in independent and collaborative work processes to plan, develop, deliver and evaluate a project; and
5. Objectively analyse, interpret and display accounting information provided for management's needs using technology.

COURSE OUTLINE

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below:

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Data Analytics Exercise	Sunday of week 6 by 11:59 pm SGT	Individual	20%	1, 3, 4, 5
2	Written Assignment	Sunday of week 10 by 11:59 pm SGT	Group	20%	1, 2, 4
3	Reflective Exercise	Sunday of week 12 by 11:59 pm SGT	Individual	10%	1, 2, 3
4	Final Examination	Formal Exam Period	Individual	50%	2, 3, 4

Please note: students are advised that all assessments must be submitted in English. Assessment items not submitted in English will receive a mark of zero.

Results of individual assessment items and final results, including those provided via the Learning Management System (LMS) are 'unofficial results' until they are confirmed as finalised by the School Assessment Body and the Head of School or delegate. Finalised results are released directly to students on the Fully Graded Date of the relevant Semester/Trimester.

Late Submissions	The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.
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Assessment 1 – Data Analytics Exercise

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	This assessment task allows you to develop practical skills using a software package commonly used in accounting practice. It also allows you to develop skills needed to communicate with senior executives about data analysis outcomes and to reflect on the impact of technology in relation to your future career.
Description	Data Analytics Exercise
Weighting	20%
Length	Written report (1000 words +/-10%); Excel Dashboard
Due Date	Sunday of week 6 by 11:59 pm SGT
Submission Method	Online Students are advised to use TURNITIN for the written report to check for inadvertent plagiarism before submitting the final assessment electronically. Please note it can take up to 24 hours to receive feedback from Turnitin. Students should keep an electronic backup copy of their submitted papers.
Assessment Criteria	The assessment question and a marking rubric will be provided on CANVAS. This will examine: Accuracy, Ability to conduct independent work, Information use, Technology use, Ability to reflect on and learn from experiences. Ability to communicate with management in writing.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Returned Work - Formative/progressive feedback is available during workshop sessions and consultation. Summative feedback will be available via the marked assessment submission. Written feedback is electronic and will be available online.

Assessment 2 – Written Assignment

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	The purpose of the written assignment 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 in a group.
Description	The assignment and the arguments you develop should help you reflect on your learning and link accounting theory to a contemporary accounting issue. The word length includes headings but does not include the reference list at the end or appendices. Please be aware that any work after the maximum word limit may not be included within the allocation of marks. The assignment document will be made available on CANVAS. Groups comprise three (3) or four (4) students enrolled in the course.

Weighting	20%
Length	2500 words (+/- 10%)
Due Date	Sunday of week 10 by 11:59 pm SGT
Submission Method	Online via Turnitin. One group member submits on behalf of the group. University cover page to be completed with all student details and attached as the first page of the assignment. Students are advised to use TURNITIN to check for inadvertent plagiarism before submitting the final assessment electronically. Please note it can take up to 24 hours to receive feedback from Turnitin. Students should keep an electronic backup copy of their submitted papers.
Assessment Criteria	A marking rubric will be included in the assignment document and will be used to mark the assignment. Students are advised to familiarise themselves with the rubric. In addition, students will be assessed for conforming with instructions (e.g. maximum word length, font, other instructions, which will be included in the assessment description on CANVAS). This includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Clarity of expression (including grammar, spelling, referencing) – Presentation, communication & structure – Use of literature/ Knowledge of theory – Analysis / critical reasoning / evaluation of a global issue – Problem solving / synthesis and evaluation / reflection – Logical flow, syntax and mechanics <p>Please note: Self and Peer Assessment: A single mark is given for the group assignment. This mark will then be moderated by "self and peer assessment" using the SPARKPlus software so that individual group members may receive different marks. Any moderated individual mark received by each group member is based on contribution to the assignment and, more importantly the ability to work with others. Individually group members are required to submit a self and peer assessment through SPARK within 24 hours of the due date. Failure to complete SPARK will result in a mark of zero. The criteria for the self and peer assessment are found along with the instructions on how to use SPARK on CANVAS. Please note: NO SPARK NO MARK.</p>
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Returned Work - Formative/progressive feedback is available during workshop sessions and consultation. Summative feedback will be available via the marked assessment submission, marked online in Turnitin. Written feedback is electronic and will be available online.

Assessment 3 - Reflective Exercise

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	The reflective exercise allows you to engage with the course material in a meaningful way and to develop writing and analytical skills and the ability express your knowledge.
Description	Reflective written assessment
Weighting	10%
Length	1000 words (+/- 10%)
Due Date	Sunday of week 12 by 11:59 pm SGT
Submission Method	Online via Turnitin. University cover page to be completed with all student details and attached as the first page of the assignment. Students are advised to use TURNITIN to check for inadvertent plagiarism before submitting the final assessment electronically. Please note it can take up to 24 hours to receive feedback from Turnitin. Students should keep an electronic backup copy of their submitted papers. The word length includes headings but does not include the reference list at the end or appendices. Please be aware that any work after the maximum word limit may not be included within the allocation of marks.
Assessment Criteria	The assessment question and a marking guide will be provided on CANVAS. Students are advised to familiarise themselves with the guide.
Return Method	Not returned.

Assessment 4 - Final Examination

Assessment Type	Formal Examination
Purpose	Formal Examination
Description	<p>The final exam is summative assessment designed to let you demonstrate the knowledge and skills you have attained in the course.</p> <p>This course has a RESTRICTED OPEN BOOK examination. A memory aid is permitted. The memory aid is a single double sided A4 sheet of handwritten or typed notes for use during the examination. Note: memory aids must be left on the examination table and cannot be removed from the examination venue.</p>
Weighting	50%
Length	120 minutes
Due Date	Formal Exam Period
Submission Method	Formal Examination
Assessment Criteria	<p>The criteria will vary with the type of questions asked. Students will be rewarded for their application of the course material to the problems posed in cases. The essays will be assessed for the argument presented and whether this is constructed in a coherent, logical and well-reasoned manner. Shorter questions will be assessed based on their relevance to the question asked. Identical replication of provided course material is not encouraged.</p>
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	<p>No Feedback. Examination scripts will not be returned to students. Final examination scripts will be made available for review by students, upon request, in a controlled and monitored setting. Students are required to make requests, directly to the relevant course coordinator. Completed examination scripts are kept by the Newcastle Business School for a period of six (6) months only, from the relevant fully graded date. Requests made after the six (6) month period cannot be considered.</p>

SYLLABUS

Course Content

Topics in the course include but are not limited to the following:

1. Responses and challenges arising from technology disruptions and other contemporary issues in accounting
2. Overview of issues in management, financial and international accounting.
3. Accounting in a changing environment.
4. Ethics, fraud and corporate governance issues

Course Materials

Required Text:

Please refer to the course CANVAS site for details of required e-texts. Additional compulsory readings will be provided using the Library Course Readings site.

Additional recommended readings will be provided using the Library Course Reading site or references posted on CANVAS.

Please refer to the course CANVAS site for details of additional recommended texts

SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Class Preparation	Workshop Activities
1	Organisational responses to technology & the future of accounting	Readings and preparation will be notified on CANVAS in the week prior.	
2	Data analytics	Readings and preparation will be notified on CANVAS in the week prior.	
3	EXCEL as an accounting tool	Readings and preparation will be notified on CANVAS in the week prior.	
4	EXCEL as an accounting tool (Part 2) and Data Analytics Software	Readings and preparation will be notified on CANVAS in the week prior.	
5	Accounting and Technology	Readings and preparation will be notified on CANVAS in the week prior.	
6	Cyber security and technology risk	Readings and preparation will be notified on CANVAS in the week prior.	Assessment 1 due: Sunday of week 6 by 11:59 pm SGT
7	Corporate governance and structure	Readings and preparation will be notified on CANVAS in the week prior.	
8	Solvency and corporate failure	Readings and preparation will be notified on CANVAS in the week prior.	
9	Ethical behaviour in accounting	Readings and preparation will be notified on CANVAS in the week prior.	
10	International Accounting	Readings and preparation will be notified on CANVAS in the week prior.	Assessment 2 due: Sunday of week 10 by 11:59 pm SGT
11	Focus on contemporary issues	Readings and preparation will be notified on CANVAS in the week prior.	
12	Sustainability and environmental reporting	Readings and preparation will be notified on CANVAS in the week prior.	Assessment 3 due: Sunday of week 12 by 11:59 pm SGT
13	Consultation/ course review		

If a lecture/class is scheduled on a public holiday, a make-up lecture may be announced by the course coordinator on the course CANVAS site.

CONTACTS

School Offices

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PSB Academy Enquiries

Log your question or request to the PSB Program Executives at the following website:
<http://www.psb-academy.edu.sg/enq>
+65 6390 9000

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods	<p>Communication methods used in this course include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CANVAS Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the CANVAS course site. - Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account. - Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.
Course Evaluation	Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
Oral Interviews	As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the <u>Oral Examination Guidelines</u> . In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the <u>Student Conduct Rule</u> .
Academic Misconduct	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35 .
Adverse Circumstances	<p>The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or 2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system; 3. you are requesting a change of placement; or 4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement. <p>Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</p>
Important Policy Information	The 'HELP for Students' tab in UoNline contains important information that all students should be familiar with, including various systems, policies and procedures.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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