

Syllabus

Course description

Course title	Advanced Accounting
Course code	25402
Scientific sector	SECS-P/07
Degree	Master in Accounting and Finance
Semester	1 st semester
Year	2020/2021
Credits	6
Modular	No

Total lecturing hours	36
Total lab hours	6
Total exercise hours	20
Attendance	Strongly suggested, but not required
Prerequisites	
Course page	

Specific educational objectives	At the end of the course, the students should have the comprehensive knowledge and understanding of financial and non-financial reporting necessary to act as professional consultants or financial managers. They should be able to analyse complex transactions encountered in large multinational organisations, and to make decisions as to how they should be reflected in financial reporting, taking into consideration the effect of these decisions on the organisation's stakeholders.
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Lecturer	Lucie Courteau Office SER E504 Tel. 0471/013130 lucie.courteau@unibz.it
Scientific sector of the lecturer	SECS-P/07
Teaching language	English

Office hours	please refer to the lecturer's timetable
Lecturing assistant	None
Teaching assistant	TBD
List of topics covered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial reporting choices and their consequences Review of the financial reporting system Financial reporting quality Off-balance sheet assets and liabilities Accounting choices 2. Financial reporting issues related to mergers and acquisitions Business combinations Global operations 3. Financial reporting issues related to restructuring Impairment Employee compensation 4. Financial and non-financial reporting strategies <p>The emphasis will be on IFRS with some comparison with Italian GAAP</p>
Teaching format	The course will combine in-class explanation of the background material, problem-solving and case discussions. Students will be expected to participate actively in class work, which will give them the opportunity to apply theoretical concepts to realistic situations. In order to benefit from this approach, it is important that all students come to class fully prepared.

Learning outcomes	<p>Knowledge and understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced knowledge and understanding of the financial reporting issues, under IFRS, related to the complex and unusual operations of multinational organisations, such as restructuring or mergers and acquisitions. • Knowledge and understanding of the effects of financial and non-financial reporting on the behaviour of managers, investors and other stakeholders of multinational organisations. <p>Applying knowledge and understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to apply the international accounting principles to complex business situations encountered by multinational organisations. • Ability to anticipate the reactions of the organisation's stakeholders to various financial and non-financial reporting strategies. <p>Making judgments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to analyse complex transactions, using all the data that is available, and to choose the appropriate course of action and disclosure strategy, taking into consideration the effect of the choice on the organisation's stakeholders. <p>Communication skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to communicate effectively in writing about technical and quantitative matters, with the various departments of an organisation, with financial market participants and with professionals in the areas of tax and company law.
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	<p>Learning skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to search for and find the regulatory and economic information necessary to make informed decisions as consultant or financial manager.
Assessment	<p>Final Exam (60%): The final exam is a combination of problems, cases and essay questions.</p> <p>Solution of case studies (20%): Case studies will be assigned during the semester to be completed in writing and sometimes presented in class by groups of students.</p> <p>Team project (20%): Each team of attending students will choose one of the topics of the course and do some research to get an in-depth understanding of the issues related to it. The teams will provide a written report on their findings.</p> <p>The questions included in the final exam are aimed at assessing the acquisition of knowledge and understanding and the ability to apply them to new situations as well as to evaluate the ability of the student to analyse and report on complex business transactions. The case studies also measure the student's ability to search for the relevant regulatory and economic information that apply to a specific situation. The team project aims at developing written communication skills, the ability to work in teams and learning skills.</p>
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	<p>Non-attending students: Final exam: 100%</p> <p>Attending students: Final exam: 60% Case studies to be handed in: 20% Team project: 20%</p> <p>The student must pass the exam to have a passing grade in the course.</p> <p>The exam will be offered in February, June and September 2020.</p>
Required readings	<p>Main textbook: Kieso, Donald E., Jerry J. Weygandt and Terry D. Warfield. Intermediate Accounting: IFRS Edition. 3rd edition. Wiley, 2018. ISBN 978-1-119-37300-1 (e-book) or 978-1-119-37293-6 (paper version).</p> <p>Herauf, D. and M.W. Hilton, Modern Advanced Accounting in Canada. 8th edition. McGraw-Hill, 2016. ISBN: 9781259087554</p>
Supplementary material	<p>International Accounting Standard Board. International Financial Reporting Standards, 2019.</p> <p>Advance reading of case studies will be required for some sessions and the cases will be handed out in class at least one week in advance. Students are expected to</p>

have read the case material before coming to class. Additional material will be available for downloading from the OLE platform.

For some of the topics, a few practice problems are suggested to facilitate the learning process. The solutions to these problems will be provided on the OLE platform, as will the Powerpoint slides to be used in class.

Students should be reading a financial newspaper (Financial Times, Il Sole 24 Ore, Handelsblatt, The Economist) on a regular basis to find stories related to the material covered in the course. Some of these stories will be posted on the OLE platform and discussed in class.