

ACCT 6216, FALL 2019, SEMINAR IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

ADAMSON 115, WEDNESDAY FROM 7:00 TO 9:30 PM

Instructor Information

Name:

Dr. Michael Yu

Office Location:

Adamson Hall 215

Office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday from 12:15 to 2:00 pm or by appointment.

Contact Information:

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Communication Preference: I prefer for you to contact me using your UWG email.

Course Information

Description

In-depth analysis of current practice and regulations in financial reporting, including SEC accounting pronouncements, current literature on financial reporting issues, and recent development on adoption of IFRS, and other financial reporting topics. Ethical issues in financial reporting are also emphasized.

Prerequisites

ACCT 3213 with C or better. An in-depth knowledge of financial accounting and measurement and valuation issues of assets and liabilities are required.

Delivery Methods

This is a 100 percent face-to-face class, and attendance is heavily weighted in the final grade.

Students are expected to come to each class meeting and be prepared to discuss the material assigned for that day. My role is that of a discussion leader and facilitator rather than a lecturer. You have a responsibility to your classmates to come to class prepared to actively discuss the assigned papers for

the day. The classroom is a collective “shared experience” in which the quality of the experience depends entirely on your participation.

Learning Goals

We will build on the following learning goals throughout the term:

First Goal

Students will be able to prepare and deliver effective oral accounting presentations (LG1).

Second Goal

Students will be able to identify the impact of international accounting standards on the accounting profession(LG2).

Third Goal

Students will be able to identify standard setting policies and procedures and develop implications for the accounting profession (LG4).

Textbooks and Materials

Textbook

None

Course Materials

A list of journal articles is included with this syllabus. All of the articles are available in the course database on CourseDen.

Evaluation and Grading

Because you are graduate students in a selective program, the expectation is that you will earn either an A or a B in this course, assuming that all assignments and homework are completed in a timely and competent manner. Specifically, evaluation and grades are based on performance on the following activities:

Reading Summaries	10	percent
Participation	20	percent
Research Paper	30	percent
Final Exam	40	percent
Total	100	

Reading Summaries

Please read the assigned readings before each class, and prepare a two-page summary of each assigned paper. Each reading summary is due at the end of the class on the day the paper is discussed. Please turn in hard copy only. I do not accept emailed reading summaries. These summaries are individual assignments. Turning in work other than your own is a violation of the Honor Code.

Research Paper

Students are required to complete a research paper on an individual basis. The paper must focus on a financial accounting topic discussed in class. The paper should be twelve to fifteen pages in length before references and tables. Further details will be provided in class.

Final Exam

Final exam is closed-book and closed-notes, and will consist primarily of short problems and essay questions. I will provide more guidance at the end of the semester.

All written assignments must be typed and double spaced in a professional format. The completed assignment must have a single staple in the upper left hand corner (no binders) and a cover page that lists the name of the assignment and the student's name. The student's name must not be listed on any other pages except the cover page. All pages except the cover page must be numbered.

Data Analytics

As part of our continuing commitment to help our majors gain relevant experience with the increasing use of data analytics in accounting and accounting-related fields, each student in this class is required to sign up for Capital IQ. We will use data from this database to complete an assignment. Further instructions will be provided in class later in the semester.

From a UWG computer or the UWG network – and using your UWG email address – please go to www.capitaliq.com, click on “New User”, and follow the instructions.

Course Policies

Extra Credits

There is no extra credit in this course beyond those explicitly stated in the course syllabus. Work submitted for credit in other courses will not be counted for credit in this course.

Make-up Exams

Make-up exams will be given only under a small set of circumstances, e.g. illness, or participation in University activities at the request of University authorities. Make-up exams will not be given for any other reason, including work-related conflicts. To qualify for an illness-related make-up exam, you must (1) notify me within 24 hours of the exam, and (2) provide appropriate written documentation (e.g. hospital discharge slip) upon your return. Failure to meet either of these two requirements will

result in a score of zero for that exam. For all other acceptable reasons, you must notify me far in advance of the exam. Should you miss an exam for an unacceptable reason, you will receive a score of zero for that exam.

Accessibility Accommodations

If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately. Please see me privately after class or at my office.

To request academic accommodations (for example, a note-taker), students must also register with the Accessibility Services (Telephone: 678-839-6428) which is in Row Hall, Room 123. It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements. For other resources for students with disabilities, click on Counseling & Career Development Home on the UWG homepage.

Wolf Pact

Protecting the integrity of a degree from the Richards College of Business at the University of West Georgia is the responsibility of the administration, faculty, staff, and students of the college. Our mission is “To become a globally recognized college of business preparing forward-thinking, responsible leaders.” Responsible leaders are ethical leaders, and this behavior begins in the classroom. One of our Strategic Goals is to demonstrate “...commitment to the principles of honesty and integrity in interactions and undertakings, [and] accountability for personal behavior...”. As such, we have developed the Wolf Pact in an effort to promote and maintain the highest standards of integrity, professional behavior, ethical actions, and personal conduct.

The purpose of this pact is to maintain that a degree from the Richards College of Business at the University of West Georgia is held in high regard by all internal and external constituents, and that a degree from the University of West Georgia is as meaningful in the future as it is today.

University-Wide Syllabus Information:

Please review the “[Common Language for Course Syllabi](#)” for university-wide updates. Even if you have read it before, the most current information is maintained at this site.

Course Calendar

Below are the tentative schedule and assignments. During the course of the semester, it may become necessary to modify portions of the syllabus. All such changes will be announced in class and all students are responsible for keeping up with any changes.

Topic 1, Financial Statements, August 21 and 28

Financial Reporting Manual - Topic 1: Registrant's Financial Statements.

Regulation S-X - General instructions as to financial statements and consolidated and combined financial statements (210.3, 210.3A, 210.5, and 210.10).

Regulation S-K - Financial information (229.301 - 229.302).

Securities Exchange Commission. Introduction to forms.

Securities Exchange Commission. Investor Bulletin: How to read an 8-K.

Form 10-K, 10-Q, and 8-K.

Topic 2, Pro Forma Financial Information, September 4

Financial Reporting Manual - Topic 3: Pro forma financial information.

Regulation S-X - Pro forma financial information (210.11-01 - 210.11-03).

Topic 3, 10-K Readability, September 11 and 18

Li, F., 2008. Annual report readability, current earnings, and earnings persistence. *Journal of Accounting & Economics* 45, 221-247.

Lehavy, R., Feng, L., Merkley, K., 2011. The effect of annual report readability on analyst following and the properties of their earnings forecasts. *Accounting Review* 86, 1087-1115.

Loughran, T. and B. McDonald, 2010. Measuring readability in financial text. *Journal of Finance*, forthcoming, The University of Notre Dame.

Loughran, T. and B. McDonald, 2011. When is a liability not a liability? Textual analysis, dictionaries, and 10-Ks. *Journal of Finance* 66, 35-65.

Topic 4, Foreign Companies, September 25 and October 2

Financial Reporting Manual - Topic 6: Foreign private issuers & foreign businesses.

Form 20-F and Form 6-K.

Nobes, C. and S. Zeff. 2008. Auditors' Affirmations of Compliance with IFRS Around the World: An Exploratory Study. *Accounting Perspectives* 7 (4), pp. 279 – 292.

Elaine Henry, Stephen Lin, and Ya-wen Yang (2009) The European-U.S. "GAAP Gap": IFRS to U.S. GAAP Form 20-F Reconciliations. *Accounting Horizons*: June 2009, Vol. 23, No. 2, pp. 121-150.

Office of the Chief Accountant (SEC), 2011. Work plan for the consideration of incorporating IFRS into the financial reporting system for U.S. issuers.

Devrimi Kaya and Julian A. Pillhofer. (2013) Potential Adoption of IFRS by the United States: A Critical View. *Accounting Horizons* 27:2, 271-299.

Richard D. Morris, Sidney J. Gray, Joanne Pickering and Sally Aisbitt, 2014. Preparers' Perceptions of the Costs and Benefits of IFRS: Evidence from Australia's Implementation Experience. *Accounting Horizons* 28:1, 143-173.

Topic 5, Related Party Transactions, October 9 and 16

Financial Reporting Manual - Topic 7: Related Party Matters.

Regulation S-K - Transactions with related persons, promoters and certain control persons (229.404).

Securities Exchange Commission, 2003. Final Rule: Disclosure in management's discussion and analysis about off-balance sheet arrangements and aggregate contractual obligations.

Benston, G. J., A. L. Hartgraves, 2002. Enron: what happened and what we can learn from it. *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy* 21, pp. 05-127.

E. A. Gordon, E. Henry, T. J. Louwers, and B. J. Reed, 2007. Auditing Related Party Transactions: A Literature Overview and Research Synthesis. *Accounting Horizons*, Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 81-102.

Background Readings:

Powers' Report, 2002. Report of investigation by the special investigative committee of the board of directors of Enron Corp.

Topic 6, Non-GAAP Measures, October 23 and 30

Financial Reporting Manual - Topic 8: Non-GAAP measures of financial performance, liquidity, and net worth.

Securities Exchange Commission, 2002. First Pro Forma Financial Reporting Case: Trump Hotels Charged.

Securities Exchange Commission, 2003. Final Rule: Conditions for Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures.

Securities Exchange Commission, 2016. Compliance & Disclosure Interpretations on the use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures.

Securities Exchange Commission, 2001. Cautionary Advice Regarding the Use of “Pro Forma” Financial Information in Earnings Releases.

Nilabhra Bhattacharya, Ervin Black, Theodore Christensen, and Richard Mergenthaler, 2004. Empirical Evidence on Recent Trends in Pro Forma Reporting. *Accounting Horizons*.

Colley, R. and K. S. Moffeit, 2003. The New Regulation G: Impact on Pro Forma Financial Information. *Today's CPA*, July/August 2003, p19-23.

Rashty, J. and J. O'shaughnessy, 2014. Reporting and disclosures using non-GAAP financial measures. *CPA Journal*, March 2014, p36-39.

Topic 7, MD&A, November 6

Financial Reporting Manual - Topic 9: Management's discussion and analysis of financial position and results of operations.

Securities Exchange Commission, 2003. Commission Guidance Regarding Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

Brown, S., and J. Tucker. 2011. Large-sample evidence on firms' year-over-year MD&A modifications. *Journal of Accounting Research* 49, 309-346.

Sutton, S. G., V. Arnold, J. C. Bedard, J. R. Phillips, 2012. Enhancing and structuring the MD&A to aid investors when using interactive data. *Journal of Information Systems*. Vol. 26 (2), 167-188.

Wheeler, S. W., S. J. Cereola, T. J. Louwers, 2014. MD&A disclosure tendencies: The case of LIFO liquidations. *Accounting Horizons*. Vol. 28 (4), 805-818.

Topic 8, Subsequent Events, November 13

Financial Reporting Manual - Topic 13: Effects of subsequent events on financial statements required in filings.

J. O. Y. Chung, C. P. Cullinan, M. Frank, J. H. Long, J. Mueller-Phillips, and D. M. O'Reilly, 2013. The Auditor's Approach to Subsequent Events: Insights from the Academic Literature. *AUDITING: A Journal of Practice & Theory*, Vol. 32(1), pp. 167-207.

Janvrin, D. J., and C. G. Jeffrey, 2007. An investigation of auditor perceptions about subsequent events and factors that influence this audit task. *Accounting Horizons*, Vol. 21(3), p295-312.

Pounder, B., 2010. The benefit of hindsight. *Strategic Finance*, Vol. 91 (10), p17-61.

Rossi III, J. D., 2011. A look at subsequent events. *Pennsylvania CPA Journal*, Vol. 81 (4), p1-2.

Choi, Y. C., and A. P. Fitzsimons, 2010. FASB changes fair-value disclosures, eliminates confusion on reporting for subsequent events. *Commercial Lending Review*, Vol. 25(1), p47-51.

Topic 9, Stock Benefit Plans, November 20

Financial Reporting Manual - Topic 15: Employee stock benefit plans.

Regulation S-X - Employee stock purchase, savings and similar plans (210.6A-01 - 210.6A-05).

Codification of staff accounting bulletins - Share-based payment.

Ellig, B. R., 2008. Here is what you need to know about employee stock plans. *Benefits & Compensation Digest*, Vol. 45(9), p1-14.

Hodge, F.D., Rajgopal, S., Shevlin, T., 2009. Do managers value stock options and restricted stock consistent with economic theory? *Contemporary Accounting Research* 26, 899-932.

Bergstein, W. M., W. Williams, 2013. The benefits of employee stock ownership plans. *CPA Journal*, Vol. 83(4), p54-57.

McEnroe, J. E., Martens, S. C., and N. Du, 2013. Accounting for employee stock options. *CPA Journal*, Nov 2013, p10-13.

Final exam on December 4 and research paper due on the same day