



PhD in Economics and Management
- Financial Accounting -
[Syllabus 2016]

Dr Amedeo Pugliese

Version_1

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SCHEDULING, TIMETABLE AND VENUES:

Classes will comprise 10 three-hour sessions held twice a week. In each session students will be assigned a set of research papers and other relevant suggested readings. Attendance may be required at Research Seminars when advised.

Wednesday 9:00 - 12 [via del Santo, 33 – Aula Dottorato]
Thursday 9:00 - 12 [via del Santo, 33 – Aula Dottorato]

PhD Financial Accounting (2016) Prof Amedeo Pugliese							
Wk	Date	Day	Room	Class	Topic / Activity	Readings	Background Readings
1	3/02/16	Wed	Sala Riunioni	#1	Intro to the Unit + Foundations of Accounting Research	Ball & Brown (1968, TAR); Sloan (1996, TAR)	Akerlof (1970, QJE); Ball & Brown (2014, TAR); Beaver (2002, TAR)
	4/02/16	Thur	Sala Riunioni	#2	Governance Research	Armstrong, Core & Guay (2014, JoFE); Leuz Nanda & Wysocky (2003, JoFE)	Bushman & Smith (2001, JAE)
2	10/02/16	Wed	Sala Riunioni	#3	Governance Research	Gul, Hutchinson & Lai (2013); Faleye, Hoitash & Hoitash (2011, JoFE)	
	11/02/16	Thur			no class		
3	17/02/16	Wed	Sala Riunioni	#4	Auditing Research - Presentations Begin	Bruynseels & Cardinaels (2014, TAR); Cameran, Francis, Marra & Pettinicchio (2015, AJTP)	Lennox Pittman (2011, TAR)
	18/02/16	Thur	Sala Riunioni	#5	Auditing Research	Chan, Liu & Sun (2012 A&F)**; Lennox, Wu & Zhang (2014 TAR)	
4	24/02/16	Wed	Sala Riunioni	#6	Tax Accounting - Written Critiques Begin	Chen, Chen, Cheng & Shevlin (2010, JoFE)**; Lanis & Richardson (2011, JAPP)†	
	25/02/16	Thur	Sala Riunioni	#7	Corporate Disclosure and Reporting	Kothari, Shu & Wysocky (2009, JAR)**; Drake Roulstone Thornton (2012, JAR)	
5	2/03/16	Wed			no class		
	3/03/16	Thur	Sala Riunioni	#8	Conservatism in Financial Reporting	Basu (1997, JAE)**; Ball & Shivakumar (2006, JAR)†	Watts (2003a, 2003b Acc Hor)
6	9/03/16	Wed	Sala Riunioni	#9	Accounting Quality and Management Forecasts	Dichev, Graham, Harvey & Rajgopal (2013, JAE)**; Francis, LaFond, Olsson & Schipper (2004, TAR)	Bayer et al (2010, JAE); Zimmerman (2013 Acc Hor)
	10/03/16	Thur	Sala Riunioni	#10	Experimental and Behavioral Accounting Research	Hobson, Mayew & Venkatachalam (2012, JAR)**; Rose, Mazza, Norman & Rose (2013, AOS)†	Graham Harvey & Puri (2013, JFE)
† Indicates the article selected for the weekly written critique; ** Indicates the article to be discussed in class by the designated speaker							

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

The objectives in this unit entail considering practical issues in designing, carrying out and interpreting empirical-archival capital markets research in accounting. The unit explores a range of theories and research approaches applied in the accounting field and offers students the opportunity to identify potential topics and research questions requiring investigation [if applicable]. The focus will be on thinking about and evaluating research questions and motivating questions, choices related to research designs, interpretation of results, and placement of research findings in the literature.

Upon completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. Describe and evaluate the different theoretical bases underlying empirical research in accounting
2. Review a range of extant accounting research to critically analyse and assess the fit between a stated research questions and the execution that authors suggest
3. Develop a written referee report targeting an academic audience whereby you highlight the main issues authors of a manuscript should take into account when re-working their paper
4. Discuss, and present in a competent academic style, research outputs from their own and other researchers' work in the field of accounting.

COURSE CONTENT & STRUCTURE

This unit aims at developing a student's critical knowledge and skills in the formal review of a broad range of topics within the accounting literature. Through the exploration of key theories and research methods applied in accounting, this unit prepares students to complete their proposed research topic [if applicable].

We will adopt a *flipped classroom approach*. Students are expected to read the weekly material prior to the lectures. Lecturing will be limited to the analysis of key issues that are of paramount importance. Students will review a range of theories and research approaches applied in the accounting field and identify potential topics and research questions requiring investigation. Students are required to (i) submit written critiques of the research papers prior to the relevant class and (ii) be prepared to discuss and debate alternative views of the theories, research methods and findings advanced in the readings.

This unit encompasses contemporary accounting research in financial accounting, auditing and corporate governance. The following are topic areas may be included:

- Economic and behavioural effects of financial and other disclosures
- Value relevance of accounting information
- Earnings management
- Behavioral and Experimental Research in Accounting
- Auditing and other corporate governance issues

TEACHING MATERIAL AND RESOURCES

Scott W. *Financial Accounting Theory*. Pearson Education (Canada), 2014. 7e



Journal articles and working papers for each relevant session are listed above and available on Moodle.

Lecture slides and teaching material will be made available through the Moodle online platform prior to the classes (<https://elearning.unipd.it/economia/>).

EXAMINATION METHOD & ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

1. ASSESSMENT ITEM 1: SEMINAR PRESENTATION & PARTICIPATION

Weighting: 20% of final grade - 6 marks out of 30.

This is an individual activity aiming at developing your presentation skills in an academic environment. Seminar preparation and participation marks will be awarded for preparedness for and contributions to class discussion on assigned readings and other relevant material.

Length: each student will be required to act as **lead discussant** on a pre-assigned article. This activity will commence in week 3 (after the first three sessions) and students will be randomly assigned to a session/paper. Each presentation will last 30 min + 15 min Q&A.

2. ASSESSMENT ITEM 2: WRITTEN CRITIQUE

Weighting: 30% of final grade - 9 marks out of 30.

This individual activity aims at developing your critical skills in evaluating a published article or a working paper. It is both formative and summative, as it will enhance your writing skills for an academic audience.

Higher marks will be awarded to students who display a sound understanding of the research questions, theory, methods, results, contribution and limitations of assigned readings. Such understanding would be displayed through critical analysis of the assigned readings and ability to discuss and defend points of view by reference to relevant theory and empirical evidence.

Due date: in the last three weeks of the course (e.g. 4, 5 and 6) you will be required to submit a report whereby you will analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the manuscript. The paper will be disclosed in advance. You are expected to submit the written critique on Tuesday evening (7pm) in each relevant week – prior to the discussion in class (e.g. in week 4, you will be required to submit on Tue 23rd Feb, before the class on the following day).

Please note that guidelines are available for you to structure your written critique (on Moodle).

Word limit: 800 words (+/- 5% allowance). Please submit a word or pdf document (TNR or Calibri, 12 pt).

3. ASSESSMENT ITEM 3: FINAL EXAM

Weighting: 50% of final grade - 15 marks out of 30.



The exam is a take-home. It is an individual piece of assessment aiming at testing your ability to critically analyse a paper in the relevant domain of interest. The lecturer will circulate a working paper and students are expected to write a **full referee report** in a constructive manner.

Length: The take home exam can normally be completed in 8 dedicated hours.

Release Date: Friday 11th March @ 5pm. Due Date: Monday 14th March @ 7pm. Submission through the Moodle Platform

Word limit: 2,500 words (+/- 5% allowance). Please submit a word or pdf document (TNR or Calibri, 12 pt).

OFFICE HOURS & STUDENT CONSULTATION

It is strongly recommended that students use the Moodle forum to post general questions (e.g. about time, readings, activities or assessment) that might be of interest to the whole class.

Revised and updated information about student consultation will be available on Moodle from Week 1.

Tuesday	12:30-2:00pm	in Via U. Bassi 1, 5 th Floor (Room #)
Wednesday	3:30-4:30pm	in Via U. Bassi 1, 5 th Floor (Room #)

Students are required to book a consultation time through an online platform (Setmore). Booking is easy:

1. Click and Open the following link: www.amedeopugliese.setmore.com
2. Select the relevant activity (Consultation Hours – Teaching) and the name of the instructor (Amedeo Pugliese)
3. Select the date and time that are available. [Be careful that you can only book an appointment starting 8 days in advance of the chosen date and up to 12 hours in advance. For instance, if you wish to book an appointment on Feb 16th you can only book from Feb 9th until Feb 15th at 12am).
4. Once you have booked an appointment, you will receive an email with all relevant details and instructions to amend or cancel your appointment.

Should you experience any issues, please contact me at amedeo.pugliese@unipd.it.

HOW TO USE MOODLE PLATFORM

All students are strongly encouraged to use the Moodle platform available through the Department webpage (<https://elearning.unipd.it/economia/>).

All relevant information about teaching activities, assessment and last-minute updates will be released via Moodle that syncs automatically with your institutional email address.

It is required enrolling into the Financial Accounting area on Moodle. You can self-enrol using the single-sign (SSO) on and your student email address (@studenti.unipd.it).