

# AC8900: SEMINAR IN FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING ISSUES

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Seminar in Financial Accounting Issues

### Subject Code

AC - Accountancy

### Course Number

8900

### Academic Unit

Accountancy (AC)

### College/School

College of Business (CB)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

R8 - Research Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course aims to

- Provide a critical forum for discussions of contemporary issues in financial reporting and capital markets, including capital market consequences of financial reporting, disclosure quality/policies, earnings management, and external monitoring by capital market participants.
- Provide students with an opportunity to nurture their ability to conduct independent thesis research by applying up-to-date methodology to contemporary issues of their interests.
- Provide students with in-depth training about how to get access to and make use of research databases available at CityU, including the Wharton research Databases.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1 Describe and explain four distinct, but inter-related, roles of financial reporting in the capital-market economy: (1) the informational role; (2) the valuation role; (3) the monitoring/corporate governance role; and (4) the regulatory role. Provide students with in-depth methodological training for their thesis research.		x	x	x
2 Apply methodological knowledge to their thesis research. Be ready to process large-scale research data for students' thesis research.		x	x	x

#### A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

#### A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

#### A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures & Presentations	<p>In the first part of each class (about 30 minutes), students will engage in learning the underlying theoretical framework and importance of each topical area. Through conscientious analysis of reading materials, students will engage in class discussions. In most classes, students are required to present some pre-assigned reading materials individually or on a group basis. In a typical class, about three pre-assigned original papers (that have recently been published in top-tier journals) will be presented and discussed. At the last part of class (about 30 minutes), the professor is expected to consolidate class discussions and give a brief introduction on key aspects of the papers to be discussed in the next class.</p>	1
2	Research proposal	<p>During the semester, students will engage in developing his/her own research proposal and further elaborating it in form of a term paper. %23 Ideally, the term paper could be further developed into his/her Ph.D. thesis proposal in the future.</p> <p>During the second half of the semester, students are required to submit their assignments (mostly related to replication of other published research results using databases available at CityU.</p>	2

### Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	<p>Presentation and Class Participation</p> <p>In most classes, students are required to present some pre-assigned reading materials individually or on a group basis. In a typical class, about three pre-assigned original papers (that have recently been published in top-tier journals) will be presented and discussed.</p>	1	50	Students are required to properly acknowledge the use of GenAI tools, and provide explanation of why the piece of response from the GenAI tool is adopted.	Yes
2	<p>Term Paper# &amp; Assignments</p> <p>During the semester, students are expected to come up with his/her own research proposal and to further elaborate it in form of a term paper.# Ideally, the term paper could be further developed into his/her Ph.D. thesis proposal in the future. During the second half of the semester, students are required to submit their assignments (mostly related to replication of other published research results using databases available at CityU.</p>	2	50	-	No

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Additional Information for ATs**

# DEC AT element

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)**

**Assessment Task**

Presentation and Class Participation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Ability to critically evaluate the quality of research.

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) High

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Significant

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

**Marginal**

(D) Basic

**Failure**

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

Term Paper & Assignments (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Ability to identify research topics and describe research objectives, review of related literatures, research hypotheses, test procedures including sample, data sources, test design, and contribution to the existing literature.

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) High

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Significant

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

**Marginal**

(D) Basic

**Failure**

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

Presentation and Class Participation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Ability to critically evaluate the quality of research.

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) High

**Good**

(B+, B) Significant

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Moderate

**Failure**

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

**Assessment Task**

Term Paper & Assignments (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Ability to identify research topics and describe research objectives, review of related literatures, research hypotheses, test procedures including sample, data sources, test design, and contribution to the existing literature.

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) High

**Good**

(B+, B) Significant

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Moderate

**Failure**

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

**Part III Other Information****Keyword Syllabus**

Information quality, Corporate disclosures, Mandatory disclosures, Voluntary disclosures, Information asymmetries, Product markets, Capital markets, Corporate governance, External monitoring, Accounting conservatism, Earnings management, Information environment, Analyst activities, Cost of capital, Debt contracting, International financial reporting standards, Firm-specific information flow, stock price informativeness.

**Reading List****Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	e-journal: The Accounting Review, all issues
2	e-journal: Journal of Accounting Research, all issues
3	e-journal: Journal of Accounting and Economics, all issues

4	e-journal: Contemporary Accounting Research, all issues
5	e-journal: Review of Accounting Studies, all issues

**Additional Readings**

Title	
1	e-journal: Journal of Finance, all issues
2	e-journal: Journal of Financial Economics, all issues
3	e-journal: Review of Financial Studies, all issues