

AC8980: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Research Methodology in Financial Accounting

Subject Code

AC - Accountancy

Course Number

8980

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:

- identify contemporary issues in financial accounting and research methodology issues in contemporary financial accounting literature and develop ability to critically evaluate empirical research.
- develop methodological skills to design and conduct independent empirical research.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe the knowledge and skills for conducting effective literature search in the relevant professional database, identifying, investigating, analyzing, and evaluating a research problem and issues in contemporary financial accounting.	50	x	x	x
2	Explain the necessary methodological and statistical knowledge for their literature based dissertation and become ready to conduct independent research projects.	50	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	Lecture & Presentations	Students will engage in lectures on the integrated methodological issues and the importance of each topic and on how to conduct effective literature search in the relevant professional database. Then, each student will present and discuss the assigned questions and papers. The seminar course follows an interactive approach consisting of student presentations of assigned questions and papers coupled with key concepts supplemented by instructor.	1	
2	Individual Research Term-paper#	Students will conduct literature review and identify methodological issues in empirical research in financial accounting and write up a term-paper.	2	

Additional Information for LTAs

DEC LTA element

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Assignment and Presentation	1	60	-	No
2	Term Paper #	2	40	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

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

Criterion

Demonstration of understanding of key methodological issues, and 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

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to conduct literature search in the relevant professional database, 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

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Demonstration of understanding of key methodological issues, and 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 (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to conduct literature search in the relevant professional database, 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

Additional Information for AR

DEC AT element

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Literature Search, Measurement Error Problems Model Misspecification Problems Backing-Out Approach, Spurious Relationship Endogeneity Count-data Econometrics Instrumental Variable, Conservatism in accounting Earnings Quality Earnings Management information asymmetry Mis-reactions, Corporate disclosures, Capital markets, Corporate governance.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Papers accepted for publication in and published in major journals available from CityU' s on-line E-Library Resources.
2	Working papers available from the Social Science Research Network (SSRN).

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Textbook: Jeffrey M. Wooldridge, Econometric Analysis of Cross Section and Panel Data, Latest Edition, MIT Press.
2	Textbook: William H. Greene, Econometric Analysis, Latest Edition, Prentice Hall