

ADMS 4510 Course Outline

Winter 2020

Accounting Theory and Contemporary Issues in Accounting

The course outline is subject to change when deemed necessary. Should changes occur, they will be announced both in class and on the course website.

Course Information

| Section | Day/Time | Location |
|-----------|----------------|----------|
| Section M | Monday, 7-10pm | ACW 209 |

Instructor

Dr. Songlan (Stella) Peng, Associate Professor of Accounting

stellap@yorku.ca

Prerequisite / Co-requisite

Prerequisites: 1) For students in an Honours program, 78 credits including AP/ADMS 3595 3.00, AP/ECON 1000 3.00, or 2) for other students, these above-listed courses and an average grade of C+ or better in AP/ADMS 3585 3.00 and AP/ADMS 3595 3.00. Course credit exclusions: None. PRIOR TO FALL 2009: Prerequisites: 1) For students in an Honours program, 78 credits including AK/ADMS 3595 3.00, AK/ECON 1000 3.00, or 2) for other students, these above-listed courses and an average grade of C+ or better in AK/ADMS 3585 3.00 and AK/ADMS 3595 3.00. Course credit exclusion: AK/ADMS 4510 3.00. *Students are personally responsible to ensure that they have the required prerequisites as stated in the course outline or in the course calendar. Students who do not have the prerequisites are at risk of being dropped from the course at any time during the course. The school will not be responsible for refunds resulting from students being dropped from a course due to a lack of the appropriate prerequisites.*

Expanded Course Description

This course examines the nature of accounting and the extent to which it applies to current accounting practice as well as certain contemporary issues in accounting. This is not a course about specific accounting rules. This course is “about accounting” as opposed to “in accounting.” Its focus is on gaining an integrative view of financial reporting and examining the economic forces shaping the production of financial information.

Course Learning Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to increase students' awareness and understanding of contemporary financial accounting theories, and to provide students with useful conceptual tools to guide analysis and decisions related to financial reporting in real business world. After the course, students are expected to

- Understand a set of financial accounting theories in a systematic way, and
- Relate these theories to financial reporting issues concerned by standard setters, scholars, and accounting practitioners.

This course emphasizes the development of communication, critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork skills that help equip students with the capacity to successfully navigate financial accounting issues in a globalized economy.

Course Text / Readings

- 1) William Scott & Patricia O'Brien, "Financial Accounting Theory," 8th Edition, Pearson Canada.
- 2) Selected readings: Additional readings will be posted on the course website.

Evaluation

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Attendance | 5% |
| Participation | 10% |
| Midterm Exam | 30% |
| Final Exam | 35% |
| End-of-term group project | 20% |

Details of each grade component and typical questions students have will be addressed during the first class.

Important Dates

- Last day to enroll without instructor permission: Jan 19, 2020
- Last day to enroll with instructor permission: Feb 3, 2020
- Last day to drop the course without receiving a grade: March 13, 2020

Weekly Schedule
(Subject to change at the course director's discretion)

| | Date | Coverage |
|----|-------------|--|
| 1 | Jan 13 | Ch1 |
| 2 | Jan 20 | Ch 2 &3 |
| 3 | Jan 27 | Ch 4 & 5 |
| 4 | Feb 3 | Ch6 |
| 5 | Feb 10 | Midterm Exam, 30%, 7-10pm, Ch1-6, location TBD |
| 6 | Feb 17 | Reading week (no class) |
| 7 | Feb 24 | Ch7 |
| 8 | Mar 2 | Ch 8&9 |
| 9 | Mar 9 | Ch 10&11 |
| 10 | Mar 16 | Ch 12&13 |
| 11 | Mar 23 | Final exam, 35%, 7-10pm, comprehensive, location TBD |
| 12 | Mar 30 | Group Project Presentation |
| 13 | Apr 6 | Group Project Presentation/ Recap |

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS (Senate Policy)

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) -

http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm

- *York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website*
- *Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants*
- *Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities*
- *Student Conduct Standards*
- *Religious Observance Accommodation*

Deferred Exams: Deferred standing may be granted to students who are unable to write their final examination at the scheduled time or to submit their outstanding course work on the last day of classes. In order to apply for deferred standing, students must register at <https://sas-app.laps.yorku.ca/>. Followed by handing in a completed DSA form and supporting documentation directly to the main office of the School of Administrative Studies (282 Atkinson) and add your ticket number to the DSA form. The DSA and supporting documentation must be submitted no later than five (5) business days from the date of the exam. These requests will be considered on their merit and decisions will be made available by logging into the following link <https://sas-app.laps.yorku.ca/>. No individualized communication will be sent by the School to the students (no letter or e-mails).

Students with approved DSA will be able to write their deferred examination during the School's deferred examination period. No further extensions of deferred exams shall be granted. The format and covered content of the deferred examination may be different from that of the originally scheduled examination. The deferred exam may be closed book, cumulative and comprehensive and may include all subjects/topics of the textbook whether they have been covered in class or not. Any request for deferred standing on medical grounds must include an Attending Physician's Statement form; a "Doctor's Note" will not be accepted.

DSA Form: http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/deferred_standing_agreement.pdf

Attending Physician's Statement form:

<http://www.yorku.ca/laps/council/students/documents/APS.pdf>

The deferred examinations for the current term shall be held generally in the third week of the following term.

Petition forms are normally downloaded and printed by accessing the following website:
<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/services/petitions/forms.htm>

Included with the form is a Course Performance Summary. Please enter your enrolment details on the CPS and take it Room 282 Atkinson for completion. The School will complete the CPS within 5 business days for collection by you. Completed forms, including the CPS (and Attending Physicians Statement, if the petition is based on a medical matter), must be delivered to the Faculty Council Office.

Academic Honesty: The new Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies considers breaches of the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty to be serious matters. To quote the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. The Policy on Academic Honesty is an affirmation and clarification for members of the University of the general obligation to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. As a clear sense of academic honesty and responsibility is fundamental to good scholarship, the policy recognizes the general responsibility of all faculty members to foster acceptable standards of academic conduct and of the student to be mindful of and abide by such standards. Suspected breaches of academic honesty will be investigated and charges shall be laid if reasonable and probable grounds exist. Students should review the York Academic Honesty policy for themselves at:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/legislation/senate/acadhonesty.htm>

Students might also wish to review the interactive on-line Tutorial for students on academic integrity, at: http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/

Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy: *The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for full year courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade (see the policy for exceptions to this aspect of the policy - <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/legislation/senate/gradfeed.htm> Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.*

Note: Under unusual and/or unforeseeable circumstances which disrupt the academic norm, instructors are expected to provide grading schemes and academic feedback in the spirit of these regulations, as soon as possible. For more information on the Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy, please visit:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/legislation/senate/gradfeed.htm>

In-Class Tests and Exams - the 20% Rule: For all Undergraduate courses, except those which regularly meet on Friday evening or on a weekend, tests or exams worth more than 20% will not be held in the two weeks prior to the beginning of the official examination period. For further information on the 20% Rule, please visit:

<http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/examschedules/examinfo/twentypercent.htm>.

For further information on examination scheduling, and Atkinson examination exceptions to this rule, please refer to the "Notes" in the table:

<http://www.yorku.ca/roweb/importantdates/>

Reappraisals: Students may, with sufficient academic grounds, request that a final grade in a course be reappraised (which may mean the review of specific pieces of tangible work). Non-academic grounds are irrelevant for grade reappraisals; in such cases, students are advised to petition to their home Faculty. Students are normally expected to first contact the course director to discuss the grade received and to request that their tangible work be reviewed. Tangible work may include written, graphic, digitized, modeled, video recording or audio recording formats, but not oral work. Students need to be aware that a request for a grade reappraisal may result in the original grade being raised, lowered or confirmed. For reappraisal procedures and information, please visit the Office of the Registrar site at:

<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/services/policies/grade.htm>

Accommodation Procedures: students who have experienced a misfortune or who are too ill to attend the final examination in a course should not attempt to do so; they must pursue deferred standing. Other students should contact their home Faculty for information. For further information, please visit: http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/services/ds_faq.htm

Religious Accommodation: York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. For more information on religious accommodation, please visit:

<https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs>

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder. For more information please visit the Disabilities Services website at <http://www.yorku.ca/dshub/>. York's disabilities offices and the Registrar's Office work in partnership to support alternate exam and test accommodation services for students with disabilities at the Keele campus. For more information on alternate exams and tests please visit <http://www.yorku.ca/altexams/>. Please alert the Course Director as soon as possible should you require special accommodations.

Grading: The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.) For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04_5_acadinfo.pdf

Enrolment Deadline: The course is normally full at the beginning of semester. A waiting list is maintained with the Receptionist at 282 Atkinson. As vacancies occur, students are contacted in order on the list. The Course Director is not involved in the registration process in any way and cannot assist you with this process. Because of the high volume of material covered, no registration under any circumstances is permitted after the “last date to enroll without permission of course instructor”. Only under rare circumstances you could be enrolled after this date, on the condition that you inform the course director during the first class, that you have attended all classes to date, and that you have finished all class assignments to date. The final decision is at the course director’s discretion