



School of Administrative Studies
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
York University
ADMS 4510 Course Outline
Winter 2023

Accounting Theory and Contemporary Issues in Accounting

The course outline is tentative and will be finalized after the 1st week of class.

Course Information

Section	Day/Time	Location	Start Date
Section A	Tuesday, 7-10pm	ACW 302	January 10, 2023

Course Website: <https://eclass.yorku.ca/> (sign in with your Passport York)

(You are solely responsible for missing any information posted on course website or sent via broadcast emails.)

Instructor

Tony Stanco (CPA, CA), Part-time faculty, School of Administrative Studies.

Email address: tstanco@yorku.ca

Virtual class and Office hour Wednesdays at 5pm

Prerequisite / Co-requisite

Prerequisites: 1) For students in an Honors 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

The 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." It focuses on gaining an integrative view of financial reporting and examining the economic forces shaping the production of financial information.

Course Learning Outcomes

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 make decisions related to financial reporting in real business world. On completion this course, students are expected to

1. develop a depth and breadth in various accounting theories that are commonly used in accounting and related research.
2. formulate a thoughtful and critical appreciation of the nature and scope of current accounting practice and find the rationale for changed accounting practices.
3. develop a thorough and critical consciousness of contemporary financial accounting and reporting environment from the perspective of both internal and external users.
4. associate the importance of informativeness from the stance of both internal and external users, and also develop an understanding of how the financial statements information are used in the decision-making process of different constituencies.
5. interpret the financial statements as a source of information rather than a compilation of numeracy.
6. relate and apply various accounting valuation concepts and standards in the real-life business scenario.
7. comprehend the importance of accounting research findings and have an understanding of how these research findings are contributing toward the changed accounting practice to enhance user decision usefulness.

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. (Do not use previous editions)

2) Selected readings: Additional readings will be posted on the course website.

Class Lectures & Office Hours:

The course is offered on-campus in-class format. There will be a three-hour lecture in class. The lecture is scheduled each **Tuesday, from 7 to 10 pm at ACW 302**. The lecture heavily concentrates on each weekly coverage mentioned in the weekly schedule. Students are strongly encouraged to attend the weekly lecture to strengthen the chance of completing this course with a decent grade.

In addition to the weekly lecture meeting, your professor can be reached out during **office hours** each **Wednesday from 5pm to 6pm** via Zoom link. The office hour Zoom link is available on the course eClass.

Evaluation

	Weight
Individual Participation: Discussion forum reflection (10 weeks X .5 each week)	5%
Assignments (5 submissions with 5% each)	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Group Project	15%
Final Exam	30%
	100%

Individual Participation: This course encourages students to raise questions and comment on materials taught in the course. Students could demonstrate their engagement in the course by asking questions or making comments during class and through emails. Students could earn participation scores by sharing weekly chapter-focused reflections on the eClass discussion forum. The grade will be based on the participation quantity and quality.

Assignments (Turnitin enabled submission): Homework assignments will be from end-of-chapter problems. You can find the assignment from the 'list of weekly assignment questions' posted in the general section of the course eClass site. The solutions will be posted after the homework due date, which is set for Wednesday day at 11:59 pm. Refer to the Weekly Timetable for specific due dates on page 5. You are expected to make 5 submissions, each worth 5% marks. To finish your assignment, you are expected to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the required reading and writing are complete. Late submission will result in a 1-mark penalty every 24 hours for each homework.

Midterm: There is one timed and closed-book midterm exam (see 'Weekly Timetable' on the following page). The midterm is a two-hour exam covering chapters starting from Week 1 to Week 5 (i.e. Ch1-6). Students who miss the midterm should contact the professor

within 48 hours, and the professor will arrange a replacement of the midterm exam at the professor's discretion.

Group Project: The group project will be assigned in end-February when we have a more stable class size. Group members will be assigned on a random basis. Each group will be given a project, and you need to apply what you learned from the course to finish the project. Note that I reserve the right to adjust group members when the situation becomes necessary. If this happens, a lottery system will be used.

Final Exam: The format and structure of the final exam will be announced in class. It will be a two-hour, timed exam covering chapters starting from Week 3 (i.e. Ch4-13).

Plagiarism

The work you submit should be your original work (less than 10 percent level of similarity) and reflect your own critical thinking. Once detected, plagiarism or any other form of violation of academic honesty will result in a grade of ZERO either for your individual grade component or your course grade, depending on the nature of the violation. At the same time, the student(s) will be reported to the Dean's Office to keep a written record. Note that it is effortless for modern technology to detect plagiarism, whether you are copying from your classmates or other sources. The University has software designed for this purpose.

Important Dates

- The last day to enroll without instructor permission: January 22, 2023.
- The last day to enroll with instructor permission: February 6, 2023 (Note: Such permission would only be allowed in rare cases).
- Last day to drop the course without receiving a grade: March 17, 2023.

Weekly Timetable

Week	Date	Weekly lecture: Wednesdays, 7- 10:00 pm	Homework Assignments (Due on Every Wednesday at 11:59pm)
1	January 10	Intro to the course; Ch1-Introduction	No Assignment this week
2	January 17	Ch 2-Accounting Under Ideal Conditions Ch 3-The Decision-usefulness Approach	No Assignment this week
3	January 24	Ch 4-Efficient Securities Markets	Ch2&3 assignment due
4	January 31	Ch 5- The Value Relevance of Accounting	No Assignment this week
5	February 7	Ch 6- The Valuation Approach to Decision Usefulness	Ch 4&5 Assignment due
6	February 14	Midterm Exam (Ch 1 to Ch 6) Time: 7 to 9 pm	On Campus
7	February 21	NO CLASS -Reading Week	
8	February 28	Ch 7-Valuation Applications	No Assignment this week
9	March 7	Ch 8- Efficient Contracting Theory and Accounting	Ch 6&7 assignment due
10	March 14	Ch 9- An Analysis of Conflict	No Assignment this week
11	March 21	Ch 10- Executive Compensation	Ch8 and 9 assignments due
12	March 28	Ch 11 -Earnings Management	No Assignment this week
13	April 4	Ch 12 -Standard Setting: Economic Issues Ch 13-Standard Setting: Political Issues	Ch10 &11 Assignment due
14	April 7	Group Project: due 11:59 pm eClass submission box	
	During the Exam period (April 12-27)	Date &Time: TBA	Final exam (cumulative covering Ch 4 to Ch 13)

- Note: A pre-recorded lecture and PowerPoint slides will be posted on the eClass at least one week before the scheduled brief lecture.

List of Homework and Group Assignments and Respective Due Dates:

Week	Date	# Of the Homework Assignments	Homework (Due on Every Tuesday at 11:59pm)
3	January 24	Homework Assignment 1	Ch 2: Q 15 (p.62), Q 26 (p.68) Ch 3: Q 4 (p. 107), Q 9 (109)
5	February 7	Homework Assignment 2	Ch 4: Q6 (p.146), Q13 (p. 148) Ch 5: Q12 (p.181), Q 17 (p.184)
9	March 7	Homework Assignment 3	Ch 6: Q3 (p.241), Q9 (p.242) Ch 7: Q7 (p.301), Q14 (p.304)
11	March 21	Homework Assignment 4	Ch 8: Q4 (p.349), Q 17 (p.356) Ch 9: Q6 (p.394), Q21 (p.401)
13	April 4	Homework Assignment 5	Ch 10: Q12 (p.439), Q 13 (p.440) Ch 11: Q7 (p.480), Q12 (p.484)
14	April 7	Group Project: Time: by 11:59 pm, eClass submission box	

Note: No assignment on chapter 1, 12, and 13

Computing Requirements

This course has an extensive computer interface, and you will need access to a multi-media computer with a high-speed Internet connection. The most recent versions of Adobe Reader and Apple QuickTime are required to view course materials, available by free download from www.adobe.com and www.quicktime.com, respectively. A computer and speakers (or headphones) will be required to read and listen to the recorded material that complements the text. 'Adobe Reader' and 'QuickTime' are needed to view the multimedia clips that illustrate and explain the concepts. There are free computer labs on campus for registered students who do not possess these computing resources. Campus computers do not have speakers, so you will have to supply your own headphones.

Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources and help:

- [Student Guide to eClass](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)
- [Computing for Students Website](#)
- [Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

To determine Internet connection and speed, there are online tests, such as [Speedtest](#), that can be run.

Intellectual property notice

All materials prepared for ADMS 4510 at York University are the intellectual property of the course instructors unless otherwise stated. This can include but is not limited to the following material: lecture notes, handouts and recordings; assignment handouts and

instructions; spoken and written presentations; audio and video recordings; PowerPoint slides; and questions and/or solution sets for assignments, midterm and final exams.

Course materials should only be used by students enrolled in this course. As a student in this course, you may not publish, post on an Internet site, sell, or otherwise distribute any of this work without the instructor's express permission. Unauthorized or commercial use of these materials is strictly prohibited. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian copyright law. Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website, or online sharing of course material with people outside of the course) may lead to a charge of misconduct under York's Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In addition, you may face legal consequences for any violation of copyright law.

Accessibility

While all students are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to achieve excellence, the University recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to perform at their best. For more information about this policy, please refer to these guidelines and procedures: Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities.

The University encourages students with disabilities to register with Student Accessibility Services to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term. An Accessibility Counsellor will help you establish recommended academic accommodations, which will then need to be communicated to your course instructor(s) as necessary. Please let the course instructor(s) know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation, so that your accommodation needs can be discussed and considered within the context of this course.

Policies related to Zoom meetings

Your course may involve the use of Zoom. Zoom is an online videoconferencing software that can be used to virtual office hours in real time.

Please note that Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S. Zoom meeting content (e.g., video, audio and text chat) has been restricted to only pass-through servers in Canada and US data centers; it will not pass-through international data centers, such as those in China. Although it is not possible to exclude the US data centers at this time, Zoom is developing this functionality and will implement it as soon as possible. All audio, video, screen-sharing and text content will be encrypted in transit between your device and Zoom's servers, which will prevent unauthorized third parties from intercepting the content of your Zoom meeting. For more information, please visit Zoom at YorkU.

Privacy

At the moment, the name you use with Zoom and metadata about how you use the application will be stored on servers outside of Canada. If you have privacy concerns, you can disable both audio and video. You can also provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session. If you choose to rename yourself, please let your instructor know immediately.

You can rename yourself in 4 easy steps.

1. After entering the Zoom meeting, click on the Participants icon at the bottom of the window.
2. Find your name in the Participants list on the right side of the Zoom window
3. Hover over your name and click the Rename button.
4. Enter the name that you would like to use in the Zoom meeting and click OK.

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](#)
- [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 emails).

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 date of deferred examinations is to be determined and is subject to School's further notice.

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/acadhone.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.