

IB230-15 Accounting in Context

20/21

Department

Warwick Business School

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Hendrik Vollmer

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

20% coursework, 80% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module is designed to help students understand some of the theoretical assumptions that underlie accounting regulation, practices and research.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

By the end of the module students will have developed their understanding of:

- The historical emergence of contemporary accounting practices and ideas.
- The contingent nature of accounting information and regulation, through engaging with the importance of understanding the historical, social, economic and political nature of accounting.
- The role of economics influenced thought and practice within accounting.
- The basic elements of normative, positive and critical theory (in accounting)
- The need to contextualize technical accounting information in order to interpret it.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be

covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Normative accounting theory and conceptual frameworks

Positive accounting theory

Critical accounting theory

The social and organisational contexts of accounting 1: truth and power

The social and organisational contexts of accounting 2: the profession

The social and organisational contexts of accounting 3: globalisation and environmental change

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand some of the theoretical assumptions that underlie accounting regulation, practices and research.
- Understand the contingent nature of accounting.
- Understand some of the controversies and difficulties embodied in accounting practices and theories.
- Critically examine the nature of accounting through discussing accounting theory and practice.
- Understand the role played by accounting in the globalisation of certain management ideas and practices.
- Demonstrate a knowledge of important developments in accounting ideas and research.
- Contextualise financial statements as part of the process of understanding an organisation's performance.
- Understand the role of accounting in portraying and creating notions of success.
- Assess the nature of accounting information in narrative and numerical forms and understand the relationships between financial statements and narrative statements.
- Understand the wide range of theoretical approaches drawn upon by accounting.
- Appreciate the historical emergence of accounting and its concepts and the ways in which these shape accounting practice.
- Understand the effect of the professionalisation of accounting on the relationship between concepts and practices.
- Develop personal ideas, arguments and opinions in relation to important issues in accounting.

Indicative reading list

Deegan, C. and J. Unerman (2011) "Financial Accounting Theory", 2nd European edition. London: McGraw Hill

Hines, R.D (1988) "Financial Accounting: In Communicating Reality, We Construct Reality" Accounting, Organizations and Society, 13 (3), pp.251-261

Hines, R. (1991) "The FASB's Conceptual Framework, Financial Accounting and the Maintenance of the Social World", Accounting, Organizations and Society, 16 (4), pp 313-332

Hopwood, A. and P. Miller (eds) (1994) "Accounting as Social and Institutional Practice", Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Sikka, P. (2009) "Financial Crisis and the Silence of the Auditors", Accounting, Organizations and Society, 34(6-7), pp. 868–873

Watts, R. and J. Zimmerman (1986), "Positive Accounting Theory", Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall
Young, J. J. (2006) "Making Up Users", Accounting, Organizations and Society, 31(6), pp. 579–600.

Subject specific skills

Understand the practical and ethical importance of being able to explain why elements of technical accounting

decisions/standards are as they are at any moment in time. (This feeds into the ability to articulate the assumptions

underpinning technical judgments).

Articulate in a general way the importance of understanding measurement assumptions and their impact on accounting numbers.

Interpret and critically analyse the (annual) reports and accounts of organisation.

Transferable skills

Demonstrate written communication skills.

Critically evaluate ideas about issues in accounting.

Demonstrate team work and oral communication.

Appreciate the range of academic accounting literature and its relationship to accounting practice.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	10 sessions of 2 hours (13%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	48 hours (32%)
Assessment	73 hours (49%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Directed reading; seminar preparation, private study.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group D1

	Weighting	Study time
Individual Assignment	20%	15 hours
Online Examination	80%	58 hours
Exam		
~Platforms - AEP		

- Online examination: No Answerbook required

Feedback on assessment

Cohort feedback on exam; individual feedback on each assignment along with 20-point marking grid.

[Past exam papers for IB230](#)

Availability

Pre-requisites

To take this module, you must have passed:

- Any of
 - [IB124-15 Introduction to Financial Accounting](#)
 - [IB146-15 Accounting for Business](#)
 - [IB133-15 Foundations of Accounting](#)
 - IB133-12 Foundations of Accounting

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UIBA-MN34 Law and Business Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 3 of MN34 Law and Business Studies Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 4 of MN34 Law and Business Studies Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 2 of UIPA-L8N1 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development and Business
- Year 3 of UIBA-MN31 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies
- UIBA-MN32 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies

- Year 3 of MN32 Law and Business Studies (Four-Year)
- Year 4 of MN32 Law and Business Studies (Four-Year)
- UIBA-MN37 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies (Qualifying Degree) with Intercalated Year
 - Year 2 of MN37 Law and Business Studies (Qualifying Degree) with Intercalated Year
 - Year 5 of MN37 Law and Business Studies (Qualifying Degree) with Intercalated Year
- UIBA-MN35 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (3+1)
 - Year 3 of MN35 Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (3+1)
 - Year 4 of MN35 Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (3+1)
- UIBA-MN36 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (4+1)
 - Year 2 of MN36 Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (4+1)
 - Year 5 of MN36 Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (4+1)

This module is Unusual option for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)

This module is Option list G for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)