



# ACCT20074 Contemporary Accounting Theory

## Term 2 - 2018

Profile information current as at 07/05/2024 07:19 am

All details in this unit profile for ACCT20074 have been officially approved by CQUUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

## General Information

### Overview

This unit engages students to establish an advanced understanding of the nature and development of accounting theory and its application and regulation. It builds on the students' technical skills and their foundational knowledge of accounting practice. The topics covered include the history and development of accounting, traditional approaches to the formulation of accounting, standard setting and institutional arrangements, harmonisation of accounting standards, a range of theoretical perspectives and the links between accounting theory, research and practice.

### Details

Career Level: *Postgraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 9*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

### Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Students must successfully complete ACCT20071 Foundations of Financial Accounting prior to enrolling in this unit.

Students who have successfully completed ACCT29083 Theory of Accounting cannot enrol in this unit.

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

### Offerings For Term 2 - 2018

- Brisbane
- Distance
- Melbourne
- Sydney

### Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes - in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

### Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

## Class and Assessment Overview

### Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Postgraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

### Class Timetable

#### [Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

#### [Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

### Assessment Overview

#### 1. **Online Quiz(zes)**

Weighting: 20%

#### 2. **Group Work**

Weighting: 30%

#### 3. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 50%

### Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

## CQUniversity Policies

**All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).**

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

## Previous Student Feedback

### Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

#### Feedback from Unit evaluations

##### Feedback

Authentic assessment wanted

##### Recommendation

The final assessment will involve the application of theory to the analysis of listed company reports.

## Unit Learning Outcomes

### On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the Australian accounting and reporting regulatory environment, comparing it to regulatory environments in other countries as well as their progress in the international harmonisation project
2. Work individually and as part of a team to analyse complex and current business issues through the lens of appropriately selected and applied theories
3. Select and use effective project and research skills to evaluate and synthesise accounting knowledge, and communicate findings in an appropriately professional format
4. Reflect on feedback from others and improve research and communication skills accordingly.

## Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



### Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 20%	•	•		
2 - Group Work - 30%	•	•	•	•
3 - Written Assessment - 50%	•	•	•	•

### Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Knowledge	○	○	○	○
2 - Communication	○	○	○	○
3 - Cognitive, technical and creative skills				

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
4 - Research	○	○	○	
5 - Self-management				
6 - Ethical and Professional Responsibility				
7 - Leadership				
8 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures				

### Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 20%	○							
2 - Group Work - 30%	○	○		○				
3 - Written Assessment - 50%	○	○		○				

## Textbooks and Resources

### Textbooks

ACCT20074

#### Prescribed

#### Financial Accounting Theory

Edition: 4th (2014)

Authors: Craig Deegan

McGraw-Hill Australia

North Ryde , NSW , Australia

ISBN: 9780071013147

Binding: Hardcover

#### Additional Textbook Information

Any further information about the textbook and reading will be provided in the class

### IT Resources

#### You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

## Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

## Teaching Contacts

**Tek Lama** Unit Coordinator  
[t.lama@cqu.edu.au](mailto:t.lama@cqu.edu.au)

## Schedule

### Week 1 - 09 Jul 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
An introduction to theoretical perspective of accounting	1	

### Week 2 - 16 Jul 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The regulation of financial accounting	2 & 3	

### Week 3 - 23 Jul 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
International experience in financial accounting	4	

### Week 4 - 30 Jul 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Normative theories: values and measurement	5	

### Week 5 - 06 Aug 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Normative theories: the conceptual framework projects	6	

### Vacation Week - 13 Aug 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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### Week 6 - 20 Aug 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Theories of voluntary disclosure of accounting information: Positive Accounting Theory (PAT)	7	<b>Group assignment - literature review</b> Due: Week 6 Friday (24 Aug 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

### Week 7 - 27 Aug 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Theories of voluntary disclosure of accounting information: systems theories	8	

### Week 8 - 03 Sep 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Theories of voluntary disclosure of accounting information: accountability, 9 social and environmental reporting

#### Week 9 - 10 Sep 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Positive theories concerning the use of, and response to accounting information	10 & 11	

#### Week 10 - 17 Sep 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Alternative perspective of accounting: critical and post-structuralist views	12	

#### Week 11 - 24 Sep 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Contemporary issues		

#### Week 12 - 01 Oct 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Unit review		<b>RESEARCH REPORT - MAJOR ASSIGNMENT</b> Due: Week 12 Friday (5 Oct 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

#### Review/Exam Week - 08 Oct 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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#### Exam Week - 15 Oct 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
		<b>Online quizzes</b> Due: Exam Week Friday (19 Oct 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

## Assessment Tasks

### 1 Online quizzes

#### Assessment Type

Online Quiz(zes)

#### Task Description

This assessment item is an individual task. It includes two online tests of 10 marks each. Each test will consist of 20 randomly generated questions of 0.5 marks each.

Both tests will appear in Moodle on Monday of Week 6 and remain open until the due date and time provided. While the tests are available, you may undertake either test at any time of your choosing. **You may undertake each test once only. Make sure you are prepared.**

**Once started, each test will be available for 40 minutes.**

The online tests will cover the following material:

Online Test 1: Modules 1-6.

Online Test 2: Modules 7-11.

Each test will generate 20 questions from a large pool of questions covering the specified modules. That means that in any one online test, the modules may not be covered equally.

Any student who experiences technical difficulties with Moodle or network communications while trying to do these tests should *email* the unit coordinator immediately, and where appropriate a second attempt may be arranged.

Students must carefully note the due date and time for these tests. The online tests will disappear once this deadline has passed and will not be made available after this time. You are expected to ensure that you have undertaken the tests within the time period provided. If you are planning on doing any of these tests

on the night of closing, then be prepared for the risks of doing this. There may be many other students trying to access Moodle at the same time, Moodle may not be available, or there could be other difficulties. **This will be unfortunate, but the online tests will not be opened up again.** Please do not try and do your tests on the last day or night.

**Number of Quizzes**

2

**Frequency of Quizzes**

Other

**Assessment Due Date**

Exam Week Friday (19 Oct 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

Both quizzes must be completed on or before the due date specified. There is no provision for an extension for this assessment.

**Return Date to Students**

Exam Week Friday (19 Oct 2018)

The result of these online quizzes will be made available as soon as the quiz is submitted.

**Weighting**

20%

**Assessment Criteria**

Each question is worth 0.5% of the overall unit assessment. Each question is multiple choice, with only one correct (or most correct) answer.

**Referencing Style**

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

**Submission**

Online

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Critically evaluate the Australian accounting and reporting regulatory environment, comparing it to regulatory environments in other countries as well as their progress in the international harmonisation project
- Work individually and as part of a team to analyse complex and current business issues through the lens of appropriately selected and applied theories

**Graduate Attributes**

- Knowledge

## 2 Group assignment - literature review

**Assessment Type**

Group Work

**Task Description**

The objective of this assignment is to assist students to learn and develop a range of skills such as researching, reviewing literature, critical analysis, evaluation and communication in a team work environment. The assignment must be completed in a group consisting of no more than 4 members. On-Campus students must form group within first 3 weeks of the term which must be within the same class. Distance students will liaise with the unit coordinator to help find a group. An online discussion and collaboration space for distance students will be provided in Moodle in Week 1. This will enable distance students to find fellow distance students who may be willing to form team. The assignment requires your group to write a comprehensive literature review on the topic provided. Your group assignment work must meet basic academic and professional standards which include articulate, critical, supported by evidence, free from errors, and most importantly, free from plagiarism. It is important that each member of the group contributes approximately equally in completing this group assignment.

**Assessment Due Date**

Week 6 Friday (24 Aug 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

Assignment must be submitted on or before due date specified via Moodle submission facility

**Return Date to Students**

Week 9 Monday (10 Sept 2018)

Marked assignments with appropriate comments/feedback along with mark sheet will be uploaded the Moodle by the return date specified.

**Weighting**

30%

**Assessment Criteria**

- Quality of research and literature review - 80%
- The readability (format, presentation, English expression and articulation) of your literature review -10%
- The evidence of contribution to the group by way of peer review by your team member -10%

**Referencing Style**

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

**Submission**

Online Group

**Submission Instructions**

Only assignments submitted via Moodle submission facility will be accepted. Assignment title page must have all group members name and ID details.

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Critically evaluate the Australian accounting and reporting regulatory environment, comparing it to regulatory environments in other countries as well as their progress in the international harmonisation project
- Work individually and as part of a team to analyse complex and current business issues through the lens of appropriately selected and applied theories
- Select and use effective project and research skills to evaluate and synthesise accounting knowledge, and communicate findings in an appropriately professional format
- Reflect on feedback from others and improve research and communication skills accordingly.

**Graduate Attributes**

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Research

## 3 RESEARCH REPORT - MAJOR ASSIGNMENT

**Assessment Type**

Written Assessment

**Task Description**

This assignment requires you to undertake research in corporate social/sustainability (CSR) reporting practice of a company listed on Australian Stock Exchange (ASX). You will use a recent CSR reports of a chosen company and conduct an in-depth examination of CSR reporting practice of the company addressing the followings:

- Descriptive analysis of its presentation and reporting of CSR information
- Comparative analysis of its reporting practice and CSR reporting guidelines (i.e. Global Initiative Reporting)
- Critical analysis of its CSR reporting motivation and practice using the concept of legitimacy and stakeholder theories
- Present comprehensive summary of your research findings

**Assessment Due Date**

Week 12 Friday (5 Oct 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

Assignment must be submitted on or before the due date specified via Moodle submission facility.

**Return Date to Students**

This assessment item will not be returned to students until final grades are certified. Students are asked to check the Moodle site after that time for their marks and associated comments/feedback.

**Weighting**

50%

**Assessment Criteria**

This assignment will be marked using the following criteria.

- Descriptive analysis of CSR reporting - 25%
- Comparative analysis of reporting practice and CSR reporting guidelines (e.g. GRI) - 25%
- Critical evaluation of CSR reporting using the concept of legitimacy/stakeholder theories - 25%
- Presentation of summary findings - 15%
- Quality of reports (e.g. writing and presentation) - 10%

**Referencing Style**



- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

**Submission**

Online

**Submission Instructions**

Assignment must be submitted on or before the due date specified via Moodle submission facility. The assignment must include title page detailing assignment topic, student name and ID.

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Critically evaluate the Australian accounting and reporting regulatory environment, comparing it to regulatory environments in other countries as well as their progress in the international harmonisation project
- Work individually and as part of a team to analyse complex and current business issues through the lens of appropriately selected and applied theories
- Select and use effective project and research skills to evaluate and synthesise accounting knowledge, and communicate findings in an appropriately professional format
- Reflect on feedback from others and improve research and communication skills accordingly.

**Graduate Attributes**

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Research

## Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

### What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

### Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

### Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

### What can you do to act with integrity?



#### Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



#### Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



#### Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem