



# ACCT20074 Contemporary Accounting Theory

## Term 1 - 2019

Profile information current as at 12/05/2024 11:56 pm

All details in this unit profile for ACCT20074 have been officially approved by CQUniversity 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 1 - 2019

- Brisbane
- Melbourne
- Online
- 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: Other

#### Additional Textbook Information

There will be an e-version of the textbook for students to purchase. Students can access E-text via this link:

<http://www.mheducation.com.au/9781743074626-aus-vitalsource-ebook-online-access-for-financial-accounting-theory>

However, if you prefer a paper text, they will be available at the CQUniversity Bookshop here:

<http://bookshop.cqu.edu.au> (search on the Unit code)

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

### 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

**Kazi Islam** Unit Coordinator

[k.islam@cqu.edu.au](mailto:k.islam@cqu.edu.au)

## Schedule

### Week 1 - 11 Mar 2019

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

### Week 2 - 18 Mar 2019

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

### Week 3 - 25 Mar 2019

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

### Week 4 - 01 Apr 2019

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

### Week 5 - 08 Apr 2019

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

### Vacation Week - 15 Apr 2019

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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### Week 6 - 22 Apr 2019

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Theories of voluntary disclosure of accounting information: Positive Accounting Theory (PAT)	7	

### Week 7 - 29 Apr 2019

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

### Week 8 - 06 May 2019

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

9

**Group assignment - literature review** Due: Week 8 Friday (10 May 2019) 11:45 pm AEST

#### Week 9 - 13 May 2019

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Positive theories regarding reactions of capital markets to financial reporting	10 & 11	

#### Week 10 - 20 May 2019

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

#### Week 11 - 27 May 2019

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Contemporary issues		<b>Online quizzes</b> Due: Week 11 Friday (31 May 2019) 11:45 pm AEST

#### Week 12 - 03 Jun 2019

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Unit review		<b>RESEARCH REPORT - MAJOR ASSIGNMENT</b> Due: Week 12 Friday (7 June 2019) 11:45 pm AEST

#### Review/Exam Week - 10 Jun 2019

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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#### Exam Week - 17 Jun 2019

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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## Assessment Tasks

### 1 Online quizzes

#### Assessment Type

Online Quiz(zes)

#### Task Description

This assessment item is an individual task which comprises two online quizzes (quiz 1 and quiz 2) of 10 marks each. Each quiz consists of 20 multiple choice questions randomly generated from a pool of questions. The two quizzes will appear online in Moodle in week 6 and remain open until the due date and time provided for completion of those quizzes.

A student may choose to undertake and complete either quiz at any time before the expiry of the due date and time. Each quiz is set on the basis of specific modules as under:

Quiz (Online Test) 1: Modules 1-6

Quiz (Online Test) 2: Modules 7-11.

If any student faces technical difficulties with Moodle or network communications while trying to undertake these quizzes should *email* the unit coordinator immediately, and where appropriate a second attempt may be arranged. Students need to remember that both quizzes will disappear after the due date and time, and hence will not be opened up again.

#### Number of Quizzes

2

#### Frequency of Quizzes

Other

**Assessment Due Date**

Week 11 Friday (31 May 2019) 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**

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

**Weighting**

20%

**Assessment Criteria**

As each quiz comprises 20 questions for 10 marks, each question is worth 0.5% of the overall unit assessment. That is, 0.5 mark will be provided on the basis of one correct (or most correct) answer to each question.

**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 2 to 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 2. 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/s 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 8 Friday (10 May 2019) 11:45 pm AEST

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

**Return Date to Students**

Week 10 Friday (24 May 2019)

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 students to demonstrate their conceptual and theoretical knowledge in explaining the annual reporting practices in selected companies listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX). The assignment will consist of two main parts, Part A and Part B.

Part A will require to undertake research examining how the conceptual framework guides the preparation of annual report of a listed company.

Part B will require to apply the legitimacy theory and stakeholder theory in explaining the integrated reporting in a listed company.

**Assessment Due Date**

Week 12 Friday (7 June 2019) 11:45 pm AEST

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

**Return Date to Students**

Exam Week Friday (21 June 2019)

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:

- Theoretical knowledge of the conceptual framework, legitimacy theory and stakeholder theory – 20%
- Analysis of annual reporting practices applying the knowledge of the conceptual framework, legitimacy theory and stakeholder theory – 60%
- Presentation (summary of findings) – 5%
- Presentation (writing skill and referencing) – 15%

**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