

**City University of Hong Kong  
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Accountancy  
with effect from Semester A 2024/25**

**Part I Course Overview**

**Course Title:** Seminar in Financial Accounting Issues

**Course Code:** AC8900

**Course Duration:** 1 semester

**Credit Units:** 3

**Level:** R8

**Medium of Instruction:** English

**Medium of Assessment:** English

**Prerequisites:**  
*(Course Code and Title)* Nil

**Precursors:**  
*(Course Code and Title)* Nil

**Equivalent Courses:**  
*(Course Code and Title)* Nil

**Exclusive Courses:**  
*(Course Code and Title)* Nil

## Part II Course Details

### 1. Abstract

*This course aims to*

- Provide a critical forum for discussions of contemporary issues in financial reporting and capital markets, including capital market consequences of financial reporting, disclosure quality/policies, earnings management, and external monitoring by capital market participants.
- Provide students with an opportunity to nurture their ability to conduct independent thesis research by applying up-to-date methodology to contemporary issues of their interests.
- Provide students with in-depth training about how to get access to and make use of research databases available at CityU, including the Wharton research Databases.

### 2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Describe and explain four distinct, but inter-related, roles of financial reporting in the capital-market economy: (1) the informational role; (2) the valuation role; (3) the monitoring/corporate governance role; and (4) the regulatory role.  Provide students with in-depth methodological training for their thesis research.		✓	✓	✓
2.	Apply methodological knowledge to their thesis research.  Be ready to process large-scale research data for students' thesis research.		✓	✓	✓
		100%			

A1: *Attitude*

*Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.*

A2: *Ability*

*Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.*

A3: *Accomplishments*

*Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.*

### 3. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.				Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2			
Lectures & Presentations	In the first part of each class (about 30 minutes), students will engage in learning the underlying theoretical framework and importance of each topical area. Through conscientious analysis of reading materials, students will engage in class discussions. In most classes, students are required to present some pre-assigned reading materials individually or on a group basis. In a typical class, about three pre-assigned original papers (that have recently been published in top-tier journals) will be presented and discussed. At the last part of class (about 30 minutes), the professor is expected to consolidate class discussions and give a brief introduction on key aspects of the papers to be discussed in the next class.	✓				
Research proposal	<p>During the semester, students will engage in developing his/her own research proposal and further elaborating it in form of a term paper.# Ideally, the term paper could be further developed into his/her Ph.D. thesis proposal in the future.</p> <p>During the second half of the semester, students are required to submit their assignments (mostly related to replication of other published research results using databases available at CityU.</p>		✓			

# DEC LTA element

**4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)**

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting	Remarks
	1	2						
Continuous Assessment: <b>100%</b>								
<u>Presentation and Class Participation</u> In most classes, students are required to present some pre-assigned reading materials individually or on a group basis. In a typical class, about three pre-assigned original papers (that have recently been published in top-tier journals) will be presented and discussed.	✓						50%	
<u>Term Paper<sup>#</sup> &amp; Assignments</u> During the semester, students are expected to come up with his/her own research proposal and to further elaborate it in form of a term paper.# Ideally, the term paper could be further developed into his/her Ph.D. thesis proposal in the future.  During the second half of the semester, students are required to submit their assignments (mostly related to replication of other published research results using databases available at CityU.		✓					50%	
							100%	

**# DEC AT element**

## 5. Assessment Rubrics

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter

	Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1.	Presentation and Class Participation	Ability to critically evaluate the quality of research.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
2.	Term Paper & Assignments	Ability to identify research topics and describe research objectives, review of related literatures, research hypotheses, test procedures including sample, data sources, test design, and contribution to the existing literature.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels

Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
1. Presentation and Class Participation	Ability to critically evaluate the quality of research.	High	Significant	Moderate	Not even reaching marginal levels
2. Term Paper & Assignments	Ability to identify research topics and describe research objectives, review of related literatures, research hypotheses, test procedures including sample, data sources, test design, and contribution to the existing literature.	High	Significant	Moderate	Not even reaching marginal levels

## Part III Other Information

### 1. Keyword Syllabus

Information quality, Corporate disclosures, Mandatory disclosures, Voluntary disclosures, Information asymmetries, Product markets, Capital markets, Corporate governance, External monitoring, Accounting conservatism, Earnings management, Information environment, Analyst activities, Cost of capital, Debt contracting, International financial reporting standards, Firm-specific information flow, stock price informativeness.

### 2. Reading List

#### 2.1 Compulsory Readings

1.	e-journal: The Accounting Review, all issues
2.	e-journal: Journal of Accounting Research, all issues
3.	e-journal: Journal of Accounting and Economics, all issues
4.	e-journal: Contemporary Accounting Research, all issues
5.	e-journal: Review of Accounting Studies, all issues

#### 2.2 Additional Readings

1.	e-journal: Journal of Finance, all issues
2.	e-journal: Journal of Financial Economics, all issues
3.	e-journal: Review of Financial Studies, all issues