

**City University of Hong Kong  
Course Syllabus**

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

**Part I Course Overview**

<b>Course Title:</b>	Seminar on Executive Compensation, Corporate Governance, and Financial Reporting
<b>Course Code:</b>	AC8920
<b>Course Duration:</b>	1 semester
<b>Credit Units:</b>	3
<b>Level:</b>	R8
<b>Medium of Instruction:</b>	English
<b>Medium of Assessment:</b>	English
<b>Prerequisites:</b> <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
<b>Precursors:</b> <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
<b>Equivalent Courses:</b> <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
<b>Exclusive Courses:</b> <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil

## Part II Course Details

### 1. Abstract

This course aims to:

1. Introduce academic research on executive compensation, corporate governance, and financial reporting in an agency theory framework.
2. Stimulate research interests in this literature and help identify possible dissertation topics.

### 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 critique studies examining the impact of corporate governance on firm performance.		✓	✓	✓
2.	Explain and apply theories on the relation between corporate governance and financial reporting.		✓	✓	✓
3.	Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in verbal and written formats.		✓	✓	✓
		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	3	
Interactive seminars*	Students will engage in presentations of assigned readings together with instructor supplementation of key concepts and interactions with examples of hypothetical and real life situations.	✓	✓		
Class discussion*	Within small group settings, students will present and critique several papers.			✓	

\* DEC LTA element

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

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.				Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3			
Continuous Assessment: <b><u>100%</u></b>						
Presentation and Class Participation <sup>#</sup>	✓	✓	✓		50%	
Term Paper <sup>#</sup>	✓	✓	✓		50%	
					100%	

<sup>#</sup> 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	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	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

Agency theory, executive compensation, corporate governance, financial reporting quality, earnings management, accounting conservatism, tax avoidance, financial crisis

### 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