

**Oakland University**  
**School Of Business Administration**  
**ACC 6995: Professional Accounting Research**  
**Section 10492, TR: 1:00-2:17 p.m.; Elliott Hall 200C**  
**Course Syllabus, Winer 2018**

**Prerequisites:** This course is designed to be a capstone course for the MAcc. Program. As such, a considerable amount of knowledge is presupposed, including, but not limited to, fundamentals of financial, managerial and tax accounting, as well as having proficiency in certain computer programs (particularly Excel™) and systems skills.

**I. Instructor:**

Dr. Joseph Callaghan

Ph.D.

J.D.-M.B.A.

B.S. (Accounting)

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

University of Detroit Mercy

University of Detroit Mercy

**II. Contact Information:**

Office: 321 EH

Hours: T: 2:30-3:30 pm

R: 2:30-3:30, 5:00-6:20 p.m.,

(by WebEx possibly) & by appointment

Office phone: 370-3538

Email: [callagha@oakland.edu](mailto:callagha@oakland.edu) or within [Moodle](#)

**III. Course Resources:**

Texts => **Financial Accounting Theory, 7th Edition**, Scott, ©2015  
[ISBN-13: 9780132984669, [hereinafter Scott].

Materials => Computer-readable storage device  
Binder/Folders for individual and group research projects.

Other => OU or personal computer w/email/Moodle account  
Computer lab and Library resources  
Audit Analytics/RIA Student Account  
Illuminate Account

#### **IV. Professional Accounting Research Course Learning Objectives (CLOs):**

Accounting 660 has the following course learning objectives that will be achieved in a variety of ways and measured with a variety of instruments for student evaluation and for course and MAcc program assessment purposes.

- CLO1. Understand Financial Accounting from a variety of theoretical perspectives
- CLO2. Understand Information Asymmetry: Adverse Selection & Moral Hazard
- CLO3. Understand Efficient Market Theory
- CLO4. Understand Development of Accounting Standards from Conceptual Frameworks
- CLO5. Understand Principal/Agent theory
- CLO6. Demonstrate an ability to conduct a research study
  - a. Identify a subject area of research interest
  - b. Perform a literature review
  - c. Identify theories and frameworks to be used
  - d. Translate research interest into questions and/or problems
  - e. Formulate Hypothesis(es): Formulate questions that are empirically refutable
  - f. Use appropriate methods: How will you test the hypotheses?
  - g. Investigate sources of data
  - h. Identify samples/sub-samples
  - i. Collect relevant data for sample/sub-samples
  - j. Compile descriptive statistics
  - k. Use inferential statistics, if appropriate
  - l. Summarize findings/Conclude study/Suggest ideas for subsequent research

#### **V. Class Participation and Research Projects:**

##### Class Participation

You are required to attend all classes and participate in class projects and discussions. To document participation, a class participation sheet is included for each student (Attachment 1). Class attendance, documented participation, along with projects done during class, will determine your class participation grade.

For good participation, students should

- always be well prepared;
- ask insightful, penetrating questions;
- push the discussion to a higher, more sophisticated level;
- help us understand, in a constructive manner, why some of the arguments that have been voiced are flawed or incomplete.

Poor participation is when students

- rarely talk;
- sleep in class;
- skip classes;
- make irrelevant comments;
- are unprepared when they are called upon;
- arrive late;
- leave early.

### Readings

Scheduled required readings are listed below. These readings, together with class discussions, in which all students must participate (see note on class participation in the preceding paragraph). Students should be adequately prepared for these discussion sessions (i.e., do assigned readings before class).

### Case Studies, Projects and Other Assignments

Cases studies will be completed throughout the semester, to coincide with the various topics. Some assignments will be done on an individual basis, while others may be group project assignments. Group size will be three people, but may vary depending course enrollment. For group submissions, each student will evaluate the overall contribution of the other group members.

### **VI. General Course Administration:**

- 1) Please turn off cells phones during class.
- 2) Completion of assigned readings, questions, projects, or problems prior to class meetings is essential. Short class quizzes may be given periodically. You are responsible for retaining materials evaluated for credit.
- 3) Course evaluation:

Grading and mark allocation:

The maximum absolute score that a student can attain in this course is 100 points. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Course Grade		
Numeric	Letter	Percentage
4.0-3.6	A	100%-90%
3.5-3.0	B	89%-80%
2.9-2.0	C	79%-70%
1.9-1.0	D	69%-60%
0.0	No credit	59% and less

The components of your grade will be weighted as follows:

<b>Grading:</b>	
Cases and Assignments	30%
Project and Presentation	50%
Class Participation	<u>20%</u>
<b>Total</b>	100%

**Incompletes:** An “Incomplete” grade can only be used in cases of severe hardship beyond the control of the student (e.g., hospitalization). *It cannot be used to make up for inadequate performance.* See OU catalog for policy and request procedure.

#### **4) NO USE OF RECORDING DEVICES:**

You may use laptop computers and other Instructor-approved devices during class to take notes only. You may not use vocal or video recording devices of any kind. The lectures and information presented in class by this instructor is proprietary and subject to copyright protection. Unauthorized use constitutes infringement and may subject you to sanctions. Electronically removing any materials (including pictures) from this class without the permission of the instructor is against the class rules and subject to consequences.

#### **5) Ethics:**

Ethics is a fundamental business concept. The standards of conduct by which one's actions are judged right or wrong, honest or dishonest, fair or unfair, are called *ethics*. Please read and comply with the university's policy on academic conduct (i.e., ethical behavior). It is printed in the undergraduate and graduate catalogs. Unaided individual work is expected for examinations. It is permissible to assist each other with homework assignments, as this is part of the learning process. But, for individual homework assignments, each student must prepare his or her own work. For example, printouts of computer files must *not* originate from the same file, as this would constitute plagiarism. Plagiarism is unethical. Any written assignments must cite proper references. This includes any information obtained from articles, books, and the internet.

**-Tentative Schedule-**

<b><u>ACC 6995</u></b>	<b><u>Prof Accounting Research</u></b>	<b><u>Room</u></b>
10492	1:00 pm - 2:17 pm	Elliott Hall 200C
<b><u>Week of</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Reading Assignments</u></b>
1/4/2018	Introduction	Scott, Chapter 1
1/11/2018	Accounting Under Ideal Conditions	Scott, Chapter 2
1/18/2018	The Decision Usefulness Approach to Financial Reporting	Scott, Chapter 3
1/25/2018	Efficient Securities Markets	Scott, Chapter 4
2/1/2018	The Information Approach to Decision Usefulness	Scott, Chapter 5
2/8/2018	The Measurement Approach to Decision Usefulness	Scott, Chapter 6
2/15/2018	Measurement Applications	Scott, Chapter 7
2/22/2018	<b>Winter Recess</b>	
3/1/2018	Basic Research/ CRSP RI-Compustat	
3/8/2018	Basic Research	
3/15/2018	Basic Research	
3/22/2018	Research Methods	
3/29/2018	Research Methods	
4/5/2018	Research Methods	
4/12/2018	Presentations I	
4/24/2018	Presentation II 12-3 pm/Projects Due	

### Attachment 1: Class Participation Sheet

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Summary of Best Session Participation</b>	<b>Score By Instructor*</b>
1/4/2018		
1/11/2018		
1/18/2018		
1/25/2018		
2/1/2018		
2/8/2018		
2/15/2018		
2/22/2018	<b>Winter Recess</b>	
3/1/2018		
3/8/2018		
3/15/2018		
3/22/2018		
3/29/2018		
4/5/2018		

\*1 point per session for attendance with "no comment,"  
1 point per session for a comment /contribution judged relevant by instructor, and  
1 extra credit point per week for a comment/contribution judged excellent by instructor.