



UNSW

UNSW Course Outline

ACCT5909 Current Developments in Auditing Research - 2024

Published on the 12 May 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ACCT5909

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : UNSW Business School

Academic Unit : School of Accounting, Auditing and Taxation

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Current Developments in Auditing Research is designed to extend disciplinary perspectives in auditing and provide training for research in auditing and assurance services. The course focuses on current areas of research in auditing and related assurance services. The following

topics will be covered: some of the main empirical and theoretical developments in auditing research; the main research methods used in auditing research; alternative research methods; the practical implications of current research in auditing; the relationship of research to practice and standard-setting, and statistical tools to use in audit research.

Course Aims

As a result of its overview of contemporary auditing research, and the intersection between auditing research and practice, this course aims to:

1. Encourage intellectual engagement with, and an appreciation of, the different 'theoretical frameworks' or 'paradigms' that may be utilised to promote an understanding of both the research and practice of auditing and assurance;
2. Provide a critical understanding of the links between auditing and assurance research, practice and standard setting;
3. Prepare students to identify viable research topics in the field of auditing and assurance; and
4. Prepare students to undertake research in the field of auditing and assurance, including choice of research method, data collection, and appropriate methods of analysis.

ACCT5909 Current Developments in Auditing Research is complemented by ACCT5997 Seminar in Research Methodology, which focuses on research methods commonly used by behavioural researchers, as well as ACCT5951 Current Developments in Accounting Research-Financial which focuses on research methods commonly used by those undertaking research associated with the economics of auditing.

Course Learning Outcomes

| Course Learning Outcomes |
|--|
| CLO1 : Identify and articulate contemporary research issues and trends in the field of auditing and assurance. |
| CLO2 : Identify and differentiate a range of intellectual frameworks and methods for conducting auditing and assurance research. |
| CLO3 : Critically analyse and evaluate extant and proposed audit and assurance research. |
| CLO4 : Identify possible future developments in audit theory and research. |
| CLO5 : Identify possible relationships between research in auditing, auditing practice and auditing regulation. |
| CLO6 : Construct written work which is logically and professionally presented. |
| CLO7 : Communicate ideas in a succinct and clear manner. |
| CLO8 : Collaborate effectively in learning activities aimed at achieving the above objectives. |
| CLO9 : Conduct research in an ethical manner. |

| Course Learning Outcomes | Assessment Item |
|--|--|
| CLO1 : Identify and articulate contemporary research issues and trends in the field of auditing and assurance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment 1: Class Participation (including quality of class discussion) • Assessment 2: Research Proposal Presentation • Assessment 3: Research Proposal |
| CLO2 : Identify and differentiate a range of intellectual frameworks and methods for conducting auditing and assurance research. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment 1: Class Participation (including quality of class discussion) • Assessment 2: Research Proposal Presentation • Assessment 3: Research Proposal |
| CLO3 : Critically analyse and evaluate extant and proposed audit and assurance research. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment 1: Class Participation (including quality of class discussion) • Assessment 2: Research Proposal Presentation • Assessment 3: Research Proposal |
| CLO4 : Identify possible future developments in audit theory and research. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment 1: Class Participation (including quality of class discussion) • Assessment 2: Research Proposal Presentation • Assessment 3: Research Proposal |
| CLO5 : Identify possible relationships between research in auditing, auditing practice and auditing regulation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment 1: Class Participation (including quality of class discussion) • Assessment 2: Research Proposal Presentation • Assessment 3: Research Proposal |
| CLO6 : Construct written work which is logically and professionally presented. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment 2: Research Proposal Presentation • Assessment 3: Research Proposal |
| CLO7 : Communicate ideas in a succinct and clear manner. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment 1: Class Participation (including quality of class discussion) |
| CLO8 : Collaborate effectively in learning activities aimed at achieving the above objectives. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment 1: Class Participation (including quality of class discussion) • Assessment 2: Research Proposal Presentation |
| CLO9 : Conduct research in an ethical manner. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment 3: Research Proposal • Assessment 2: Research Proposal Presentation |

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

| Assessment Item | Weight | Relevant Dates |
|--|--------|----------------|
| Assessment 1: Class Participation (including quality of class discussion) Assessment Format: Individual | 25% | |
| Assessment 2: Research Proposal Presentation Assessment Format: Individual | 25% | |
| Assessment 3: Research Proposal Assessment Format: Individual | 50% | |

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Class Participation (including quality of class discussion)

Assessment Overview

This task requires students to attend class and demonstrate their participation in discussion surrounding weekly readings. Students will be assigned a research paper prior to each class and will present the paper to the class for discussion. Each student is required to read all of the papers for each class and discuss each paper including those papers they have not been assigned to present.

Assesses: PLO1, PLO2, PLO3

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify and articulate contemporary research issues and trends in the field of auditing and assurance.
- CLO2 : Identify and differentiate a range of intellectual frameworks and methods for conducting auditing and assurance research.
- CLO3 : Critically analyse and evaluate extant and proposed audit and assurance research.
- CLO4 : Identify possible future developments in audit theory and research.
- CLO5 : Identify possible relationships between research in auditing, auditing practice and auditing regulation.
- CLO7 : Communicate ideas in a succinct and clear manner.
- CLO8 : Collaborate effectively in learning activities aimed at achieving the above objectives.

Assessment information

Short Extensions are not available for this assessment.

Assessment 2: Research Proposal Presentation

Assessment Overview

Students will be required to present their research proposal in the final week of class during a 30-minute time slot. Consisting of 15 minutes uninterrupted presentation time and 15 minutes for questions and answers. Then there will be an allowance for feedback from the lecturers teaching on the course. Students should incorporate the feedback into their final written proposal.

Assesses: PLO1, PLO2, PLO3

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify and articulate contemporary research issues and trends in the field of auditing and assurance.
- CLO2 : Identify and differentiate a range of intellectual frameworks and methods for conducting auditing and assurance research.
- CLO3 : Critically analyse and evaluate extant and proposed audit and assurance research.
- CLO4 : Identify possible future developments in audit theory and research.
- CLO5 : Identify possible relationships between research in auditing, auditing practice and auditing regulation.
- CLO6 : Construct written work which is logically and professionally presented.
- CLO8 : Collaborate effectively in learning activities aimed at achieving the above objectives.
- CLO9 : Conduct research in an ethical manner.

Assessment information

Short Extensions are not available for this assessment.

Assessment 3: Research Proposal

Assessment Overview

Students are required to write a research proposal. The maximum length is 3,000 words (excluding reference list, tables and figures. While each research proposal is unique, a proposal *usually* includes:

- Title page
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Literature review and Hypothesis development

Proposed Research Design (included proposed sample)

Assesses: PLO1, PLO2, PLO3

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify and articulate contemporary research issues and trends in the field of auditing and assurance.
- CLO2 : Identify and differentiate a range of intellectual frameworks and methods for conducting auditing and assurance research.
- CLO3 : Critically analyse and evaluate extant and proposed audit and assurance research.
- CLO4 : Identify possible future developments in audit theory and research.
- CLO5 : Identify possible relationships between research in auditing, auditing practice and auditing regulation.
- CLO6 : Construct written work which is logically and professionally presented.
- CLO9 : Conduct research in an ethical manner.

Assessment information

Short Extensions are not available for this assessment.

General Assessment Information

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

You are expected to complete all assessment tasks for your courses in the School of Accounting, Auditing & Taxation. In some courses, there will be a minimum pass mark required on the final exam due to the need to assure individual mastery of specific course learning outcomes for accounting accreditation requirements. Where applicable this is explained in the assessment section of this course outline.

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

In order to pass this course, you must:

- achieve a composite mark of at least 50 out of 100;

- meet any additional requirements described in the Assessment Summary section.

You are expected to attempt all assessment requirements in the course.

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

Please note that lecture recordings are not available for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and contact the Course Authority to make alternative arrangements for classes missed.

Staff Details

| Position | Name | Email | Location | Phone | Availability | Equitable Learning Services Contact | Primary Contact |
|---------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|-------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Head lecturer | Gary Monroe | | QUAD 3085 | | | No | Yes |
| | Ken Trotman | | QUAD 3112 | | | No | No |
| | Brendan O'Dwyer | | | | | No | No |

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

COURSE POLICIES AND SUPPORT

The Business School expects that you are familiar with the contents of this course outline and the UNSW and Business School learning expectations, rules, policies and support services as listed below:

- Program Learning Outcomes
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Student Responsibilities and Conduct
- Special Consideration
- Protocol for Viewing Final Exam Scripts
- Student Learning Support Services

Further information is provided on the [key policies and support page](#).

Students may not circulate or post online any course materials such as handouts, exams, syllabi or similar resources from their courses without the written permission of their instructor.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) – under the Outcomes tab – are what you should be able to demonstrate by the end of this course, if you participate fully in learning activities and successfully complete the assessment items.

CLOs also contribute to your achievement of the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), which are developed across the duration of a program. PLOs are, in turn, directly linked to [UNSW graduate capabilities](#). More information on Coursework PLOs is available on the [key policies and support page](#). For PG Research PLOs, including MPDBS, please refer to the [UNSW HDR Learning Outcomes](#).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances beyond your control interfere with your performance in a specific assessment task or tasks, including online exams. Students studying remotely who have exams scheduled between 10pm and 7am local time, are also able to apply for special consideration to sit a supplementary exam at a time outside of these hours.

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

Special consideration applications will be assessed centrally by the Case Review Team, who will update the online application with the outcome and add any relevant comments. The change to the status of the application immediately sends an email to the student and to the assessor with the outcome of the application.

Please note the following:

1. Applications can only be made through Online Services in myUNSW (see the UNSW [Current Students](#) page). Applications will not be accepted by teaching staff. The lecturer-in-charge/ course coordinator will be automatically notified when your application is processed.
2. Applying for special consideration does not automatically mean that you will be granted a supplementary exam or other concession.
3. If you experience illness or misadventure in the lead up to an exam or assessment, you must submit an application for special consideration, either prior to the examination taking place, or prior to the assessment submission deadline, except where illness or misadventure prevent you from doing so.
4. If your circumstances stop you from applying before your exam or assessment due date, you must apply within 3 working days of the assessment or the period covered by your supporting documentation.
5. Under the UNSW Fit To Sit/Submit rule, if you sit the exam/submit an assignment, you are declaring yourself well enough to do so and are cannot subsequently apply for special consideration.
6. If you become unwell on the day of – or during – an exam, you must stop working on your exam, advise your course coordinator or tutor and provide a medical certificate dated within 24 hours of the exam, with your special consideration application. For online exams, you must contact your course coordinator or tutor immediately via email, Moodle or chat and advise them you are unwell and submit screenshots of your conversation along with your medical certificate and application.
7. Special consideration requests do not allow the awarding of additional marks to students.

Further information on Business School policy and procedure can be found under “Special Consideration” on the [key policies and support](#) page.

LATE SUBMISSION PENALTIES

For assessments other than examinations, late submission will incur a penalty of 5% per day or part thereof (including weekends) from the due date and time. An assessment will not be accepted after 5 days (120 hours) of the original deadline unless special consideration has been approved. An assignment is considered late if the requested format, such as hard copy or electronic copy, has not been submitted on time or where the ‘wrong’ assignment has been

submitted.

For assessments which account for 10% or less of the overall course grade, and where answers are immediately discussed or debriefed, the LIC may stipulate a different penalty. Details of such late penalties will be available on the course Moodle page.

FEEDBACK ON YOUR ASSESSMENT TASK PERFORMANCE

Feedback on student performance from formative and summative assessment tasks will be provided to students in a timely manner. Assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other than a final assessment, will be assessed and students provided with feedback, with or without a provisional result, within 10 working days of submission, under normal circumstances. Feedback on continuous assessment tasks (e.g. laboratory and studio-based, workplace-based, weekly quizzes) will be provided prior to the midpoint of the course.

Faculty-specific Information

PROTOCOL FOR VIEWING FINAL EXAM SCRIPTS

UNSW students have the right to view their final exam scripts, subject to a small number of very specific exemptions. The UNSW Business School has set a [protocol](#) under which students may view their final exam script. Individual schools within the Faculty may also set up additional local processes for viewing final exam scripts, so it is important that you check with your School.

If you are completing courses from the following schools, please note the additional school-specific information:

- Students in the **School of Accounting, Auditing & Taxation** who wish to view their final examination script should also refer to [this page](#).
- Students in the **School of Banking & Finance** should also refer to [this page](#).
- Students in the **School of Information Systems & Technology Management** should also refer to [this page](#).

COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Feedback is regularly sought from students and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. At the end of this course, you will be asked to complete the [myExperience survey](#), which provides a key source of student evaluative feedback. Your input into this quality enhancement process is extremely valuable in assisting us to meet the needs of our students and provide an effective and enriching learning experience. The results of all surveys are

carefully considered and do lead to action towards enhancing educational quality.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Business School is actively monitoring student learning and quality of the student experience in all its programs. A random selection of completed assessment tasks may be used for quality assurance, such as to determine the extent to which program learning goals are being achieved. The information is required for accreditation purposes, and aggregated findings will be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of Business School programs. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential.

TEACHING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Please note that teaching times and locations are subject to change. Students are strongly advised to refer to the [Class Timetable website](#) for the most up-to-date teaching times and locations.

School Contact Information

The policies regarding staff contact in the School of Accounting, Auditing and Taxation are as follows:

- All questions regarding course administration should be directed to the Lecturer-in-charge.
- The full-time staff will be available for consultation starting from Weeks 2 to 10 and STUVAC period.
- Consultation hours will be advised on the course Moodle page in a consolidated timetable.
- Students are encouraged to consult with staff during online consultation sessions.
Consultation will not be provided via email or phone.
- Consultation times during STUVAC period will likely vary to the regular consultation during Term and be posted on the course webpage later in the Term.

While emails to staff should be a rare occurrence as noted above, in instances where it is warranted, please make sure that:

- You use your UNSW email address when corresponding with the teaching staff on this course. Emails from other addresses (such as Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo, 126, QQ, etc.) are not accepted and will not be replied to.
- You must use an appropriate communication level with staff. Emails and discussion forum posts that use short-hand and “Texting” language are not acceptable, and communication must be in English. If your email cannot be understood then staff will not reply.
- You must identify yourself by your full name, student ID and tutorial day and time.
- Please be aware that Staff will not necessarily reply to students to inform them if their emails

are non-compliant.

- Full-time teaching staff only answer emails during regular working hours of Monday to Friday 9am-5pm. Tutoring staff often have other jobs and require 48 hours within regular business office hours to reply to emails.

Complaints about the assessment and other aspects of this course should be directed in the first instance to the Lecturer-in-Charge (or Course Convenor) and if still unsatisfied with the response received then you are directed to contact the School of Accounting, Auditing & Taxation Grievance Officer, details available here: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/business/our-schools/accounting-auditing-taxation/contact-us>