



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2008/2009

GRA 6252 Financial Accounting – Theories and Methods

Program

Master in Professional Accountancy

Responsible for the course

Erlend Kvaal

Department

Department of Accounting - Auditing and Law

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

Norwegian

What is the relationship between accounting information and economic realities? This course provides insight into the fundamental functions of financial reporting and its theoretical basis.

Learning outcome

The course aims to provide insights into the connections between the accounting information of enterprises and their surroundings. We will discuss how the accounts reflect the financial conditions of the enterprises that prepare them, and also study how accounting information from these enterprises affects the companies' surroundings. The course provides a background for understanding the contents of accounting standards, to enable the students to apply and analyse accounting data correctly, and gain an insight into how accounting information is used by financial statement users (in particular investors) and what conclusions may be drawn as regards appropriate accounting regulations. The course also covers the history of accounting, the reasons for public regulation of financial reporting and international comparisons.

Prerequisites

The prerequisites are similar to the admission requirements for the master's programme in public accounting.

Compulsory literature

Books:

Alfredson, K. et al.. 2007. Applying international financial reporting standards. 2nd ed. Milton: John Wiley. Kapittel 1 & 2
Nobes, Christopher and Robert Parker, eds. 2008. Comparative international accounting. 10th ed. Harlow: FT/Prentice Hall. Kapittel 1 - 4
Scott, William R.. 2006. Financial accounting theory. 4th ed. Toronto: Prentice Hall. Kap 1-6, 8, 11-13

Articles:

Healy, P. og J. Wahlen. 1999. A review of the earnings management literature and its implications for standard setting. Accounting Horizons. December
Kvaal, Erlend. Fordypning i regnskapsfag, Kompendium til GRA 6252. Upublisert

Recommended literature

Course outline

- History of the accounting discipline
- Relationship with economic factors
- Accounting models
- The financial statement as a source of information for the stock market
- Earnings management and other externalities in the accounting function
- Comparative accounting studies

Computer-based tools

Blackboard

Course structure

36 hours of lectures, discussions and exercises.

Specific Information regarding student evaluation will be provided in class. Please note that while attendance is not compulsory in all courses, it is the student's responsibility to obtain any information provided in class that is not included on the course homepage/Blackboard or text book.

Evaluation

A 3-hour written examination.

Evaluation code(s)

GRA 62521 accounts for 100% of the final grade in the course GRA 6252.

Aids at the examination

BI-approved exam calculator. Exam aids at written examinations are explained under exam information in our web-based Student handbook. Please note use of calculator and dictionary. <http://www.bi.edu/studenthandbook/examaids>

Makeup exam

Re-takes are only possible at the next time a course will be held. When the course evaluation has a separate exam code for each part of the evaluation it is possible to retake parts of the evaluation. Otherwise, the whole course must be re-evaluated when a student wants to retake an exam. Retake examinations entail an extra examination fee.

Honor code

Academic honesty and trust are important to all of us as individuals, and represent values that are encouraged and promoted by the honor code system. This is a most significant university tradition. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the ideals of the honor code system, to which the faculty are also deeply committed.

Any violation of the honor code will be dealt with in accordance with BI's procedures for cheating. These issues are a serious matter to everyone associated with the programs at BI and are at the heart of the honor code and academy integrity. If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the honor code, please ask.