APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/2010

GRA 6252 Financial Accounting – Theories and Methods

Programme
Master in Professional Accountancy

Responsible for the course

Department
Department of Accounting - Auditing and Law

Term
According to study plan

ECTS Credits
6

Language of instruction
Norwegian

Introduction
What is the relationsip 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 professional accountancy.

Compulsory reading
Books:
Nobes, Christopher and Robert Parker, eds. 2008. Comparative international accounting. 10th ed. Harlow: FT/Prentice Hall. Kapittel 1 - 4
Scott, William R. 2009. Financial accounting theory. 5th 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

Other:
I løpet av kurset kan det bli delt ut materiale på flere emner som er relevante for kurset og eksamen

Recommended reading

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

Learning process and workload
36 hours of lectures, discussions and exercises.

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

Examination
A 3-hour written examination.

Specific information regarding student evaluation beyond the information given in the course description will be provided in class. This information may be relevant for requirements for term papers or other hand-ins, and/or where class participation can be one of several elements of the overall evaluation.

Exam code(s)
GRA 62521 accounts for 100% of the final grade in the course GRA 6252.

Examination support materials
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

Re-sit examination
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.

Additional information
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 academic integrity. If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the honor code, please ask.