Course Objectives

1. Understand how accounting institutions came about and how they interact to result in the regulatory environment we know today.
2. Learn how to apply knowledge about history of accounting institutions and the U.S. regulatory environment to current hot topics and regulatory issues.
3. Learn how to interpret current regulation and regulatory guidance and apply it to unique accounting problems/questions.
4. Apply the conceptual framework, economic reasoning, and generally accepted accounting principles to solve accounting problems.
5. Effectively produce, interpret, and analyze written text, oral messages, and multimedia presentations used in business.

Text and Materials

2. Miscellaneous articles and readings to be posted on the course website

FASB Codification Log-In

http://aaahq.org/ascLogin.cfm
Username: AAA52616   Password: Wd9r3AC

Office Hours

I will hold office hours every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 am to 10:30 am in Gerson 312. I will also be available by appointment. To schedule an appointment, please email me at the email address provided above.

Lectures

You are expected to attend all lectures. Recording lecture is prohibited unless you get express consent from me in advance. The tentative class schedule shows the material intended to be covered during each class period and may require adjustment as the course progresses. I reserve the right to make changes at any time during the module as necessary.
Getting Assistance and Staying in Touch

There is an announcement section within the class website on Canvas and on Piazza. This will be the vehicle by which announcements will be made. You are expected to check Canvas and Piazza on a **DAILY** basis for any new announcements and postings. Any change in office hours, exam dates, or class schedule will be announced in the Announcement section of Canvas. You are responsible for all announcements posted on Canvas and Piazza.

For questions or help regarding substantive course material (lecture, class exercises, homework questions, etc.), please ask your questions on our course’s Piazza site (you can post your questions by clicking on the Q & A tab at the top of the page). A link to our Piazza site is found on the class website (on Canvas). Rather than emailing questions to directly to me, I encourage you to post your questions here. My TA, Cindy Dosch, and I will be regularly monitoring this website and answering questions. If you do not wish to post your question on Piazza, you can always email me at the email address provided above. Please note that if you email a question and I determine that the answer would benefit the entire course, I may post the question and answer on Piazza (with the asker’s name redacted).

For all other questions or help (conflicts, missed class, excuses, etc.), please contact me via email or stop by my office hours. For email, you should expect a response within one **business** day. **In your email, please be sure to include the course number.**

### Grading

Your grade will be based solely on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Cases</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FASB Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total: 100%**

Final grades will be based on obtaining the following percentage of total course points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required percentages may be reduced based on a course “curve.” Any “curve” or adjustment to the required percentages is determined at the end of the module based on total course points possible. There is no way to determine a “curve,” if any, before the end of the module. There is also no guarantee that there will be a “curve” in the course.

As a reminder, the grade-point value per credit hour associated with each letter grade is assigned by the Office of the University Registrar: A = 4.0, A- = 3.67, B+ = 3.33, B = 3.0, B- = 2.67, C+ = 2.33, C = 2.0, C- = 1.67, D+ 1.33, D = 1.0, D- = .67, E = 0.0. For more information visit: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx).
Research Cases
There will be four (4) in-class research cases, two of which will be completed in groups and two of which that will be completed individually. These cases require researching professional financial reporting literature and preparing a memo presenting your conclusions. You will need a laptop or tablet computer available during class to complete the research and prepare the memo required by the cases.

For the two group cases, you will select your own group members via the People>Group tab in Canvas and upload one memo per group. To the extent possible, each group must consist of either four (4) or five (5) students. I reserve the right to rearrange the groups to ensure that we have a mixture of 4-5 person groups. You do not have to use the same group for both of the two group research cases (i.e. you can switch groups but the 4-5 student requirement still applies).

For the two individual cases, you must complete this assignment on your own, without assistance from any other student or any unapproved resource. More information about the cases and related memos will be provided during class.

FASB Project
This project is to be completed in groups of four (4) or five (5) students. You will select your own group members and turn in one deliverable per group. I reserve the right to rearrange the groups to ensure that we have a mixture of 4-5 person groups. Using the People > Group tab in Canvas, organize your group and email me your desired group name by Friday, July 1st. Once you have chosen your group, you will not permitted to change your group members, so choose wisely!

Each group will be assigned an accounting topic that might one day make it on the FASB agenda. The project will consist of three parts, each with a different due date. In Part 1, your group will assume the position of the FASB and develop an exposure draft on that topic – this will include identifying current ways of accounting for this issue, potential alternatives that are being considered, and drafting a proposal of changes to the current way of accounting for the issue. Part 1 must be uploaded to Canvas by 8:15 am on Monday, July 11th. Please also print TWO copies of Part 1.

Once your group turns in Part 1, it will be passed to another team in the class. At the same time, your group will receive Part 1 of another group. In part 2, each group will read the exposure draft written by another group and identify four groups of constituents that might have an interest in this (new) topic. Your group will then draft comment letters on behalf of each constituent group identified in response to the other group’s exposure draft. Part 2 must be uploaded to Canvas by 8:15 am on Monday, July 18th. Please also print TWO copies of Part 2.

Finally, in Part 3, the comment letters drafted by the other group in Part 2 will be returned to your group. As the FASB receiving another group’s comment letters in response to your exposure draft in Part 1, your group will identify any reasons for the constituents’ interest in this topic, not mentioned in the four comment letters, and then make a decision on the final standard having taken into consideration the views of all constituent groups. Part 3 must be uploaded to Canvas by 8:15 am on Monday, July 25th. More information about the specifics of each part of the project will be provided during class.
Homework Assignments

Prior to certain classes, you will be assigned discussion questions for which to prepare and around which class discussion will revolve. These will include the discussion questions in Appendix A in the Called to Account text as well as discussion questions specific to the additional reading assignments. These assignments must be completed individually. You will be required to upload your responses to these questions by 8:15 am on the due date via Canvas. These questions should be prepared in paragraph form and should be formatted as either a .doc or .pdf file.

Participation

This is a graduate accounting course that will revolve around class discussion. You are expected to contribute to class discussions and debates and will be evaluated based on this participation. Many of the topics we will discuss do not have objectively correct answers (i.e. our discussion will be used to weigh the pros and cons of each possible alternative). You will be assessed on the quality as opposed to quantity of your contributions to the class discussions. Attendance does not equate to class participation.

Electronic Devices

You will need access to a computer or other web-enabled device (tablet, smartphone, etc.) during class. Students are prohibited from using these devices for any purpose other than to view course-related documents, take notes, and complete in-class assignments. Violations of this policy will result in the downward adjustment of your course grade.

Course Policies

1. Students must be officially registered for the course to attend lecture and participate in course activities.
2. There should be little, if any, reason for a valid conflict with the research case dates. In order to be a conflict, the other exam must conflict with both the date and time of the case for this course. If you believe you have a valid conflict, notify me at the email address provided above at least 10 business days before the case date.
3. If the case is missed without a valid, documented excuse granted in advance by the instructor, you will be assigned a score of zero (0) on the case. There will be no exceptions to this policy.
4. Excused absences from cases are at the discretion of the course instructor. Excused absences will be given for unavoidable emergencies. Events such as weddings, family vacations and reunions, cruises, conventions and other student organization events, employment interviews, and club sports will NOT be considered excused absences. Consistent with University policies, accommodations for religious observances will not include time for travel.
5. Excused absences due to illness require a doctor’s note dated within one day of the case date (one day before or after) and must be received within one week of the case. The doctor’s note must indicate that the student was seen within one day of the case and was medically unable to complete the case at the scheduled time.
6. Any student who misses a case due to an excused absence will be eligible to take a make-up case. The make-up case must be completed within two days of the regular case. Contact the instructor to schedule the date and time of the make-up case.
**Attendance, Civility, and Participation**

This is a graduate accounting course and will be conducted in a courteous and professional environment. Accordingly, students are expected to be seated and fully prepared for class prior to the time set for the class to commence and should plan on being present for the entire class period. In accordance with FSOA Code of Conduct, no food is permitted in the classrooms and you are responsible for disposing of paper and other rubbish in the trash cans located throughout Gerson Hall. Inappropriate classroom behavior of any form will not be tolerated. Class attendance, participation, and professionalism are expected. Although attendance may not be taken at every class, students are expected to attend and participate in every class. These factors will be evaluated by the instructor and will affect your grade. **The instructor reserves the right to adjust the overall course grade downward for overall insufficient attendance, participation, and professionalism.** Students should prepare for all classes even if they are not in attendance and are responsible for material covered in their absence.

Students may not attend a class unless they are officially registered for the course. The Fisher School of Accounting does not approve requests to audit its courses. Students who do not attend at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which they are registered, and who have not contacted the School to indicate their intent, may be dropped from the course. Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the [University Catalog](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/).

**Accommodating Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor a minimum of ten business days prior to the requested accommodation. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations and must abide by the time periods set forth by the Dean of Students Office.

**Coping with Stress**

The University and the Gainesville community provide a variety of counseling and support services to assist students during stressful periods of time. A complete list of counseling and support services can be found on the [Dean of Students’ website](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/).

**Academic Integrity**

Cheating undermines the efforts of all honest students, and tolerance of cheating could damage the School's reputation for producing qualified and competent graduates. Accordingly, the faculty and students of the Fisher School of Accounting expect that accounting students will display academic integrity throughout the program. If you have not signed the Fisher School Code, you should do so in the Fisher School Administrative office. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and will be strictly enforced in this class. Students are required to know and comply with the university’s policy on academic honesty. This policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by reference is included in this course syllabus. For more information, visit: [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/).
Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on ten criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the module, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/).

Other Matters

1. Pay attention to the research case dates and schedule your outside activities to avoid any conflicts with these dates. The research case dates take precedence over all outside activities. This policy will be strictly enforced.

2. Grades will be determined **solely** by the grading rubric provided above. Grades are **NOT** subject to negotiations. For the avoidance of doubts, being close (e.g., 1 point away from) to the next higher grade is not a relevant consideration. Additionally, external circumstances (e.g., grades earned in other courses, needing a certain grade to avoid academic probation, already having earned an unsatisfactory grade in another course, etc.) are irrelevant to your grade in this course and such arguments will be summarily ignored. Keep this in mind, as I will not respond to emails raising these arguments and similar “sympathy evoking” emails. Extra credit in this course is not available.

Key Drop Dates (Refer to the University Calendar)

Tuesday, June 28 — Last day to withdraw with no fee liability
Friday, July 29 — Drop deadline (with fee liability, "W" assigned)
# ACG5815 Tentative Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Pre-Class Assignment</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M – June 27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Class Introduction; Accounting Institutions and Professional Research Overview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2     | W – June 29| 2, 3, 4, 5, Related articles | Birth of a Profession; Introduction to FASB Codification; Practice Research Case 1  
Ch 2-5 (Appendix A) Discussion Questions Due |
|       | M – July 4 |                       | No Class – Independence Day                                           |
| 3     | W – July 6 | 6, 9                  | The Profession’s Principle Problem; Introduction to Research Cases; Practice Research Case 2  
Ch 6 & 9 (Appendix A) Discussion Questions Due |
| 4     | M – July 11|                       | Case 1: In-class GROUP research assignment  
FASB PROJECT (PART 1) DUE                                            |
| 5     | W – July 13| 10, 11, 12, 13, Related articles | Case 1 Review; The Savings and Loan Crisis  
Ch 10-13 (Appendix A) Discussion Questions Due                         |
| 6     | M – July 18|                       | Case 2: In-class INDIVIDUAL research assignment  
FASB PROJECT (PART 2) DUE                                              |
| 7     | W – July 20| 18, 21, 22, 25, Related articles | Case 2 Review; Litigation Reform, Beginning of the End; Auditor Independence Debate  
Ch 18, 21, 22, & 25 (Appendix A) Discussion Questions Due               |
| 8     | M – July 25|                       | Case 3: In-class GROUP research assignment  
FASB PROJECT (PART 3) DUE                                              |
| 9     | W – July 27| 26, 29, Related articles | Case 3 Review; A Regulated Industry; SOX Aftermath; IFRS Convergence; FASB Project Discussion  
Ch 26 & 29 (Appendix A) Discussion Questions Due                         |
| 10    | M – August 1|                       | Case 4: In-class INDIVIDUAL research assignment                        |