Laurea / B.A.
in Global Governance

Academic Year 2025-2026
Syllabus
Accounting
CFU 6
Prof Sandro Brunelli

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with the essential knowledge on business activities and related more important accounting and reporting practices. The first part of it will be dedicated at providing students a basic understanding the business activities, how they are brought on and by using which legal frameworks. Then, specific attention will be devoted to the preparation, analysis and basic interpretation of financial information and financial statements. Students will focus on the three primarily financial statements (Income statement, balance sheet and, to a lower extent, statement of cash flow) used by external stakeholders for decision making purposes.

Indirect outcomes are represented by equipping students with an improved and specialized economics language and making them ready to face basic financial reporting issues at international level. Accordingly, the course is thought and held following the main international accounting and reporting practices and by using, as a point of reference, the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
At the end of the course, students should be able to explain the nature of a business, its main logics of functioning and prepare and interpret basic financial statements.

Teaching method

The course will be delivered through a blended fashion approach: it combines theoretical and practical sessions, alongside workgroup presentations (mainly held in the second part of the course) from students that will really represent flipped lectures aimed at enriching their background and let students touch the subject with their hands.

Schedule of Topics

Here follows the main parts into which the course program is allocated. Each part, on average, will take one week:

1. What Accounting is (preamble) and why a deeper knowledge of business essentials are needed
2. The activity of business entities through circuits
3. The legal frameworks for establishing and bringing-on a business
4. Accounting as the main language of the business
5. The Accounting equation
6. The recording process
7. Accrual vs cash basis of accounting. The full accounting recording process (from recording transactions to outlining basic financial statements
8. Accounting for sales and receivables
9. Accounting for inventories and fixed assets
10. The Cash Flow Statement

The course includes "Practice on accounting" sessions, which will give students some insights and practical applications of the main learned matters.

Textbooks and Materials:

In-class lessons provide for each Topic a summary of basic notions and methods and some examples. The main teaching materials will be shared with the class, among which IFRS and selected documents .

The students may consult the following textbooks (although out of date for some standards):

- *Horngren et al., (2014) Introduction to Financial Accounting,11th edition, Wiley, Chapters 1 up to 8 (with few paragraphs exclusions)*
- *Other readings, if any, provided by the instructor*

Updates on some standards will be provided to students and are obtainable at www.ifrs.org

Assessment
The exam will foresee different modalities according to the status of attending or non-attending students. A student will be considered attending with at least 80% of attendance to the classes (both theory and practice sessions). The mid-term session will be weighted based on the progress of the class and it will be communicated at least one week before the midterm date once defined. However, the weight of the midterm grade should be considered 30%. Based on the progress of the course, once the date will be defined, the mix of theoretical and practical content of the midterm exam will be defined.
Additionally, the midterm grade cannot be rejected as this is not considered an independent exam.

The midterm exam will includes different kind of questions: multiple choice, open-ended questions and numerical exercises.

Students who pass the Midterm exam will have a dedicated final exam, which will impact their final grade by an additional 40%. However, the exam, written, will still cover the entire syllabus with a main focus on contents delivered through lectures held after the midterm. Students who pass the midterm will be able to take the final exam in any one of the two rounds they choose from the Summer sessions. Students who do not pass the final exam or reject the final grade, also lose the midterm grade and in the next round they are required to take the exam covering the whole program. Students who will not pass the midterm can attempt the exam in any one of the two rounds they choose from the summer or later sessions.
The remaining 30% of the grade will come from the students' participation to the group project. Students will be instructed with the group project guidelines during the first week of lectures and will present their findings in a public hearing context during the last part of the course. The guidelines will be made available also on the course website, giving the possibility to non-attending students to organize themselves. Given their status, is not required to non-attending students to present in class the group project. However, the project is mandatory also for them and it must be ready and submitted before sitting for the written exam. If a non-attending student is not able/has not the possibility to team up with others for doing the project, he/she will do it alone, even if this might take more than a while.

Basically, there are no differences between attending and non-attending students. However, it is mandatory before sitting for the final term (if a student succeed with the midterm) or the final exam (if a student did not pass or did not attend the midterm) that students have completed their group projects.

In summary, all students are allowed to take the midterm. If one pass the midterm, he/she cannot reject the grade as this is not an independent exam.

Office hours

Upon appointment by email and, however, each week after the last weekly lecture. Still, students can reach out Prof. Brunelli by directly message him on Microsoft Teams.

Microsoft teams

Microsoft teams will be used during the course, especially for managing the group projects progresses and final submissions. Students will find the teams channel dedicated to the accounting course on teams and they must join it. Subsequently, the professor will create a specific sub-channel for each workgroup. The referred sub-channel can be used for students for working together, having calls and doing all the things they deem pertinent to bring on the project development. Once ready, the submission package about the project must be uploaded in the file section students will find on their sub-channel. However, the Professor will explain in detail students how to deal with teams and what are all the things required to them.

Prof. Sandro Brunelli: brunelli@economia.uniroma2.it or, better, send an e-mail to: globalbrunelli@gmail.com

NOTE: If you are an Erasmus or a non Global Governance student who would like to attend one or more courses in the Global Governance programme, please be aware that, before enrolling in the course, you should have read the code of conduct and the procedural rules characterizing our programme. We assume that, if you enrol in the course, you have read and accepted all Global Governance values and rules. Notice that attendance is expected from the very first lesson and you need to attend at least 80% of the course to be considered an attending student.

Description of the methods and criteria for testing learning

The examination assesses the student's overall preparation, ability to integrate the knowledge of the different parts of the program, consequentiality of reasoning, analytical ability and clarity of presentation, in accordance with the Dublin descriptors (1. knowledge and understanding; 2. applying knowledge and understanding; 3. making judgements; 4. learning skills; 5. communication skills).

The examination will be graded according to the following criteria:

Unsuitable: important deficiencies and/or inaccuracies in the knowledge and understanding of the topics; the topics are exposed in an incoherent manner and with inappropriate language.

18-20: barely sufficient knowledge and understanding of most of the topics, with some missing items; sufficient capacity for analysis; the topics are sometimes exposed in an inconsistent manner and with inappropriate/technical language;

21-23: basic knowledge and understanding of most of the topics; ability to analyze and synthesize correctly with sufficiently coherent logical argumentation, with possibly some inaccuracy in the technical language.

24-26: good knowledge and understanding of most of the topics; good analytical and synthetic skills with rigorously expressed arguments, though with possibly a few inaccuracies in the technical language.

27-29: complete knowledge and understanding of the topics; good capacity for analysis and synthesis. Arguments presented in a rigorous manner and with appropriate/technical language, with only minor inaccuracies.

30-30L: very good level of knowledge and thorough understanding of topics. Excellent analytical and synthetic skills and independent judgement. Arguments expressed in an original manner and in appropriate technical language.