**Kuwait University**

**College of Business Administration**

**Master of Accounting Program**

Course Syllabus

MSACC 570 – Financial Accounting Theory and Research

Dr. Mohammad Nasser AlMarzouq

# Lecture Time and Location

**MSAcc 570 / xxx** :Sun Tue Thu, 1:00 PM – 1:50 PM, Room 301

**MSAcc 570 / xx** :Mon Wed, 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM, Lab 2

# Contact Information

**Location** :Accounting Department – 4th Floor – Office No. xx

**Email**: mn.almarzouq@ku.edu.kw

**Office**: xx

**Office Hours**: Mon & Wed, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM or by email appointment

**Social Media**: MyU (@malmarzouqcba)

# Teaching Assistant

**Name**: xxx

**Location**:Accounting Department – 4th Floor – Office No. xx

**Email:** xx@.com

**Office Hours**:Mon 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Tutorial**:Sun 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM, Room 311

Mon 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM, Room 313

# Course Description

This course is an exploration and an in-depth understanding of the various rationale for corporate financial reporting, with particular emphasis on the nature and evolution of conventional accounting and regulatory framework for financial reporting and its future developments. Current financial reporting issues and areas of controversy that financial accounting should identify, measure and report in a dynamic economic, political, and social environment are studied with an emphasis on the relationship between accounting research and practice. The course emphasizes professional accounting responsibilities; professional ethics will be stressed throughout the course. Theoretical approaches to financial reporting will be explored: Deductive approaches, economic approaches, regulatory approaches, and earnings management issues.

# Course Learning Objectives (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the general theories about accounting theories and financial reporting information.
2. Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of alternative measurement models and theories of financial accounting, and apply relevant theories to an understanding of accounting choices.
3. Critique financial accounting theories and financial reporting issues.
4. Discuss accounting theories, reporting issues, and accounting information usefulness.
5. Communicate and present accounting theories and reporting issues.
6. Demonstrate adequate understanding of the accounting regulatory environment.

# CLO Mapping to CBA Skill Based Competency Goals[[1]](#footnote-2)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CLO | Competency Goal | | | | |
| Decision-Making | Ethical Reasoning | Communication |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | R |  |  |  |
| 3 | R |  | A |  |
| 4 |  | R | A |  |
| 5 | R |  | A |  |
| 6 | R |  | A |  |

# Type of Emphases:

* **(I)ntroduce:** Students will be introduced to the skill and their grasp of it assessed in the course.
* **(A)pply:** The course will not cover the skill. Students should have a high-level grasp of the skill and are required to apply it in the course.
* **(R)einforce:** Students should have an introductory-level grasp of the skill and the course will improve their mastery to a higher level.

# Required Material

**Textbook**:

Scott, W. R. (2015). *Financial Accounting Theory* (7th ed.). Toronto: Pearson Education Canada.

**Additional Material**: Other material is available on Moodle

**E-Learning System**: Moodle and Microsoft Teams

**Course Website** : <https://moodle.ku.edu.kw/>

**Course Requirements and Policies**

**Examinations**

Each subject/Chapter may have a dedicated exam. Please note that each exam may be written AND/OR oral, and in some cases it may be both.

**In-class Chapter Discussions**

Each student will be assigned to a Group. Each group has to present one of the subjects in this class, and other groups are required to participate in a critique/discussion on such a subject. All students must prepare and read each assigned topic and answer all required questions before class. I expect each one to participate in the discussion. Keep in mind that answers to some questions may involve personal judgment.

**Class Policies**

a. Use of e-mail: You MUST have a CBA or KUNIV e-mail account and use the account to communicate with the community of Kuwait University.

b. Use of Moodle website: Microsoft Teams, MyU, Moodle and CBA email will be used in this course for content delivery, homework, and other communications. The address <https://moodle.ku.edu.kw>. It is the student's responsibility to check all announcements placed via e-mail or Moodle. If you e-mail me, please place “ACC 570” on the subject line; otherwise, I may inadvertently delete your message.

c. Attendance & Preparation: Students are expected to come to class having(1) READ the text material assigned for that day and (2) attempted assignments. Attendance is very important in this class. An "FA" grade will be assigned to students with an absence more than 6 hours. An exemption will be giving to those with a third-party document that explains the reason(s) for their absence.

d. Unless instructed otherwise, alltasks to be submitted for consideration toward a student's course grade is to be attempted and completed on an individual basis.

e. Cell Phones. Cell phones are not allowed to be used at class time and they should be on silent. In case of emergency, you can use your cell phone outside the classroom. Cell phones should be turned off during exams.

f. Code of Honor. The Kuwait University Honor Code governs all student activities throughout this course. A fundamental principle of academic, business, and community life is honesty. Violation of this ethical concept shall result in penalties ranging from a grade of ‘F’ in the course to dismissal from the University. In all penalties, a letter of fact shall be included in the student’s file.

g. Professional Conduct. To foster a more professional learning environment and to develop habits that lead to success in the business work, all participants must engage in professional behavior, including: taking responsibility for individual actions and attending each class session, including arriving promptly and leaving at the designated time. Students are expected to be attentive and an active participant in

group activities and class discussions. Other responsibilities include respecting diversity in the classroom and treating everyone involved in the class in a civil manner, planning outside activities to avoid conflicts with the activities outlined in the syllabus, meeting all deadlines in the course for assignments, projects, etc. and acknowledging the importance of clarity of expression in written and oral communication and understanding that the course grade will be affected by your ability to communicate.

h. Disabilities: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should review the University’s Policy and work the Admission and Registration Office.

i. Missing Exams. There will no make-up exams in ACC 1020-570. In case you have a conflict with the examination dates, it is your responsibility to resolve this issue in advance.

j. Withdrawals. Students are responsible for withdrawing from the class. Deadlines for withdrawal can be found on the academic calendar on the university web page.

l. Incompletes. There are no incompletes for this course except in the case of extraordinary circumstances (e.g., excessive absences due to severe illness). The instructor determines when an incomplete is appropriate. In no case can an incomplete be given unlessthe student is passing the course with a C or better at the time the incomplete is requested.

k. Points Awarded. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor the points awarded to- date in blackboard. During the semester, the student has up to two weeks following the posting of any points to contest the number of points, after which the points are considered final.

m. Religious Holidays. It is the responsibility of the student to promptly notify the professor of any conflicts due to religious observance so that accommodations can be arranged.

# Grading

The scores in this course will be the weighted average of the following items:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Weight | Description |
| 30% | In-Class Presentations, Discussions, and Critiques |
| 30% | Exams (Three Exams) |
| 40% | Final Exam |
| 100% | TOTAL |

# Grade Distribution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grade | Range |
| A | ≥ 95 |
| A- | ≥ 90 and < 95 |
| B+ | ≥ 87 and < 90 |
| B | ≥ 83 and < 87 |
| B- | ≥ 80 and < 83 |
| C+ | ≥ 77 and < 80 |
| C | ≥ 73 and < 77 |
| C- | ≥ 70 and < 73 |
| D+ | ≥ 65 and < 70 |
| D | ≥ 60 and < 65 |
| F | < 60 |

# Course Outline

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Title | Topics | Weeks |
|  | Accounting under Ideal Conditions | Week 1-2 |
|  | Decision Usefulness Approach to Financial Reporting | Week 3 |
|  | Efficient Securities Markets | Week 4 |
|  | The Information Approach to Decision Usefulness | Week 5 |
|  | The Measurement Approach to Decision Usefulness | Week 6-8 |
|  | Economic Consequences and Positive Accounting Theory | Week 9 |
|  | An Analysis of Conflict | Week 10 |
|  | 1. Conflict Between Contracting Parties 2. Standard Setting: Economic Issues | Week 11-13 |
|  | Standard Setting: Political Issues | Week 14 |

# Important Dates

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date | Event |
| 6/3/ | Last day to drop a course |
| 18/3/ | Midterm exam |
| 5/5/ | Midterm 2 |
| 18/5/ | Last day of classes |
|  | Final Exam (2 PM) |

**Master of Accounting Program Competency Goals:**

1. **Accounting Knowledge:**Our students will be proficient in both conceptual and technical accounting knowledge.   
   **Student Learning Objectives:**

1.1. Apply advanced principles of financial accounting theory.

1.2. Analyze corporate financial statements.

1. **Decision-Making Skills:**Our students will demonstrate advanced data-driven decision-making skills and supported by advanced analytical skills.

**Student Learning Objectives:**

2.1. Apply advanced quantitative and qualitative methods to solve business problems.

2.2. Recognize the implications of business decisions, evaluate different proposals based on available facts, and make well-supported business decisions.

1. **Ethical Reasoning Skills:** Our students will be ethically conscious business leaders.

**Student Learning Objectives:**

3.1. Evaluate business decisions within an ethical framework.

1. **Communication Skills:**Our students will demonstrate advanced communication skills in a variety of business settings.

**Student Learning Objectives:**

5.1. Deliver clear, concise, and persuasive presentations.

5.2 Write clear, concise, and persuasive business documents.

1. CBA Competency Goals can be found at the end of this document [↑](#footnote-ref-2)