Description: Contemporary Accounting Thought

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACC</td>
<td>8101</td>
<td>67401</td>
<td>2, 2007</td>
<td>EXT</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic group: FOBUS
Academic org: FOB008
Student contribution band: 2
ASCED code: 080101

STAFFING
Examiner: Kieran James
Moderator: Mark Vallely

OTHER REQUISITES
Students are required to have access to a personal computer, e-mail capabilities and Internet access to USQConnect. Current details of computer requirements can be found at http://www.usq.edu.au/business/aboutfob.htm

SYNOPSIS
This course examines contemporary theories of accounting and focuses on their implications for accounting practice. The course introduces accounting decisions and examines the relationship between theory, research and practice. It introduces capital markets-based theories and associated research which examine the association between earnings announcements and share market rates of return. This area is important for an advanced understanding of the relevance of accounting reports for capital market participants, the prediction of future earnings, and the implication of earnings - price relationships for accounting standard setters. The course also examines the development of contract-based research and draws out its implications for professional accounting practices, and for the regulation of practices by professional accounting bodies and corporate regulators. Finally, the social and environmental implications of accounting are addressed. A review of current requirements to report on social and environmental issues is undertaken, together with a discussion of various theoretical perspectives which explain the accountability of business to members of society beyond just shareholders. The role of regulation in accounting is also examined.

OBJECTIVES
The course objectives define the student learning outcomes for a course. The assessment item/s that may be used to assess student achievement of an objective is/are shown in parentheses after each objective. On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:
1. understand the derivation of contemporary thinking about professional practice and the regulation of professional practice (Assignment 1, Assignment 2, Examination)
2. evaluate contemporary thinking about professional practice (Assignment 1, Assignment 2, Examination)
3. apply the contemporary thinking to professional practice (Assignment 1, Assignment 2, Examination).

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting decisions: an introduction</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The relationship between theory, research and practice</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurement and valuation issues</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The usefulness of accounting information to capital markets</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive accounting theory: contracting determinants of accounting decisions</td>
<td>23.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social implications of accounting</td>
<td>23.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation and accounting</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Australian CPA - Monthly journal of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants.
CA Charter - Monthly journal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.
(Monograph No 1)

**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>56.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>69.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT 1</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>24 Aug 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT 2</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>12 Oct 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 HOUR EXAMINATION</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>END S2 (see note 1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES**

1. The examination is scheduled to be held in the end-of-semester examination period. Students will be advised of the official examination date after the timetable has been finalised.

**IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

1. Attendance requirements:
   
   If you are an international student in Australia you are advised to attend all classes at your campus. Failure to attend may infringe the conditions of your student visa. For all other students, there are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

2. Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   
   To satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks. (Depending upon the requirements in Statement 4 below, students may not have to satisfactorily complete each assessment item to receive a passing grade in this course.)

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval of the examiner, then a penalty of 5% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment may apply for each working day late up to ten working days at which time a mark of zero may be recorded.

4. Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   
   To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.

5. Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6. Examination information:
This will be an open examination. Candidates may have access to any material during the examination except the following: electronic communication devices (e.g., mobile phones, pagers), bulky materials, devices requiring mains power and material likely to disturb other students.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Any Deferred or Supplementary examinations for this course will be held during the next examination period.

8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6 Assessment, and 5.10 Student Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene university regulations. These regulations can be found at http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm. Students should also read the Faculty of Business Policies and Procedures which can be found at http://www.usq.edu.au/business/aboutfob.htm.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

1 Assignments: (i) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the examiner. (ii) Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within 24 hours if required by the examiner. (iii) In accordance with university policy, the examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. (iv) Assignments are to be submitted in the appropriate assignment folders. (v) The examiner will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media. (vi) Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner to negotiate such special arrangements. (vii) In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the examiner’s convenience.

2 Course weightings: Course weightings of topics should not be interpreted as applying to the number of marks allocated to questions testing those topics in an examination paper. The examination may test material already tested in assignments.

3 Dishonest actions: (i) Any student who is alleged to have performed a dishonest action relating to any assessment in the course will have a course of action taken against him/her as outlined in the academic regulations. (ii) Pieces of assessment should be the work of individual students. Joint pieces of assessment are not permitted unless written approval has been obtained from the examiner. (iii) Dishonest action in relation to assessment includes: copying or attempting to copy the work of others; use of or attempting to use information prohibited from use in that form of assessment; submitting the work of another as your own; consciously committing acts of plagiarism, that is, taking and using another’s thoughts or writings as one’s own with intent to deceive, which occurs when paragraphs, sentences, a single sentence or significant parts of a sentence which are copied directly, are not enclosed in quotation marks and appropriately footnoted or referenced in the text; direct quotations are not used, but text is paraphrased or summarised, and the source of the material is not acknowledged by footnoting or other reference in the text.

4 Deferred work: Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be
awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up);
IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 Learning resources: Course materials; recommended reference materials (see above);
printed Introductory Book, Study Book and Book/s of Selected Readings; and course
Website accessible via USQConnect.