



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Global Accounting

2021-1-F7702M057

Learning objectives

The course is a practically oriented introduction to financial statement analysis with a global perspective on accounting standards. At the end of the course, students will: (i) be knowledgeable about the mechanics and main principles of financial accounting; (ii) understand the importance of financial reporting standards and the main features of US GAAP and IFRS; (iii) understand, interpret and assess the quality of financial statements; (iv) master the main techniques used in financial analysis.

Contents

The course initially presents the structure and concepts of financial accounting and then introduces to the interpretation and analysis of its main reports. It develops around the following topics:

- Financial reporting scope and mechanics;
- Financial reporting standards in a global perspective;
- Understanding financial statements;
- Financial statement analysis;
- Financial reporting quality.

Detailed program

Accounting: scope, users, basic principles

Financial reporting mechanics: accruals and valuation adjustments

Financial statements and their structure

Basic accounting equation and relationships between statements

Financial reporting standards

Understanding Financial Statements:

- Income statement
- Balance sheet
- Statement of cash flows

Financial Statement Analysis:

- Scope and general framework
- Income statement and profitability
- Balance sheet, liquidity and solvency
- Analytical techniques

Financial Reporting Quality

Prerequisites

Fondamenti di contabilità generale: tecnica contabile di base e logica contabile

Teaching methods

The course includes *formal lectures* as well as *practice sessions (in-class activities)*. Formal lectures are meant to provide the theoretical foundations, the main concepts techniques. Practice sessions are meant as applications of theory sessions through both individual reflection and constructive dialogue with peers and the instructor. Active participation (e.g. answering instructor's questions, linking each exercise/case to theoretical concepts, providing further pertinent examples) is recommended in both formal and practice sessions.

The instructor may indicate materials that should be read and prepared before classes according to provided guidelines (*extra-class activities*). This preparatory work is important! Because it provides participants with useful insights and helps to point out relevant concepts/issues and to break down their eventual complexity. In other words, it optimizes the learning process.

Finally, the course contemplates and encourage a groupwork. The group assignment provides an opportunity to deal with a complex task by dividing it in sub-tasks and coordinating activities among team members. Participants will train their managerial skills, test their learning, and engage in a creative, collaborative work (*extra-class activities*).

Note: during the Covid-19 emergency, lectures will take place in a mixed way (some even with partial physical presence in class and recorded synchronous/asynchronous lectures depending on the topic).

Assessment methods

Grading includes:

- 1) Final exam.
- 2) Group assignment (voluntary).

The final exam is written. The group assignment is to be submitted during the course and consists of an output (both its formal and substantial quality will be evaluated) and eventually a public presentation. The group assignment may lead to a bonus valid in the first exam. Detailed instructions will be provided during the course.

Note: during the Covid-19 emergency exams will be administered remotely.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

- **Textbook:** Robinson et al. "*International Financial Statement Analysis*", Wiley, (3?? ed).
- **Teaching materials:** Handouts, readings, and learning resources posted on e-Learning or distributed in class (mandatory, unless differently specified).

Semester

First semester

Teaching language

English

Sustainable Development Goals
