UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Global Accounting

2324-1-F7702M033-F7702M116M

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) understand the role and importance of international financial reporting standards; (ii) understand, interpret and assess the quality of financial statements in light of the principles and rules of US GAAP and IFRS; (iii) be able to apply the main techniques of financial statement analysis to assess business financial performances.

Contents

The course starts with a brief overview of 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 (brief review);
• Financial reporting standards in a global perspective;
• Understanding financial statements;
• Financial statement analysis;
• Financial reporting quality.

Detailed program

The course is articulated in the following topics:
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: logic and structure, introduction to sustainability reporting
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

Basic financial accounting: accounting technique and logic

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 aimed to highlight the implications of theoretical in cases or exemplified situations.
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 encourages a groupwork. Participants can thus train their managerial skills, test their learning, and engage in a creative, collaborative work (extra-class activities).

Assessment methods

Written exam

Textbooks and Reading Materials

• Textbook: Robinson et al. “International Financial Statement Analysis”, Wiley, (3rd ed).
• 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

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION