UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Accounting and Financial Analysis - 1 (blended)

2526-2-E1803M049-T1

Learning objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts underlying financial accounting systems. The course emphasises the measurement concepts and bookkeeping of business transactions for the construction of the basic financial accounting statements - the income statement, balance sheet, and cash flow statement - as well as their interpretation for management decisions. The course also provides an overview of the financial statements of banks.

The student will be able to record the business transactions and to proceed with the preparation of financial statements, as required by the implementation of the new legislation and accounting standards. The student will be able to properly interpret the operating performance and the financial condition of the company.

Hereinafter are summarized the competence areas (D1–D5), expected learning outcomes, and corresponding teaching and learning activities.

D1 – Knowledge and Understanding
Expected Learning Outcome:

- Understand the fundamentals of financial accounting, the core concepts of double-entry bookkeeping, and the structure of financial statements as defined by Italian civil law.

Learning Activities:

- Lectures (DE) on accounting principles and civil law regulations
- Independent study guided by course materials
- Reading and analysis of national OIC standards and key IAS/IFRS principles

D2 – Applying Knowledge and Understanding
Expected Learning Outcome:

- Accurately record accounting transactions, adjusting and closing entries, and prepare and interpret financial statements.

Learning Activities:

- Practical examples of accounting entries (DI)
- Lab sessions with accounting exercises and tests simulations (weekly assignments)
- Online practice exercises and self-assessment tests
- In-class correction of accounting tests

D3 – Making Judgements
Expected Learning Outcome:

- Critically analyse accounting documents, identify relevant information in the explanatory notes, and evaluate a company's economic and financial position.

Learning Activities:

- In-class discussion of real-life business cases (DI)
- Midterm assessments
- Individual assignments involving critical reflection and case-based research

D4 – Communication Skills
Expected Learning Outcome:

- Present accounting data, journal entries, and financial concepts clearly and accurately, both orally and in writing.

Learning Activities:

- Active participation in interactive exercises and test simulations during the course
- Individual assignments involving critical reflection and written case analyses

D5 – Learning Skills
Expected Learning Outcome:

- Recognise the importance of accounting and financial reporting as decision-making tools and independently keep up to date with changes in accounting standards.
- Understand the underlying logic of both national and international accounting principles.

Learning Activities:

- Independent study using recommended materials
- Reading and interpretation of accounting standards
- Individual assignment involving critical thinking and applied research

Contents

- Preparation of financial statements in industrial, commercial, and service companies
- General accounting for the preparation of financial statements
- The accrual principle
- Financial statements and national accounting standards

- Structure of the accounting system: double-entry method, chart of accounts
- Case studies on accounting entries
- Adjusting, correcting, integrating, and closing entries
- From trial balance to financial statement preparation
- Financial statements of banks
- Introduction to international accounting standards (IAS/IFRS)

Detailed program

The preparation of financial statements in industrial, commercial and service companies

The information system
The accounting process for the preparation of financial statements
The accrual concept of accounting

The balance sheet and related disclosures
The financial statements and accounting principles
The financial accounting system: double-entry bookkeeping, chart of accounts,
The impact of statutory and tax rules
Bookkeeping exercises:
Starting a business and its initial transactions

The acquisition of investments
- The purchase cycle and debt
- The sales cycle and credit
- The cycle of funding
- The acquisition of services
- The cycle of personnel

The cycle of taxes
- The adjusting, closing and reversing entries
- From the trial balance to the preparation of financial statements: income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement
- The preparation of the notes
- The preparation of the management report

The financial statement of banks

Introduction to international accounting standards

Prerequisites

Basics of business administration.

Teaching methods

Blended Learning:

•28 hours face-to-face lectures by engaging students in problem solving, excercises and dicussion of cases
•35 hours online activities:
–Online exercises and tests
–Weekly assessment (online tests)
Lesson attendance is strongly recommended to facilitate gradual learning through interaction between students and the instructor.

Assessment methods

The exam is written with an option for an oral exam. The written exam deals with the preparation of financial statements, starting from the record of transactions and the preparation of trial balance to get to the preparation of financial statements, including the accounting disclosure and standards.
Written exam.
The written exam includes numerical and multiple-choice questions.The numerical exercises are aimed at ascertaining the student's ability to apply the course concepts to practical cases while the multiple-choice questions assess the student's systematic knowledge of the basic course contents.

• STUDENTS ATTENDING THE COURSE IN BLENDED-LEARNING FORMAT:
–Assessment of weekly online activities
–Two written tests during the course (optional) (November and early January before the end of the course)

The two tests cover respectively the first and the second section of the programme. A positive assessment in both tests (threshold: 18/30) allows students to accept the final grade or to go directly to the oral exam (optional) on the full programme. Students that do not pass the intermediate tests, do not accept the grade achieved or do not take the two tests will take the exam in the regular exam form.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Basic Financial Accounting 2023 - Contabilità e Bilancio, (a cura di) Lombardi Stocchetti G. - Guerini Next, Milano, Edition 2023 -Additional materials will be provided on the course website.

Additional readings:

Robert Anthony, et al., *Accounting. Text and cases*, Mc Graw Hill Education, last edition

Alessandra Tami, Oltre la banca. *Il bilancio d'esercizio nel rapporto con gli interlocutori dell'azienda*, Franco Angeli, Milano, 2015

OIC - Organismo Italiano di contabilità, *Principi Contabili nazionali*- Testo Completo - last edition*, Il Sole 24 Ore, Milano 2015.

Fort he national accounting standards: www.fondazioneoic.eu,www.commercialisti.it

Semester

First semester.

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals