



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Global Accounting

2526-1-F7704M019-F7704M019-2

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#### Learning objectives

The course is an 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 main characteristics of international financial reporting standards; (ii) know the techniques of financial statement analysis and cash flow analysis; (iii) be able to assess the quality of financial reports in light of the principles and rules of US GAAP and IFRS; (iv) be able to assess and compare business financial performances; (v) be able to autonomously deepen the knowledge regarding financial reporting in a global perspective.

#### Contents

The course starts with a brief overview of the structure and concepts of financial accounting and then introduces students 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
- ? Sustainability reporting in a global perspective
- ? Reporting quality

#### Detailed program

The course is articulated in the following topics:

- ? Financial accounting: scope, users, basic reporting principles and techniques
- ? Financial statements and their structure

- ? The statement of cash flows:
- ? Methods and interpretation
- ? The concept of Free Cash Flow
- ? Financial Statement Analysis:
- ? Scope and general framework
- ? Data sources and basic techniques
- ? Income statement and profitability
- ? Balance sheet, liquidity and solvency
- ? Analytical techniques
- ? International financial reporting standards: logic and structure
- ? Understanding Financial Statements:
- ? Income statement
- ? Balance sheet
- ? Statement of cash flows
- ? Sustainability reporting: introduction with a global perspective
- ? 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), with the aim of fostering useful insights and pointing out relevant concepts/issues or breaking down eventual topic complexity.

## **Assessment methods**

Written exam (a mix of close questions, open questions and exercises - detailed instruction provided during the course).

## **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

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