

UIC
The University of Illinois at Chicago
College of Business Administration

Accounting 593
Accounting Research: Methodology and Communication
Fall 2007

☪ Professor SOMNATH DAS.

Office: 2313 University Hall; **F** (312)-996-4482 **J** sdas@uic.edu

Class Lectures	Wednesday: 6:00-9:00 PM in LC C6
Office Hours	Wednesday: 3:30-4:30 PM <u>and</u> by appointment.
Prerequisites	Required: ACTG 502 & 503; Recommended: ACTG 516 & 417.
Credit	4 credit hours

Course Objectives & Description: This course is intended to serve as an integrative capstone to a professional accounting degree program and is therefore geared towards students in their graduating semester, having completed most if not all essential courses which includes the intermediate sequence, tax and auditing.

This class introduces you to professional and scientific research in accounting. The course instructs in research methods, issues, research appreciation and evaluation together with practice in conducting, and reporting professional research projects in accounting. The course will rely upon early research to establish the relevance of research in the context of accounting. It will also make extensive use of current research on current topics in accounting to provide exposure to the relevance and importance of comprehending research for the practice of accounting.

The primary emphasis of the course will be on developing skills for conducting research and comprehending research output in an applied and professional context. This will be achieved through the use of a series of existing research papers in accounting that have immediate real world relevance and also use simple methodologies. Knowledge of basic statistical tools such as regression, correlation etc. will be useful though not necessary, and wherever necessary will be addressed in the class. After completing the course you should:

- understand the purpose, process, and products of professional and scientific research in accounting settings
- be able to identify and use common accounting research resources
- understand the role of theory in research (both professional and academic)
- understand the basic principles underlying some common methods used in academic accounting research
- understand the value and limitations of applied and academic research for the professional practice of accounting.

This class works best when you prepare the assigned readings and actively participate in group and class discussions. The basic tools with which we work are stating facts, ideas, and opinions, and, discussing and challenging one another's facts, ideas, and opinions. Doing well in

this class requires that you express your thoughts, defend them and gracefully criticize the misconceptions and lack of clarity in your own and other's reasoning (when appropriate).

Course Materials:

Required: Available in UIC Campus Book Store

- Course Reading Packet (**Available from Bookstore**)

Recommended: Available in the UIC Library:

- Understanding Research Methods, by M. L. Patten, (Fourth Edition); Pycszak Publishing, 2003.
- Quasi-Experimentation: Design & Analysis Issues for Field Settings, by Thomas Cook and Donald Campbell, Published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.
- Positive Accounting Theory, By R. L. Watts and J. L. Zimmerman, Prentice-Hall, 1986.
- Empirical Research in Accounting: A Methodological Viewpoint, by A. R. Abdelkhalik and B. B. Ajinkya, American Accounting Association, Accounting Education Series, Vol. 4, 1979.
- Research Designs by P. E. Spector, Sage Publications: Newbury Park, 1981.

The following may or may not be available in the UIC Library:

- Evaluating Research in Academic Journals, by F. Pycszak, Pycszak Publishing, 1999.

Course Website: See under UIC BLACKBOARD - Most materials pertaining to the course can be found on Blackboard.

Class Schedule: There is a considerable amount of material covered in this course, and it is essential that you stay current with the readings. It is expected that you complete the readings before they are covered in class. Since we meet for about 3 hours each week, you should be spending, on average, about 6-8 hours outside of class time to keep up with the course.

Course Requirements and Grading: (Subject to Change)

Course grades will be determined by appropriately curving the total points earned on the following dimensions:

Course Project (Group)	20%
Examination I	40%
Examination II	40%
TOTAL	<u>100%</u>

Make up exam will be given in exceptional circumstances only before the scheduled examination date and time, and only upon Instructor approval based upon appropriate documentary evidence. A grade of Incomplete (IN) will be assigned only under the conditions set forth in the university catalog.

COURSE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS
(Tentative and Subject to Change)

Aug. 29	Topic:	Introduction to Research & Research Design Issues
	Reading:	Abdel-khalik & Ajinkya: Chapters 1-3; Bagranoff, Bryant, and Hunton: Chapter 8 on “Data Collection and Analysis”
Sep. 5	Topic:	Research in Accounting: Reading & Understanding Research
	Reading:	Abdel-khalik & Ajinkya: Chapter 5; Zucca & Campbell: An Application.
Sep. 12	Topic:	Research in Accounting: Reading & Understanding Research
	Reading:	Zucca & Campbell... continued
Sep. 19	Topic:	Capital Markets & Accounting Information – <u>Extracts from:</u>
	Reading:	(i) Ball & Brown (Earnings) (ii) Dechow (Cash Flows & Accruals) (iii) Ou (Non-Earnings Information)
Sep. 26	Topic:	Capital Markets & Accounting Information – <u>Extracts Continued</u>
	Reading:	(i) Ball & Brown (Earnings) (ii) Dechow (Cash Flows & Accruals) (iii) Ou (Non-Earnings Information)
Oct. 3		EXAMINATION I
Oct 3	Topic:	Stock Picking: Accounting vs. Experts
	Reading:	Desai & Jain; Ferreira & Smith
Oct 10	Topic:	Reporting Proforma Earnings
	Reading:	Bhattacharya, Black, Christensen & Mergenthaler
Oct 17	Topic:	New Legal Environment
	Reading:	Geiger & Raghunandan
Oct 24	Topic:	Audit Firm Size and Going-Concern Reporting
	Reading:	Geiger & Rama
Oct 31	Topic:	Implications of Auditor Fees
	Reading:	Raghunandan, Read, & Whisenant
Nov. 7	Topic:	Sarbannes-Oxley & Material Weakness
	Reading:	Ge & McVay;
Nov 14		EXAMINATION II

