

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

TITLE	FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS DECISIONS			
SI MODULE CODE	25-6075-00L			
CREDITS	20			
LEVEL	6			
JACS CODE	N210 - Management Techniques			
SUBJECT GROUP	FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING & MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING - SBS			
DEPARTMENT	Finance, Accounting and Business Systems			
MODULE LEADER	Neil Fletcher			
NOTIONAL STUDY HOURS BY TYPE	Tutor-led	Tutor-directed	Self-directed	Total Hours
	36	72	92	200

MODULE AIM(S)

- To develop an understanding of the functions and form of financial statements
- To develop an understanding of the significance of the regulatory, political and economic contexts for the understanding of publicly available financial information including corporate governance and audit.
- To enable the student to access published financial statements and other financial and non financial data relevant to business decisions.
- To develop a critical understanding of the analysis of financial statements and other sources of financial data.

MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By engaging successfully with this module a student will be able to

1. Assess the purposes of financial reports and how they are prepared;
2. Analyse the professional, political and economic contexts of corporate reporting including corporate governance and audit and critically assess the implications of these for the construction and understanding of financial statements;
3. Critique the notion of creative accounting and analyse the more questionable manipulation of financial data and the effect and implications of this;
4. identify and critique the tools available for financial statement analysis for a variety of purposes;
5. apply appropriate tools of analysis to a range of financial information from a variety of organisations (both UK and overseas);
6. Comment critically upon the relationships between financial information and the operation of financial markets.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

These are examples of the content of the module

- Sources of financial data relating to companies and databases available at SHU
- The background of accounting, its history and general form
- The purpose and structure of financial statements - the International Accounting Standards Board Framework
- Values in financial statements
- The effect of accounting choice and manipulation of financial statements. The importance of accounting policies
- The agency problem, executive rewards, corporate governance and audit
- Accounting/legal regulation and standards
- A structured approach to the interpretation of financial statements
- Cash flow analysis
- Credit analysis
- The significance of stock market prices, the drivers of these prices and the relationship of these to financial information including dividend, earnings and other announcements
- Corporate Social Responsibility and the reporting of this

LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

Students will be supported in their learning, to achieve the above outcomes, in the following ways

The learning philosophy aims to encourage students to develop analytical, evaluative and critical patterns of thought with particular reference to the information that is available relating to companies. To achieve this, a variety of teaching and learning methods are used and students are directed to apply knowledge gained to a specific company in a group context.

- Lectures which are used to introduce concepts and reporting frameworks necessary to resolve financial reporting issues.
- Student based classes at which each learning set of students make a presentation based on their chosen company and applying the findings of their own research activities.
- Summative assessment will involve course work and examinations. The course work will be used to encourage students to research their chosen company and other real world issues. The examination will confirm that individual students are able to understand the material that they have researched relating to their company and also that they can apply techniques of financial analysis.
- Student will receive feedback in a number of ways. During seminars that do not contribute to summative assessment, verbal feedback will be given. Written feedback will be provided for the summative element of the assessment process. The coursework feedback will be both formative and summative.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGY AND METHODS

Task No.	Task Description	Task Type	Task Weighting %	Word Count / Duration	In-module retrieval available
1	Coursework	CW	50%	2,000 words	No
2	Examination	EX	50%	2 hours	No

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- **FURTHER / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THIS MODULE, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT CRITERIA DETAILING HOW YOUR PERFORMANCE IN THE MODULE WILL BE MEASURED, HOW YOU WILL RECEIVE FEEDBACK, DETAILS OF LEARNING RESOURCES AND KEY READINGS**
- **THIS INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE MODULE HANDBOOK / BLACKBOARD SITE.**
- **NOTE THAT THIS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR**

FEEDBACK

Students will receive feedback on their performance in the following ways

Formative informal feedback from seminar tutors in seminars.

Formative feedback from seminar activity answers.

Summative feedback on coursework.

LEARNING RESOURCES (INCLUDING READING LISTS)

Students will be provided with a specifically written two part module guide.

Part 1 helps students to conduct a Fundamental Analysis of an Annual Report and Accounts. There are a few non-academic text books referenced in the module guide for this area but these are not core reading.

Part 2 includes numerous readings, split by topic.

All materials are available on Black Board, along with a full suite of Enron resources - plus additional material on each topic studies.

SECTION 2 'MODEL A' MODULE (INFORMATION FOR STAFF ONLY)

MODULE DELIVERY AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

MODULE STATUS - INDICATE IF ANY CHANGES BEING MADE

NEW MODULE	No
EXISTING MODULE - NO CHANGE	Yes
Title Change	No
Level Change	No
Credit Change	No
Assessment Pattern Change	No
Change to Delivery Pattern	No
Date the changes (or new module) will be implemented	n/a

MODULE DELIVERY PATTERN

Module Begins	Module Ends
08/Aug/2011	15/Apr/2012
17/Sep/2012	30/May/2012

Is timetabled contact time required for this module?	Yes
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Are any staff teaching on this module non-SHU employees?	No
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MODULE ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Does the Module Require Either	
Overall Percentage Mark of 40%	Yes
Overall Pass / Fail Grade	No

FINAL TASK

According to the Assessment Strategy shown in the Module Descriptor, which task will be the LAST TASK to be taken or handed-in? (Give task number as shown in the Assessment Strategy)	Task No. 2
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MODULE REFERRAL STRATEGY

Task for Task (as shown for initial assessment strategy)	Yes
Single Referral Package for All Referred Students	No