

The Ohio State University

ACCTMIS 6201

Professional Research in Accounting – *Fall 2023*

Course Syllabus

Instructor	Email	Personal Website	Office	Office Hours
Dr. Kurt H. Gee	gee.149@osu.edu	kurthgee.com	434 Fisher Hall	W 3:00P – 4:00P F 2:30P – 3:30P

Time and Location: **T/R 1:00P - 2:30P** **Gerlach Hall 375**

Instruction Mode: This course requires attendance in person.

Required Textbook: This course does not use a textbook. The only source of course material is class sessions.

Required Materials: Bring a charged laptop or tablet (with Wifi) to each class session.

Office Hours: Office hours are “first come, first served”. I may invite multiple students to listen in and ask questions on related topics.

Send me an email if you need to meet and are unavailable during office hours.

For special cases where you need private discussion, please email Dr. Gee in advance to make an appointment.

Introduction

This course, “Professional Research in Accounting”, teaches students how to engage in research about financial accounting treatments and disclosure practices.

The process of research requires both gathering information and making informed judgments. Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data analytics can dramatically reduce the cost of gathering information, but they do not fully replace the need for human judgments – with more and better information, we simply make more difficult judgments more frequently.

Communicating judgments and their rationale is an important professional skill. Therefore, this course gives you many opportunities to write and present, so that you feel comfortable doing so when you leave the course and continue on your career path.

Student Objectives

As a result of this course, students should be:

1. Comfortable searching, reading, and interpreting authoritative accounting guidance
2. Comfortable writing and presenting conclusions based on their research.

Please seek help, early and often, if you are struggling to achieve these objectives!

My presentation of course material is heavily influenced by my time working at the FASB early in my career. We will consider the Conceptual Framework and current standard setting initiatives in our classroom discussion.

Classroom Approach

Attendance is required. Class sessions are your only source of course material. **Please participate in class discussions!**

Carmen is the online management system for this course. Visit the course site regularly to obtain updated information about class assignments and the course schedule.

Required Materials

Class sessions consist of slide presentations, discussions, and in-class activities. To access materials, you should **bring a (fully charged) laptop or tablet to class, with Wifi access.** Due to a potentially limited number of electrical outlets, please charge your device before class.

Grades

I will determine the course grade using the following elements and weights:

	Percentage of Final Grade
Group Cases	70%
Individual Case	20%
Attendance	10%

Group Cases

Working in groups of 2 or 3, students conduct research on a case with a company fact pattern and answer several questions posed by the case. Each group submits a written memo and slide presentation documenting their conclusions and research. After materials are submitted, I select one or more groups to give their presentation at the start of class when we discuss the case.

I will randomly assign groups at the beginning of the semester, and you will choose your own groups as the semester progresses.

Individual Case

Working individually, students conduct research on a case with a company fact pattern and answer several questions posed by the case. Each student submits a written memo documenting their conclusions and research.

Attendance

I expect all students to attend each class on time and submit all assignments on time. If you miss class, you will (1) miss discussion of course material, (2) have more difficulty completing assignments, and (3) be less likely to accomplish your course objectives. Missing assignments will negatively impact your grade.

Potential conflicts with class attendance invariably arise (e.g., career fairs, job interviews, important family events, personal or family illness), and it is impossible to adjudicate and resolve “good” and “bad” reasons for missing class. Therefore, I allow you to miss up to two class sessions during the semester without any impact on your grade; you do not need to let me know why you are missing class. Three or more absences from class, regardless of the reason, will negatively affect your grade based on the proportion of total class sessions missed.

If you are absent from a class session in which your group is selected to present, your group members will need to cover for you.

Note: Please respect me and your colleagues and *stay away from class if you are ill and contagious*, even if you’ve already missed three class sessions and missing another session will affect your grade. Our collective health is more important than the small deduction to your grade from missing one additional class period.

Other Policies

Weather or Other Short-Term Closing

Should in-person classes be canceled, we will meet virtually via CarmenZoom during our regularly scheduled time. I will share any updates via Carmen.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

I support the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to improve productivity, freeing time for more important, more difficult, more creative, or more valuable tasks. You may use AI for any assignment in this class, subject to the following two rules:

- (1) You may not input or otherwise provide any copyrighted material (e.g., the facts of a case) to any external software. Inputting copyrighted material to external software is a violation of the educational license with which we use the material, akin to helping software “steal” or “pirate” this copyrighted information.
- (2) Any time you use AI for an assignment, you must disclose that you did so and the purpose for which you used it. You must answer any follow up questions I raise about its use.

I reserve the right to revoke your ability to use artificial intelligence if I suspect it is becoming detrimental to your ability to achieve your course objectives.

Tentative Class Schedule
(Changes will be communicated in class and on Carmen)

Date	Topic	Post-Class Assignment
T August 22	Course Intro; Conceptual Framework	Read “CON 8_Ch. 1-3” on Carmen, focus on pp. 1-15, 26-33 of the PDF.
R August 24	Accounting Standards Codification; Research Process Introduction	Read Example Case #1; Prepare to discuss first two steps of Research Process
T August 29	Example Case #1 Discussion	Read Example Case #2; Prepare to discuss first three steps of Research Process
R August 31	Example Case #2 Discussion	
T September 5	EDGAR Search; Group Case #1 Introduction	Group Case #1 Writeup and Slides due by 9/11
R September 7	No Class (Case Preparation)	
T September 12	Group Case #1 Discussion; Group Case #2 Introduction	Group Case #2 Writeup and Slides due by 9/18
R September 14	No Class (Case Preparation)	
T September 19	Group Case #2 Discussion; Group Case #3 Introduction	Group Case #3 Writeup and Slides due by 9/25
R September 21	No Class (Case Preparation)	
T September 26	Group Case #3 Discussion; Group Case #4 Introduction	Group Case #4 Writeup and Slides due by 10/2
R September 28	No Class (Case Preparation)	
T October 3	Group Case #4 Discussion; Individual Case Introduction	Individual Case Writeup due by 10/9
R October 5	Course Wrap-Up	

University Policies

Disability Statement

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute Academic Misconduct.

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Religious Accommodations

It is Ohio State's policy to reasonably accommodate the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of all students. The policy permits a student to be absent for up to three days each academic semester for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief.

Students planning to use religious beliefs or practices accommodations for course requirements must inform the instructor in writing no later than 14 days after the course begins. The instructor is then responsible for scheduling an alternative time and date for the course requirement, which may be before or after the original time and date of the course requirement. These alternative accommodations will remain confidential. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all course assignments are completed.

Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a community to reflect diversity and to improve opportunities for all. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Office of Institutional Equity:

Online reporting form at equity.osu.edu,
Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605,
Or Email equity@osu.edu

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university employees have reporting responsibilities to the Office of Institutional Equity to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.

The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

Diversity Statement

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity of people and ideas. We believe in creating equitable research opportunities for all students and to providing programs and curricula that allow our students to understand critical societal challenges from diverse perspectives and aspire to use research to promote sustainable solutions for all. We are committed to maintaining an inclusive community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among all members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach their own potential. The Ohio State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment.

To learn more about diversity, equity, and inclusion and for opportunities to get involved, please visit:

<https://odi.osu.edu/>
<https://odi.osu.edu/racial-justice-resources>
<https://odi.osu.edu/focus-on-racial-justice>
<https://cbisc.osu.edu>

Mental Health Statement

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 by dialing 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Copyright

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.