Course Outline 2019
FINANCE 701: RESEARCH METHODS IN FINANCE (15 POINTS)
Semester 1 (1193)

Course prescription
The theory and application of modern research methods in finance. The content will include the philosophy, process and design of scientific research. Prior knowledge of basic statistical techniques is assumed.

Course advice
Restriction: ACCTG 701

Goals of the course
The course is in two parts. Part I covers the philosophy of science, the research process, research ethics, and the research methodology that comprises the sequential steps taken by a researcher in studying a research question(s). Part II is an application of this knowledge, and we examine the types and sources of data, hypotheses testing, regression analysis, and the common methodological issues in accounting and finance research such as endogeneity, econometric issues and biases.

This course provides the knowledge to better understand, appreciate, and critique the research literature studied in the subsequent courses in the BCom(Hons) and MCom, as well as preparing students for their BCom(Hons) ACCTG 788 Dissertation (30 points) or their MCom ACCTG 791 Dissertation (60 points) or ACCTG 794 Thesis (90 points) or ACCTG 796 Thesis (120 points).

Learning outcomes (LO)
By the end of the course, it is expected that students will be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
<th>Graduate profile capability*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LO1</td>
<td>Understand and explain the influences on how researchers think about the research process and how they approach the study of their research question(s).</td>
<td>1. Disciplinary knowledge and practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>LO2</td>
<td>Understand and appreciate that the foundation of knowledge requires a code of conduct based on moral principles and values when conducting research.</td>
<td>5b. Integrity</td>
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<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Learning outcome</td>
<td>Graduate profile capability*</td>
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| LO3| Critically evaluate previous research to identify knowledge gaps and methodological deficiencies. | 2. Critical thinking  
3. Solution seeking |
| LO4| Use the literature review as part of a coherent argument to develop their research question and choice of research methods. | 5a. Independence  
4b. Communication (Written) |
| LO5| Understand the types and structure of data and apply quantitative and qualitative techniques to analyse data and answer research questions. | 1. Disciplinary knowledge and practice  
3. Solution seeking |
| LO6| Critically evaluate research design in order to identify issues that could impact research conclusions and apply techniques to mitigate these issues. | 2. Critical thinking  
3. Solution seeking |

* See the graduate profile this course belongs to at the end of this course outline.

## Content outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Relevant learning resources/activities</th>
<th>Assessment due this period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (Part I)</td>
<td>Research in Accounting and Finance, research ethics, and literature review</td>
<td>Readings as detailed on Canvas</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 (Part I)</td>
<td>Research methodology</td>
<td>Readings as detailed on Canvas</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 (Part I)</td>
<td>Reliability and validity</td>
<td>Readings as detailed on Canvas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (Part II)</td>
<td>Data and analysis</td>
<td>Readings as detailed on Canvas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (Part II)</td>
<td>Regression analysis</td>
<td>Readings as detailed on Canvas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 (Part II)</td>
<td>Issues in data analysis</td>
<td>Readings as detailed on Canvas</td>
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</table>

## Learning and teaching

This is an intensive course covered in the first two weeks of the semester, so that students are better prepared for the subsequent courses in their BCom(Hons) and MCom. Part I is covered in week 1 and Part II is covered in week 2 of the semester. The class schedule follows:
Part I
Week 1, Monday 9 am to 12 pm, 2 pm to 4 pm, Room 260-040B
Week 1, Wednesday 8 am to 11 am, Room 260-040B
                  1 pm to 3 pm, Room 260-040C
Week 1, Friday 9 am to 12 pm, 2 pm to 4 pm, Room 260-040B

Part II
Week 2, Monday 9 am to 12 pm, 2 pm to 4 pm, Room 260-040B
Week 2, Wednesday 8 am to 11 am, Room 260-040B
                  1 pm to 3 pm, Room 260-040C
Week 2, Friday 9 am to 12 pm, 2 pm to 4 pm, Room 260-040B

Teaching staff
Professor Jilnaught Wong (course coordinator) – Week 1
Office: Room 523, Sir Owen G Glenn Building
Email: j.wong@auckland.ac.nz

Dr Marco Eugster – Week 2
Office: Room 579, Sir Owen G Glenn Building
Email: marco.eugster@auckland.ac.nz

Learning resources
Ghauri, P. N., and K. Gronhaug. 2010. Research Methods in Business Studies. London, U.K.: Pearson Education. The text provides readings that supplement and add to the material that is taught in this course, and which will provide a useful reference for your future studies at postgraduate level. Other readings will be posted on Canvas. The main library also has a collection of research method textbooks that you might find useful as references.

Assessment information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment task</th>
<th>Weight %</th>
<th>Group and/or individual</th>
<th>Submission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation and attendance – Week 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Throughout Week 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature review assignment</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Throughout the semester, due date TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research critique assignment</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Throughout the semester, due date TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data analysis assignment</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Throughout the semester, due date TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is no final exam for this course.</td>
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Pass requirements
A grade of at least 50% of the total course marks.
### Description of assessment tasks

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment task</th>
<th>Learning outcome to be assessed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation and attendance – Week 1: Includes class attendance, discussion of assigned papers, appropriate questioning in lectures and contribution to other in-class discussions.</td>
<td>LO1, LO2, LO3, and LO4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature review assignment: Each student is to synthesize an area of accounting or finance research of their choice in a concise and rigorous manner that presents knowledge and appreciation of that research, as well as the gaps, strengths and limitations of the research.</td>
<td>LO1, LO3, and LO4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research critique assignment: Involves evaluating existing research including appropriateness of research method/design and validity of results/conclusions.</td>
<td>LO5 and LO6.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data analysis assignment: Involves applying data analysis techniques in order to derive results.</td>
<td>LO5.</td>
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### Inclusive learning

Students are urged to discuss privately any impairment-related requirements face-to-face and/or in written form with the courses convenor/lecturer and/or tutor.

### Academic integrity

The University of Auckland will not tolerate cheating, or assisting others to cheat, and views cheating in coursework as a serious academic offence. The work that a student submits for grading must be the student’s own work, reflecting his or her learning. Where work from other sources is used, it must be properly acknowledged and referenced. This requirement also applies to sources on the worldwide web. A student’s assessed work may be reviewed against electronic source material using computerised detection to provide an electronic version of their work for computerised review.

### Student feedback

Student feedback is welcome.

### In the event of an unexpected disruption

We undertake to maintain the continuity and standard of teaching and learning in all your courses throughout the year. If there are unexpected disruptions, the University has contingency plans to ensure that access to your course continues and your assessment is fair, and not compromised. Some adjustments may need to be made in emergencies. In the event of a disruption, the University and your course coordinators will make every effort to provide you with up to date information via Canvas and the University website.

### Graduate profile for BCom(Hons) and MCom

The following six themes represent the capabilities that the Business School seeks to foster in all of its graduates. The development of these capabilities does not come all at once, but rather is expected to build from year to year. Each course is not expected to
contribute to all capabilities, but each course will have its own goals and learning outcomes that relate to the overall development of this profile.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Profile</th>
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| 1. Disciplinary knowledge and practice  
Graduates will be able to apply highly specialised knowledge within the discipline to demonstrate an advanced awareness and understanding in a global context. |
| 2. Critical thinking  
Graduates will be able to analyse and evaluate the relevant literature, and design and develop scholarly arguments that demonstrate advanced and diverse thinking. |
| 3. Solution seeking  
Graduates will be able to creatively research and analyse complex issues, and develop innovative solutions. |
| 4. Communication and engagement  
Graduates will be able to engage, communicate, and collaborate with diverse groups using multiple formats and effectively address a range of professional and academic audiences. |
| 5. Independence and integrity  
Graduates will be able to demonstrate advanced independent thought, self-reflection, ethics, and integrity. |
| 6. Social and environmental responsibility  
Graduates will consider, in relation to their discipline, the potential significance of the principles underpinning both the Treaty of Waitangi and sustainability. |