

Title: Accounting course 0 – Introduction to Accounting

Lecturers: Nora Muñoz Izquierdo, Álvaro Remesal Martín

Goals of the Course: This course will introduce students to the field of financial accounting, in preparation for more advanced business topics. The goal is to show students how to read, understand, and analyze financial statements. The course is intended for students with no previous knowledge of financial accounting. A decision-maker perspective of accounting is adopted, emphasizing the relation between accounting data and the underlying economic transactions that generated them.

This course is considered a preparation for the curricular course on Accounting and Valuation, which takes place as the Master begins.

Who should take this course.

The course is mandatory for those students who have to take the curricular course on Accounting and Valuation at the Master in International Advocacy *AND* have no previous background in accounting and valuation.

Students enrolled in both the Master in Legal Practice and the Master in International Advocacy have a convalidation of the course on Accounting and Valuation, and thus are not mandated to take this course.

Students who take the Master in International Advocacy and not the Master in Legal Practice have to take the course on Accounting and Valuation. However, if they have a double background with majors in, e.g., Law and Business Administration, they are not mandated to take this course.

Other instances, e.g., students who have a major in Law, but have taken accounting courses in their curriculum, are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

However, even if it is not mandatory, the course is strongly recommended for all students who need to refresh some accounting concepts, especially if they have chosen the Transactional specialty. Even if the course on Accounting and Valuation tends to be a success, some students with previous background in accounting, indicated that they could have benefitted from attending the course 0.

Format of the course: this introductory course will be conducted entirely online. Connection details will be communicated to the students in due course.

Structure and sequence of the course: Firstly, the course starts with a variety of the foundational concepts of the accounting conceptual framework that are crucial to the understanding of the rest of the materials. Secondly, students will learn how to record economic transactions in the accounting records, and how to prepare the primary financial statements that summarize a firm's financial situation: the balance sheet, the income statement, the cash flow statement and the statement of changes in equity. Thirdly, this course also introduces the accounting process of group companies. Lastly, students will understand the concept of financial valuation and cash flows, and will learn how to summarize the information provided in the financial statements through the computation of ratios. The students will become familiar with the distribution of financial ratios across firms in the data.

Syllabus	
Contents	Instructor/ Date
<p>1.- <i>Accounting conceptual framework (I)</i></p> <p>1.1.- Financial accounting: importance, process and users</p> <p>1.2.- The basic accounting equation</p> <p>1.3.- The double-entry system</p> <p>1.4.- Conceptual framework according to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)</p> <p>1.5.- Recording business transactions</p> <p>1.6.- Financial statements: The balance sheet</p>	Nora Muñoz/ September 6
<p>2.- <i>Accounting conceptual framework (II)</i></p> <p>2.1.- The expanded accounting equation</p> <p>2.2.- Debit and credit procedure</p> <p>2.3.- Adjustments for financial reporting</p> <p>2.4.- Financial statements: The income statement</p>	Nora Muñoz/ September 7
<p>3.- <i>Accounting cycle and financial statements</i></p> <p>3.1.- Completing the accounting cycle</p> <p>3.2.- The preparation of financial statements: The balance sheet, the income statement, the cash-flow statement and the statement of changes in equity.</p> <p>3.3.- The notes to the financial statements</p> <p>3.4.- The audit report</p> <p>3.5.- Differences between services and merchandising companies: Accounting for inventories</p>	Nora Muñoz/ September 8
<p>4.- <i>Accounting for group companies</i></p> <p>4.1.- The obligation to consolidate</p> <p>4.2.- Legal framework</p> <p>4.3.- Consolidation methods: Full method</p> <p>4.4.- Consolidation methods: Proportional method</p> <p>4.5.- Consolidation methods: Equity method</p>	Nora Muñoz/ September 9
<p>5.- <i>Financial ratios and financial analysis</i></p> <p>5.1.- Financial valuation</p> <p>5.2.- Cash flows estimation</p> <p>5.3.- Main financial ratios: Leverage, liquidity, efficiency, and profitability</p> <p>5.4.- The Dupont system</p> <p>5.5.- Financial ratios in the data</p>	Álvaro Remesal / September 10

Evaluation:

The final grade of the course will be based on the delivery of assignments proposed to students and a final, open-book, exam.

Sources:

Álvarez Melcón, S. & Corona Romero, E. (2016) *Cuentas anuales consolidadas*. 2ª Edición, Editorial Pirámide. (In Spanish).

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Cordobés Madueño, M., De Vicente Lama, M. & Molina Sánchez, H. *Manual de preparación de estados financieros. Lo que el usuario debe saber*. 1ª Edición, AECA 2020. (In Spanish).

Harrison Jr., W. T., Horngren, C. T., William Thomas, C., Tietz, W. M. & Suwardy, T. (2018). *Financial Accounting International Financial Reporting Standards*, 11th Edition, Pearson Education Limited.

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