



University of  
**Strathclyde**  
Business  
School

## Department of Accounting and Finance

### AG424 Accounting Theories

2025/26 Semester 1

20 Module Credits

#### **Module Details**

##### **Module Description**

Accounting is the language of business, and as such, it constitutes the basis of the decision-making process for both investors and firm managers. Nonetheless, over the past decades new theories have emerged in an attempt to cope with the increasing complexity of financial transactions and understand the implications of firms' activities on a wide range of stakeholders. These theories have aligned accounting with economics and finance more closely than ever before. However, the underpinnings and assumptions of these developments have the potential to radically alter many accounting conventions and basic techniques. Taking an interdisciplinary approach to existing accounting theories as well as capital market research in accounting this module will explore both accounting theoretical foundations and critiques.

##### **Teaching Hours**

Lectures: All weeks, Thursday 9am-12pm in GH738 (subject to change).

##### **Prerequisites**

None.

#### **Contact Details**

Lecturer: Dr Panagiotis Loukopoulos

Room number: Stenhouse 3.22

Telephone: 0141 548 4964

E-mail: [panagiotis.loukopoulos@strath.ac.uk](mailto:panagiotis.loukopoulos@strath.ac.uk)

Office Hours: SW 3.22 Wednesdays 11.00am – 01.00pm

## **Module Learning**

### **Module Aims**

The purpose of the course is to help students to understand the role of accounting theories and theoretical models in shaping policies, how accounting is perceived as a social practice that creates visibilities, and what are the contributions of accounting in standardisation and assessment criteria. The module will enable students to gain the skills required to critique accounting theories and review the prior empirical research. In this respect, this module also enables students to review the contribution of recent accounting developments in meeting the demands of shareholders as well other stakeholders.

### **Learning Objectives and Outcomes**

The achievement of learnings outcomes is necessary to successfully complete the module, both in terms of your learnings development and in your module assessment. It is important, therefore, that you are confident about achieving these outcomes as the module progresses. Opportunities will be given for you to reflect upon what have achieved during the module.

The following learning outcomes will contribute to your self-analysis and reflection in your Student's Personal Development Planning (SPDP). These learning outcomes will be assessed using the methods explained in the "Assessment" section in this Outline.

#### **Subject-specific knowledge and skills**

On completing this module, the student will have:

A1 - The ability to critique the contribution of accounting theories to financial and non-financial accounting literature, along with its implications on the policies and practices.

A2 - The ability to use accounting information to communicate confidently and accurately on organisational performance.

A3 - The ability to critique and evaluate the role of accounting in a broader socio-political and economic settings.

A4 - The ability to synthesize information from academic and professional literature for use in problem-solving and management decision making.

A5 - Developed the skills needed to do more in-depth study on a current financial accounting topic.

#### **Cognitive abilities and non-subject specific skills**

During the module you will:

B1 - Develop intellectual and professional competencies by analysing and evaluating evidence,

logical reasoning and practical applications.

B2 - Develop communication skills – explaining, listening, discussing, questioning, presenting and defending a position, giving feedback, and writing.

B3 - Develop intellectual understandings, clarifying concepts and theories by thinking, discussion, doing, observing, and constructing connections.

B4 - Develop a mature learning stance by accepting personally responsibility for progress and direction of learning, questioning institutional authority and practices.

B5 - Grow as a person, clarifying your values, changing your attitude towards prior received wisdom, developing self-esteem, self-confidence.

## **Module Structure**

### **Timetable**

| <b>Week</b> | <b>Topic</b>  |
|-------------|---|
| 1           | Introduction to Financial Accounting Theory and the Role of Standard Setters    |
| 2           | The IASB Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting                           |
| 3           | The Incorporation of Social and Environmental Factors within External Reporting |
| 4           | The ISSB Conceptual Framework for Sustainability Reporting                      |
| 5           | Regulation and ESG Reporting  |
| 6           | Reading Week  |
| 7           | Economic Income, Wealth Concepts and their Relation to Accounting               |
| 8           | Capital Market Research in Accounting   |
| 9           | Earnings Management   |
| 10          | Positive Accounting Theory  |
| 11          | Review and Revision   |

## **Assessment and Feedback Details**

1. Essay worth 40%. Due: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 (Week 7), 12pm. Marks will be released on or before Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2025, 12pm.
2. Final exam worth 60%. Date: Semester 1 exam diet.

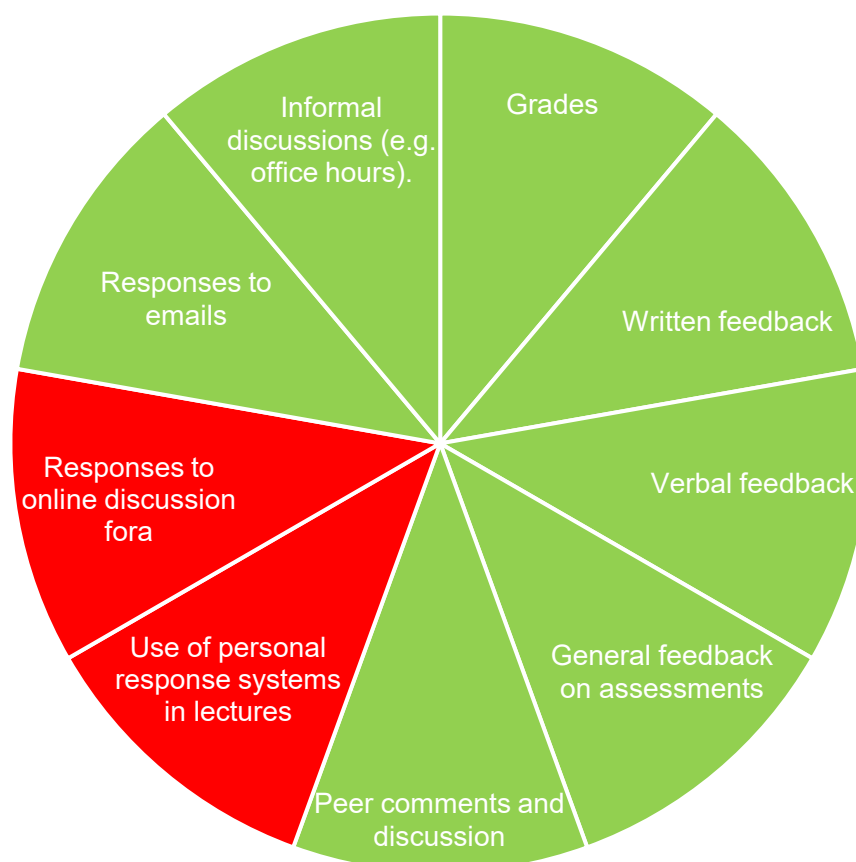
An overall weighted average mark of 40% is required to pass the module.

It is a requirement for course completion to submit all assessed coursework. Non-submission of any part will result in an overall mark of zero being awarded for the module.

The following forms of feedback will assist you in this module:

| <i>Feedback category</i>                    | <i>Details for the AG219 module</i>   | <i>Colour</i> |
|---|---|---------------|
| Grades                                      | Students will receive marks on the pieces of assessment according to the relevant grading rubric.   | Green         |
| Written feedback                            | Students will receive written feedback on the assignment against the marking criteria for the assignment.   | Green         |
| Verbal feedback                             | Students can receive verbal feedback on the class test, class test, and assignment during class hours.  | Green         |
| General feedback                            | A document will provide general feedback on the class test and assignment which will be shared via MyPlace notices. This will include the average mark and mark distribution.   | Green         |
| Peer comments and discussion                | Students will have the opportunity to have peer discussion and receive comments within the tutorials  | Green         |
| Use of personal response systems in lecture | Lecturers will use a personal response system as appropriate  | Red           |
| Responses to online discussion forum        | As this is an on-campus class, there is no online discussion forum  | Red           |
| Responses to email                          | Students are encouraged to use office hours to ask questions relating to the course material. Students can email the course administrator for general enquiries about the class, issues with signing up for tutorials etc | Green         |
| Informal discussions                        | There are weekly drop-in sessions for any student wishing to discuss questions with teaching staff.   | Green         |

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|--|---|--|
|  | Information on office hours is available under People on the class MyPlace page |  |
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## Artificial Intelligence

You are not permitted to use Gen-AI tools for this module unless you are a student with an adjustment report on Pegasus where this is explicitly specified as a 'reasonable adjustment'. Any student suspected of using such tools will be subject to investigation outlined in the [Student Discipline Procedure - Academic Misconduct.pdf \(strath.ac.uk\)](#) process.

## Reading List

Please refer to the AG424 Myplace page to access the Reading List.

## UG Module Manual (Honours)

Please refer to the accounting and finance UG manual module for the following ([Honours Module Manual.docx](#)):

- Tutorial Attendance
- Useful Contacts
- Penalties for Late Submission

- Feedback
- Compensation Scheme
- Resit Policy – no resits in honours year
- Universal Marking Guide
- Useful Links