ACCY332
Advanced Information Systems in Accounting

Subject Program, Autumn Session 2003
Wollongong Campus

Pre-requisites: ACCY231
Credit points: 6

Subject Description

Advanced Information Systems in Accounting examines aspects of communication and information theory, system evaluation, design, implementation and management. It does this from the perspective of accounting. This subject provides students with a broad knowledge of accounting concepts and issues related to information management, business cycles, databases, and control systems including aspects of fraud and security.

Subject Objectives

On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:

- Describe the impact of computer technology on accounting information systems.
- Assess technical and implementation aspects of accounting information systems.
- Describe basic components and implications of databases for accounting systems.
- Implement key internal accounting controls of secure accounting systems.

Subject Coordinator and Lecturer

Dr Kathy Rudkin
Building 40, Room 305, Telephone 02 4221 3148
Email: kathy_rudkin@uow.edu.au
(Emails will only be answered during consultation hours)
Consultation times: To Be Advised.
Subject details

Lectures

Tuesday 14.30-16.30 19.1002

Learning Objectives of Lectures
There will be one two-hour lecture per week. During the first hour of the lecture, material will be delivered examining both technical issues and their theoretical links. Lectures are designed to introduce a topic, and highlight current interests and developments in the subject area. They are not to be regarded as a complete presentation of the material, but are intended as an introduction to independent reading and study. The second hour will be spent in open discussion around set readings.

Successful learning of the material requires active student participation including note taking, wider reading and class discussion. Students will be called upon to undertake class activities and presentations during the second hour of lecture time.

Web Site

Advanced Information Systems in Accounting will be supported by a subject web site accessed through the SOLS link (student online services) on the university web page. Students should use their university email account details to access the site.

The purpose of this website is to provide supportive materials for student learning. All major subject announcements will be posted on the Home Page of the ACCY332 web site. All students can access the web site through the computer labs on campus.

In addition, weekly readings, questions, and computer lab tasks are given on the ACCY332 web site.

Learning Objectives of ACCY332 Website
The intention of the ACCY332 web site is to contribute to preparing students as UOW graduates who are able to operate in an e-environment. Students gain experience in computer skills via the use of the website; and team skills and written communication skills via the use of the online bulletin board and email facilities. The learning of technical content is also supported through notes and online discussions. Students will also learn and be expected to use appropriate “netiquette”.

Computer Lab Classes

Tuesday 13.30-14.30 40.LAB 2

A one-hour computer lab class will be held each week commencing Week 3 of session. During the lab class time in Week 2, a compulsory library skills class will be held (room to be advised). Computer lab classes are intended as independent learning sessions, where students will become familiar with current software supporting the theoretical models they encounter in lectures. Exercises set for the computer lab
classes are designed to illustrate or apply concepts developed in lectures, and make students cognizant of current marketplace applications of these concepts, and literate in their documentation.

Set exercises for each class are given on the subject website.

**Learning Objectives of Computer Lab Classes**

Computer Lab Classes are intended to develop and reinforce computer competence, and technical accounting and analytical skills in a computerised environment, and make students aware of current AIS software.

### Study Time

This is a six credit point subject and it is expected students spend a **minimum** of 12 hours per week dedicated to Advanced Information Systems in Accounting. This 12 hours comprises 3 hours class contact (two hours of lectures, one hour computer lab class), and nine hours minimum of private study.

### Recommended Readings

There is no prescribed text for this subject. However, there are weekly prescribed readings as listed below.

#### Recommended Texts


#### Compulsory Readings

These readings should be completed **before** the lecture each week. All readings are available in the Commerce Resources Room, in Building 40. Many are available electronically through WebCT. Set questions relating to the readings that are to be prepared each week and brought to lectures are given in WebCT.
Week 1 - 4 March

Week 2 – 11 March

Week 3 – 18 March

Week 4 – 25 March

Week 5 – 1 April

Week 6 – 8 April

Week 7 – 15 April

Week 8 – 29 April

Week 9 – 6 May

Week 10 – 13 May
2003 ACCY332 Subject Outline

Week 11 – 20 May
CPA and ICAA (2003) Auditing Handbook:
   AUS 214 “Auditing in a CIS Environment”
   AAA 4 “Auditor Association with Electronic Financial Reporting”
   AAA 8 “Electronic Commerce and its Impact on Audits”
CPA and ICAA (2003) Accounting Handbook:
   UIG 37 “Accounting for Website Costs”.

Week 12 – 27 May


Week 13 – 3 June

Assessment

Any student failing to complete **ANY** of the compulsory subject requirements may fail the subject as a whole and receive a fail grade. It is compulsory that students meet the following requirements:

- **Lectures:** Participate fully (not just attend) in 90% of lectures.

- **Reading Questions:** Complete in written form to a satisfactory standard all set readings questions for each lecture. Satisfactory is determined as completed before the lecture, and a reasonable attempt at each question. The set questions are indicated on the subject’s web site. Written answers will be collected and graded periodically, and at least four times during session at the discretion of the lecturer. This is assessed as an individual effort.

- **Computer Lab Exercises:** Participate fully (not just attend) 90% of all computer lab classes. This includes completing to a satisfactory standard all set computer lab exercises and tasks **in the lab class**. Satisfactory is determined as a reasonable attempt at each task. The tasks will be graded. The set tasks are provided in detail on the subject web site. This is assessed as an individual effort.

- **Essay:** Submit in writing in academically acceptable form your essay by the due date. This is assessed as an individual effort.

- **Final Examination:** Sit the final examination. This is assessed as an individual effort.
Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Readings’ Questions</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Tasks</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students must achieve at least 45% in the final exam, and at least 50% overall to pass the subject. Marks may be scaled.

Performance grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HD</td>
<td>High Distinction</td>
<td>85–100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>75–84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>65–74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>50–64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail (unsatisfactory completion)</td>
<td>0–49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supplementary examinations and assignment extensions may only be permitted in accordance with University of Wollongong policy, for example in extenuating circumstances such as verified illness, misadventure, or for religious reasons. Students are advised to read the policy for Special Consideration in the University of Wollongong Calendar, at www.uow.edu.au/student/calendar/specialconsideration.html

All applications for special consideration are to be lodged in accordance with University of Wollongong policy. To apply for Special Consideration, students must log onto SOLS using their student number and barcode, and select the special consideration link. A personalised application form will be then appear for electronic completion and submission.

Requests for extensions must be made **BEFORE the due date**, and can only be given by the subject coordinator when the special consideration policy has been followed. Written notice is given in this subject outline for assessment requirements for the subject including the dates for the submission of work for assessment. **Note** "Pressure of work", either from employment or from other subjects, is not an acceptable reason for seeking an extension of time.

Disability

If a student with a disability requires reasonable accommodation in this subject they are strongly advised to discuss the issues early in the session with one of the following people: the Disability Liaison Officer, the Faculty Disability Advisor and /or the Subject Coordinator. For the Faculty of Commerce please see the Sub Dean, Mr Ron Perrin, room 40.224, telephone 02 4221 4118.
Assignment Guidelines

Non-Discriminatory Language Practice and Presentation

Students are expected to read and adhere to the University of Wollongong policy on Non-discriminatory Language Practice and Presentation in the Undergraduate Calendar. It is expected students will use non-sexist and non-racist language.

Acknowledgement Practice / Plagiarism

Students are expected to adhere to the University of Wollongong policy on Acknowledgment Practice/Plagiarism in the Undergraduate Calendar. You are required to adopt this code in all work for this subject.

“Plagiarism means using the idea of someone else without giving them proper credit. That someone else may be an author, critic, journalist, artist, composer, lecturer, tutor or another student. Intentional plagiarism is a serious form of cheating. Unintentional plagiarism can result if you don’t understand and use the acceptable scholarly methods of acknowledgement. In either case, the University may impose penalties which can be very severe” (UOW Calendar 2003).

Essay

Due Date: WEEK 8 Tuesday 29 April

Delivery: You are required to submit the essay to the subject coordinator in the lecture in Week 8. Late assignments will attract a penalty of two marks per working day or part thereof, counted from the due date. Essays will be returned to students in lectures in week 10. Post, Facsimile and email submissions will not be accepted. Essays placed under the office door will not be accepted.

Structure and Presentation Requirements

Students must include a school cover sheet attached to the front of their essay. Omission of cover sheet will be regarded as not meeting the academic requirements of this assessment task.

i) The essay should be 2500 words (plus or minus 250 words). Anything in excess of this amount will not be read.
2003 ACCY332 Subject Outline

ii) Essays must be word processed using 12 point font, double line spacing, and 3 cm left and right hand margins.

iii) Essays must have a synopsis, and be referenced fully using the Harvard method. Footnotes are not to be used. Materials on referencing can be found on the subject WebCT site.

iv) Students must retain a printed copy of their essay.

v) The essays must answer the questions given. Headings are encouraged.

vi) The essay is not a group activity, and an individual effort is required.

Learning Objectives
The essay is designed to aid students in developing skills in critical thought and written communication. The task requires students to construct and articulate their ideas linking them to technical components of the course.

Assessment Criteria
The following criteria are used to assess the essay:

Structure and Presentation
i) Compliance with requirements

Writing Style
Correct use of grammar, language usage and punctuation.

Content
ii) Relevance of the argument(s) in answering the questions
iii) Coherent and logical flow of arguments

Referencing
iv) References used appropriately to support arguments
v) Compliance with the prescribed referencing method

ESSAY TOPIC:
Consider the following two statements:

“The rapid evolution of Internet technology has created the ability to disseminate new information nearly instantaneously to a world-wide audience. In contrast, traditional accounting communications are becoming increasingly untimely and irrelevant. Investors can wait for financial statements for as long as 90 days while auditing requirements and reporting processes delay their delivery”.


“Confusing the picture even further has been the growing use of non-standard ‘pro-forma’ accounting – particularly popular with the high-tech industry. Not content with creating a new economy, it has set about creating accounting rules to go with it.”

(“The trouble with accounting: when the numbers don’t add up”, The Economist, February 9 2002, pp. 31-64).

Required
In considering the two quotations, discuss the implications for companies’ accounting information systems to meet the demand for timely accounting information in an internet age. Is it enough for accountants to just add technology to their traditional model of debits and credits, or are new ways of thinking about accounting systems needed?

### Final Examination

The final examination will be a three-hour examination. All topics in the course are examinable in the final examination. Students are required to achieve at least 45% in the final examination, and 50% overall to achieve a pass grade in this subject.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 March</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Overview: Social context and Historical Developments</td>
<td>Sutton (2000)</td>
<td>Each week Readings questions &amp; lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Traditional Architecture of double entry systems</td>
<td>Romney and Steinbart (1999)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Transaction Cycles</td>
<td>Hall (2001)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Database Management Systems – implications for accounting</td>
<td>Gal and McCarthy (1985)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 April</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Accounting Internal Controls and Security and Integrity Issues</td>
<td>Bodnar and Hopwood (2001)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 April</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Disaster Risk Management for accountants</td>
<td>Greenstein and Feinman (2000)</td>
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<td>MID-SESSION RECESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 April</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>ERP Models and organizational culture: a critical perspective</td>
<td>O’Leary (2002)</td>
<td>ESSAY DUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 May</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Accounting Technologies and the impact of globalization</td>
<td>Neu et al (2002)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 May</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>AIS obligations under corporations law, accounting and auditing</td>
<td>2003 UIG 37, AUS 214, AAA4, AAA8</td>
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<td>Challenges for accounting standard setters</td>
<td>Debreceny and Gray (2001)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Reference</td>
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