

TOWSON UNIVERSITY/UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE
College of Business & Economics
Course Outline
Accounting 770
Seminar in Current Topics in Accounting
Social Accounting and International Accounting
Professor M. Freedman

Time: M 5:30 pm – 8:10 pm **Fall 2005**
Office: Stephen Hall 100G **Phone: X44143**
Office Hours: M 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
(and by appointment)

TEXT: Cohen, B. & J. Greenfield, Ben & Jerry's Double-Dip, Simon & Shuster, 1997. (B&J) (for Social Accounting)

Radebaugh & Gray, International Accounting and Multinational Enterprises (R&G), 5th Edition.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this course is to familiarize the student with the reading and current work in Social and International Accounting. In the first half of the course, Social Accounting will be the focus and because it is a relatively new field, the readings tend to be in journals. Students are responsible for reading and understanding the material so that they can intelligently participate in a seminar discussion. The readings will be in the reserve library or available electronically.

International Accounting will be the focus of the second half of the course and is designed to familiarize the students with accounting in different countries and with some of the problems of multinational accounting (including ethical consideration). In terms of the former, we will focus on a few countries from each of the following regions: Western Europe and Japan, Eastern Europe and the Third World.

Since the class is taught as a seminar, the students will orally present many of the articles in class. The presenter will be required to briefly summarize the article and provide an extension of an idea in the article that provides a different perspective and teaches the class something new. Those students not orally presenting the article must provide a one page (maximum) word processed summary of the article (not a copy of the abstract) including 2-3 questions to ask the presenter.

Students are required to write two research papers: one on a topic in Social Accounting, one on a topic in International Accounting and to present their papers to the class.. The papers should be on a specific topic in the field, it should be well researched and if at all

possible, creative. Quality is important, quantity is not, nevertheless the paper length should be about ten pages. The Social Accounting paper will be due on November 7th (the International Accounting due date will be determined later). More details about the paper will be provided during the semester

Grade for the course is determined as follows:

Papers	35%
Presentations	20%
Exams	40%
Article summaries	<u>5%</u>
	100%

The grading possibilities include +/- (A, A-, B+, B, B-, C, F)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Readings</u>
8/29, 9/12	General Discussion of Social Accounting	Neimark, Freedman (1989), Epstein (2004), Clarkson 1991), B&J (pp 13-54)
9/12, 19	Marginalist Economic Theory	Coase, Freedman (1975)
9/19, 26	Theoretical Framework and Models For Social Reporting	Ramanathan, Clarkson (1995), B&J 55-107, Estes (1974), Dilley and Weygandt, Grojer & Starik B&J 259-266, 108-160,
9/26, 10/10	Disclosure and Social Audits	B&J 244-253 Freedman and Stagliano (2004) Roberts (1992), Patten (1991)
10/10/17	Ethical Investments	Harte, Lewis & Owen, Rockness & Williams, B&J 161-225
10/17, 24	Environmental Issues	Freedman & Jaggi (1995), Gray & Bebington (2000), Rubenstein (1992), Epstein & Freedman
10/24, 31	Social Reporting - International	Buhr and Freedman 2001, Hergde, et al Jaggi & Zhao, Deegan and Rankin, Gamble et al 1996 Freedman and Jaggi 2005, B&J 226-235, Teoh and Thong

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EXAM

International Accounting part of the syllabus will be forthcoming

Reading List

- Buhr, Nola and M. Freedman, "Culture, Institutional Factors, and Differences in Environmental Disclosures between Canada and the United States," Critical Perspectives on Accounting Vol. 12 (2001), pp. 293-322.
- Clarkson, M., "The Moral Dimension of Corporate Social Responsibility" in Richard Coughlin, editor, Morality, Rationality & Efficiency (MC Sharpe, 1991) pp. 185-196.
- Clarkson, M., "A Stakeholder Framework for Analyzing and Evaluating Corporate Social Performance," Academy of Management Review, Vol. 20, No. 1 (1995), pp. 92-117.
- Coase, R..., "The Problem of Social Cost," Journal of Law & Economics (October 1960), pp. 1-44.
- Deegan C. and M. Rankin, "Do Australian Companies Report Environmental News Objectively? An Analysis of the Environmental Disclosures by firms prosecuted successfully by the Environmental Protection Authority," Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal Vol. 9 No. 2 (1996), pp. 50-67.
- Dilley, Steven and Jerry Weygandt, "Measuring Social Responsibility: An Empirical Test," Journal of Accountancy, September 1973.
- Epstein, M., "The Identification, Measurement and Reporting of Corporate Social Impacts: Past, Present and Future," Advances in Environmental Accounting and Management, Vol. 2 (2004), pp. 1-30.
- Epstein, M. and M. Freedman, "Social Disclosure and the Individual Investor," Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal, Vol. 7, No. 4 (1994), pp. 94-110.
- Estes, Ralph, "A Comprehensive Corporate Social Reporting Model," Federal Accountant, (Dec. 1974), pp. 9-20.
- Freedman, M., "Economic Theory of Social Costs" (1975).
- Freedman, M. "Social Accounting" in Behavioral Accounting edited by G. Siegal & H. Marconi (Southwestern Publishers:1989), pp. 499-515.
- Freedman, M. & Jaggi, Bikki, "Framework for Environmental Reporting," (1995, unpublished).

- _____, 'Global Warming, Commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and Accounting Disclosures by the Largest Global Public Firms from Polluting Industries,' (Forthcoming) International Journal of Accounting (2005)
- Freedman, M and A.J. Stagliano, "Environmental Reporting and the Resurrection of Social Accounting," Advances in Public Interest Accounting Vol. 10 (2004), pp. 131-144.
- Gamble, G., Kathy Hsu, C. Jackson and C. Tollerson, "Environmental Disclosures in Annual Reports: An International Perspective," Accounting Horizons Vol. 31 (1996), pp. 293-331.
- Gray, R. and J. Bebington, "Environmental Accounting: Managerialism and Sustainability," Advances in Environmental Accounting and Management Vol 1 (2000), pp. 1-44.
- Grojer, Jan-Erik and Starik, "Social Accounting: A Swedish Attempt," Accounting, Organizations and Society, Vol. 2, No. 4, 1977, pp. 349-86.
- Harte, G., L. Lewis and D. Owen, "Ethical Investment and the Corporate Reporting Function," Critical Perspectives on Accounting, Vol. 2 (1991), pp. 227-253.
- Herde, P., R. Bloom and J. Fuglister, "Social Financial Reporting in India: A Case Study," International Journal of Accounting, Vol. 32, No. 2 (1996), 502-528.
- Jaggi, B. and R. Zhao, "Environmental Performance and Reporting: Perceptions of Managers & Accounting Professionals in Hong Kong," International Journal of Accounting, Vol. 31, No. 3 (1996), 333-346.
- Neimark, M., "Editorial," Advances in Public Interest Accounting, Vol. 1, 1986, IX-XIII.
- Patten, Dennis, "Exposure, Legitimacy and Social Disclosure," Journal of Accounting and Public Policy Vol. 10 (Winter 1991), pp. 297-308.
- Ramanathan, Kavasseri, "Toward a Theory of Corporate Accounting," Accounting Review, (July 1976).
- Roberts, R.W., "Determinants of Corporate Social Responsibility Disclosure: An Application of Stakeholder Theory," Accounting, Organizations and Society Vol. 17 (1994), 595-612.
- Rockness, J. and P. Williams, "A Description of Social Responsibility Material Finds," Accounting Organizations and Society, Vol. 13 (1988), pp. 397-411.
- Rubenstein, D., "Bridging the GAP Between Green Accounting and Black Ink," Accounting Organizations and Society, Vol. 17 (1992) pp. 501-508.

Teoh, H.Y., & Thong, G., "Another Look at Corporate Social Responsibility and Reporting: An Empirical Study in a Developing Country," Accounting, Organizations and Society's, Vol. 9, No. 2, 1984, pp. 189-206.