

ACC303 Strategic and Sustainable Accounting

Learning Guide

Semester 2 2021

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit points	Prerequisites	Corequisites
12.5	ACC202 Corporate Accounting	None

1.1 Subject Description

This subject presents an overview of the rationale and techniques pertinent to sustainable accounting. The management of social, environmental and economic sustainability is complex and presents major challenges for both private and public organisations. Sustainable accounting practices provide critical tools that assist organisations to realistically recognise and manage the potential risks and opportunities associated with sustainability.

1.2 Staff details

Subject Coordinator:	Dr Majd Shamayleh
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Teaching Staff:	Dr Majd Shamayleh

1.3 Important Academic Dates

Classes Start:	Monday 26 th July 2021
Census Date:	Monday 9 th August 2021 (Last day to withdraw from subjects without academic or financial penalty)
Last day of Lectures:	Friday 15 th October 2021
Examination period:	Wednesday 20 th October– Saturday 30 th October 2021

Further information about important academic dates including submission dates for assessments and penalties for late submission are available on the Moodle page for this subject.

2. SUBJECT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Subject Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are what you should be able to demonstrate by the end of this subject if you participate fully in learning activities and successfully complete the assessment items. **You must demonstrate achievement of all Subject Learning Outcomes to qualify for a passing grade.**

The following table list the SLOs and shows how each SLO is assessed:

Table 1

Subject Learning Outcome	Assessment Item
<i>On successful completion of the course, you should be able to:</i>	<i>This learning outcome will be assessed in the following items:</i>
1. Relate and integrate the concept of sustainability and the current trends to accounting and business practices.	Mid-semester test, presentation and assignment, final exam
2. Critique the impact of government policies on sustainability reports.	Presentation and assignment, final exam
3. Determine the conditions affecting assurance of sustainability reports.	Mid-semester test, final exam
4. Formulate accounting management practices that comply with a level of social awareness and sustainable targets, and future strategic plans.	Presentation and assignment
5. Prepare disclosures required by listed companies in relation to environmental, supply chains and strategic issues	Presentation and assignment

3. ASSESSMENT TASKS FOR THIS SUBJECT

The table below lists the assessment tasks, their percentage of the final mark, when they are due and which SLOs are assessed by each.

Table 2 - Assessment tasks

Assessment type	When assessed – week of semester	Weighting (% of total marks for subject)	Learning outcomes assessed
Mid-Semester Test (Individual) - A written test covering content presented in weeks 1-6 (60 minutes).	8	20%	1, 3
Presentation and Assignment (group of 2) - To present a solution for a sustainable accounting problem, both orally and as a written report. Presentation (15 minutes) and report (2000 words).	11 - 12	30%	1, 2, 4, 5
Final Exam (Individual) - A closed book written exam covering key content from weeks 1-12 (120 minutes).	Exam period	50%	1, 2, 3

4. SCHEDULE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Semester 2 – 26th July to 15th October 2021

Table 3

Week 1.5-hr Lecture and 1.5-hr Tutorial each week		Topic	Readings
Week	Start of Week		
			<i>Sustainability Accounting and Accountability</i> . 3rd ed. Journal Articles.
1	26 July	Overview: Ethical reasoning and implications for accounting, Sustainability and corporate social responsibility	Ethical obligations and decision making in accounting: text and cases: McGraw-Hill, 5 th Edition Chapter 1
2	2 Aug	Sustainability Accounting & The stakeholder perspective of sustainability	Chapter 1, 2 & 3
3	9 Aug	Independent assurance of sustainability reporting	Chapters 5 Journal Articles
4	16 Aug	Interrelationship: Organisational development and sustainable accounting	Chapter 6 Journal Articles
5	23 Aug	Shifting in organisational approaches across sustainability	Chapter 7 Journal Articles
6	30 Aug	External accounts	Chapter 8
7	6 Sep	Sustainability accounting, reporting and management in the public sector	Chapter 4 Journal Articles
8	13 Sep	Issues in Accounting for Sustainability; Water, Climate and Biodiversity.	Chapters 9 & 10
9	20 Sep	Organisational change and sustainability accounting	Journal Articles

10	27 Sep	The nature of NGO accountability, Human rights and Economic Inequality.	Chapter 11 &12 Journal Articles
11	4 Oct	Sustainability accounting theories: Ethics of accounting, legitimacy theory , institutional theory and corporate social responsibility	Ethical obligations and decision making in accounting: text and cases: McGraw-Hill, 5 th Edition Chapters 3,4&8 Journal article
12	11 Oct	Current trends in sustainability accounting and challenges facing Accountability and Sustainability	Chapter 14 Journal Articles.
13-14	Examination Period	Wednesday 20 th October– Saturday 30 th October 2021	

5. LEARNING RESOURCES

Further details and additional resources are available on the Moodle page for this subject.

Prescribed and recommended reading:

Prescribed Text:

- Bebbington, J., Lain, M., Tregidga, H., and Unerman, J. (2021). *Sustainability Accounting and Accountability*. 3rd ed. United States: Routledge.

Recommended Reading:

- Broadbent, J., Laughlin, R. (2013). *Accounting Control and Controlling Accounting: Interdisciplinary and Critical Perspectives*. Emerald Group Publishing Limited, United Kingdom.
- Mintz, S. (2021). *Ethical obligations and decision making in accounting: text and cases*: McGraw-Hill, 5th Edition.
- Journal Articles will be posted on Moodle

LINK FOR TEXT PURCHASE

All students are expected to buy a copy of the textbook. The links to purchase the book (hard copy and e-book) are shown below:

<https://www.routledge.com/Sustainability-Accounting-and-Accountability/Laine-Tregidga-Unerman/p/book/9781032023106>

6. CONSULTATION TIMES

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	10:00-11:00		10:00-11:00	

7. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to Gateway Business College policies in relation to class attendance and general conduct and behaviour, including maintaining a safe, respectful environment; and to understand their obligations in relation to workload, assessment and keeping informed. Information and policies on these topics can be found on the Gateway Business College website.

7.1 Workload

It is expected that you will spend at least ten to twelve hours per week studying for a subject. This time should be made up of reading, research, working on exercises and problems, online activities and attending classes. In periods where you need to complete assignments or prepare for examinations, the workload may be greater. Over-commitment has been a cause of failure for many students. You should take the required workload into account when planning how to balance study with employment and other activities. We strongly encourage you to connect with your Moodle course websites in the first week of semester.

7.2 Attendance

Your regular and punctual attendance at lectures and seminars or in online learning activities is expected in this subject. Gateway Business College reserves the right to refuse final assessment to those students who attend less than 80% of scheduled classes especially

where attendance and participation is required as part of the learning process (e.g., tutorials, flipped classroom sessions, seminars, labs, etc.).

7.3 General Conduct and Behaviour

You are expected to conduct yourself with consideration and respect for the needs of your fellow students and teaching staff and comply with all appropriate Gateway policies. Conduct which unduly disrupts or interferes with a class, such as ringing or talking on mobile phones, is not acceptable and students may be asked to leave the class.

7.4 Health and Safety

Gateway Health and Safety Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others.

7.5 Keeping Informed

You should take note of all announcements made in lectures, tutorials or on the course Moodle site. From time to time, Gateway will send important announcements to your College e-mail address. You will be deemed to have received this information. Visa regulations require all international students to keep Gateway informed of their address and contact details and to notify Gateway of any changes within 2 weeks of the change.

8. GENERAL ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Detailed information on assessment tasks, including specific submission and assessment dates and marking rubrics will be supplied via Moodle.

8.1 Formal Requirements for Passing this Subject

To pass this subject, you need to demonstrate your attainment of each of the Learning Outcomes. Your overall mark in this subject will be determined by combining your results from each assessment task. You are expected to attempt all assessment requirements in the course. The marks for each assessment task are combined to reflect the percentage weighting of each task.

You need to achieve an overall score of at least 50% to successfully complete this subject. It is expected that you will seek help (from the subject coordinator in the first instance), well before the due date, if you are unclear about the requirements for an assessment task.

8.2 Assessment Feedback

Feedback on student performance from assessment tasks will be provided to students in a timely manner. Assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other

than a final assessment, will be assessed and students provided with feedback within 10 working days of submission, under normal circumstances.

8.3 Appealing assessment outcomes

Students are entitled to appeal an assessment task mark. In the first instance, they should speak to the Subject Coordinator. If an assessment task has been marked by two academic staff members as part of the appeals process, the second mark will be recorded as the final mark.

If a student remains unsatisfied, they may further their appeal according to the Student Complaints and Appeals Policy.

8.4 Marks and grades awarded for individual assessment tasks in a subject

Marks and grades for individual assessment tasks in a subject are awarded as described below.

The award of a Final grade will be accompanied by the student's accumulated total mark /100 for the subject.

To be awarded a Final grade a student must:

- Have been properly enrolled in the subject and not withdraw or be excluded from the subject during the semester; and
- Have completed all assessment tasks for the subject

Students who have not completed any of the assessment tasks for a subject may be awarded the grade of 'Absent Fail'.

Table 4 Marks and Grades for Assessment Items

GRADE	NOTATION / NOMENCLATURE	MARK	DEFINITION
HD	High Distinction	85 to 100	Student has demonstrated outstanding achievement of the criteria and standards for the assessment task
D	Distinction	75 to 84	Student has demonstrated superior achievement of the criteria and standards for the assessment task
C	Credit	65 to 74	Student has demonstrated good achievement of the criteria and standards for the assessment task
P	Pass	50 to 64	Student has demonstrated satisfactory achievement of the criteria and standards for the assessment task
PS	Pass-Supplementary Assessment	50	Awarded after passing an approved supplementary assessment
F	Fail	0 to 49	Student has demonstrated unsatisfactory achievement of the criteria and standards for the assessment task.
AF	Absent Fail	N/A	<p>Student has not officially withdrawn from the subject and cannot be awarded a mark or a grade because no assessment tasks were submitted.</p> <p>A student is not eligible for the award of a grade unless they complete all required assessments in a subject.</p> <p>Awarding an “Absent Fail” allows Gateway Business College to distinguish between students whose academic performance did not reach the required standard to pass a subject and those students who made no attempt to complete the subject and the assessments. This is important when reviewing and reporting student performance in a subject.</p>
W	Withdrawn (without academic penalty)	N/A	Evidence is provided by student of serious illness or misadventure experienced after the relevant census date warranting withdrawal and/or deferral without academic penalty.
WF	Withdrawn Fail	N/A	Indicates that a student has formally notified GATEWAY BUSINESS COLLEGE

			of their withdrawal from the subject after the census date and prior to the final day of teaching in that semester
RP	Result Pending	N/A	Used as Interim grade when a student's final grade and mark in a subject cannot be confirmed due to a Deferred Examination or Supplementary Assessment being approved by the Academic Board. 'Result Pending' may also be used when a student's final grade and mark in a subject cannot be confirmed due to other circumstances beyond the control of the Course Coordinator.

8.5 Grade Point Average

The Grade Point Average (GPA) is the average result of all the grades achieved throughout an award. The GPA is an important measure used across the higher education sector and can assist students applying for further coursework studies, higher degree research and Honours programs, scholarships, admission to other higher education providers, and entry into the employment market.

The GPA is calculated on a 7-point grading scale where 7 is the highest and 0 is the lowest achievement respectively. All types of 'Fail' grades (i.e. F, WF and AF) are included in the calculation. 'Withdrawn' grades (W) are not included.

Table 5 Grade Points

GRADE	NOMENCLATURE	GRADE POINTS
HD	High Distinction	7
D	Distinction	6
C	Credit	5
P	Pass	4
PS	Pass - Supplementary	3
F	Fail	0
AF	Absent Fail	0
WF	Withdrawn Fail	0

8.6 Special Consideration

Gateway Business College is committed to equity and fairness in all aspects of its learning and teaching. Should a student encounter extenuating or exceptional circumstances that may affect their ability to complete an assessment task, they should contact the Subject Coordinator or Course Coordinator for advice on deferment, or an extension to the assessment task due date. Special consideration may apply in instances of cultural or legal significance, illness, family bereavement or misadventure. Subject Coordinators must make all reasonable attempts to accommodate students who experience unexpected circumstances. Gateway Business College will ensure the provision of adequate support for students requiring special consideration.

8.7 Appealing assessment outcomes

Students are entitled to appeal an assessment task mark. In the first instance, they should speak to the Subject Coordinator.

If an assessment task has been marked by two academic staff members as part of the appeals process, the second mark will be recorded as the final mark.

If a student remains unsatisfied, they may further their appeal according to the Student Complaints and Appeals Policy.

9. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic Integrity is honest and responsible scholarship and learning. Terms like Academic Integrity, misconduct, referencing, conventions, plagiarism, academic practices, citations and evidence-based learning are all considered basic concepts that successful degree students understand. Learning how to communicate original ideas, refer sources, work independently, and report results accurately and honestly are skills that you will be able to carry beyond your studies.

The definition of academic misconduct is broad. It covers practices such as cheating, copying and using another person's work without appropriate acknowledgement. Incidents of academic misconduct may have serious consequences for students.

Examples of Academic misconduct

- submits an assessment task that demonstrates plagiarism
- submits an assessment task that is not their original work
- cheats in an examination

- does not comply with examination rules
- engages in collusion
- contracts someone else to write their assessment task
- fabricates research data.

9.1 Appropriate acknowledgement

A student's assessable work must demonstrate genuine original work, produced for the assessment for which it is submitted, supported by established scholarship and research.

Students are expected to attribute all work that is not their own to the original author(s) and source of the work. Correct referencing and citation practices must be applied in all assessable work.

9.2 Plagiarism

Plagiarism is when a student or staff member presents the work of another as their own. Plagiarism includes:

- adapting any part of a journal article, book, audio material, web content, visual imagery, or any other source without referencing the material through in-text citations in the assessable work (or footnotes or endnotes), and a reference list.
- the direct copying or paraphrasing of sections of any text or resource without acknowledging the original source
- partially or wholly re-using the work of other students
- obtaining materials from the internet, and presenting them, modified or not, as one's own work
- presenting work that is partially or wholly derived from the work of another person, but which has been superficially modified, for example through rewording
- any use of another person's concepts, experimental results and conclusion, or any conclusion that is derived from the analysis of evidence or arguments, without acknowledging the owner who is the originator of the work, ideas or conclusion.

9.3 Collusion

Collusion is when one or more students work together to submit an assessment task that requires they work individually. Collusion is classified as a form of cheating.

It is not collusion when students are required to collaborate on an assessment task, such as working in pairs or groups.

It is not collusion when students work or study together in preparation for an assessment task. However, students should at all times ensure that the work they submit is their own.

9.4 Cheating

Gateway Business College regards cheating as a form of academic misconduct. Cheating is knowingly submitting the work of others as their own and includes contract cheating (work produced by an external agent or third party that is submitted under the pretences of being a student's original piece of work). Cheating is not acceptable at Gateway Business College.

If you need to revise or clarify any terms associated with academic integrity you should explore the Academic Integrity Policy.

10. STUDENT SUPPORT

Gateway Business College provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit the GBC website.

Your lecturers and tutors will be your best first point of contact if you experience difficulties with your studies. Academic staff are experienced teaching practitioners in can identify learning differences and learning difficulties that can impact a student's achievement.

Teaching staff may refer you, where relevant, to any of the academic intervention services available at Gateway Business College, including consulting the Academic Skills Advisor.

10.1 Academic Language Support Services

These services are available to all students and will provide assistance to students in areas of English for academic purposes, including essay-writing skills, note-taking, and editing and proof-reading.

Additionally, Gateway Business College offers academic language support services exclusively for international students to address any academic issues that may arise amongst student for whom English is not a first language.

10.2 Academic Learning Services

Gateway Business College will offer additional academic support services designed to assist domestic and international students transition to higher education learning and achieve their academic potential. These services aim to strengthen student skills that include note-taking, referencing and time-management.

11. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](#)
- [Examination Policy](#)
- [Student Complaints and Appeals Policy](#)
- [Award of grades Policy](#)
- [Academic Governance Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Policy](#)
- [Students at Risk and Unsatisfactory Progress Policy](#)
- [Academic Language and Learning Support Policy](#)
- [Admissions Policy](#)