Syllabus
Course description

Course title	INTRODUCTION TO ACCOUNTING
Course code	27253
Scientific sector	SECS-P/07
Degree	Economics and Management
Semester and academic year	1st semester 2020/21
Year	1st year
Credits	8
Modular	No

Total lecturing hours	48
Total exercise hours	18 per group
Attendance	Strongly suggested, but not required
Prerequisites	There are no prerequisites. This course is for first-year students.
Course page	

Specific educational objectives	The course is part of the basic educational activities of the programme and belongs to the scientific area of Business Administration. At the end of this course, the students should be able to prepare a set of financial statements representing the results of typical business operations, to evaluate the performance of a firm from its financial reports, and to use financial information in management decisions.

Lecturer	Prof. Courteau Lucie E-mail: Lucie.Courteau@unibz.it BZ E5.04
Scientific sector of the lecturer	SECS-P/07
Teaching language	English
Office hours	Refer to the timetable online
Lecturing assistant	Dr. Luca Menicacci E-mail: Luca.Menicacci@unibz.it
Office hours	Refer to the timetable online

List of topics covered	Recording business transactions, The adjusting and closing process, Merchandising operations, Inventory, Receivables, Fixed assets, Investments, Liabilities, Equity, Statement of cash flows, Financial statement analysis.
Teaching format	The class will combine in-class explanation of the background material, problem-solving and some exercises as examples. Students will be expected to have read the background material before coming to class and to work on the solution of assigned problems to consolidate the learning process. This will allow for a more efficient use of class time to cover only the more complex issues and to apply the theoretical concepts to realistic situations.

Learning outcomes	**Knowledge and understanding:**
	• Knowledge and understanding of accounting systems, with particular focus on the international context and on book keeping methods
	• Knowledge and understanding of business accounting systems
	• Knowledge and understanding of the preparation of financial statements
	• Knowledge and understanding of financial statement analysis tools
	• Knowledge and understanding of business ratio analysis
	Ability to apply knowledge and understanding:
	• Application of ratio analysis to evaluate firms' business performance and decisions
	• Preparation of firm financial performance reports with a particular focus on service activities
	• Analysis of the business performance of firms in the tourism, events and sports industries
	• Application of basic accounting principles to firms engaging in different industry segments and activities
	Making judgments:
	• Ability to assess the general situation of a firm from an analysis of its financial statements.
	Communication skills:
	• Ability to communicate in writing the results of the analysis of simple business situations and financial statements.
	Learning skills:
	• Ability to apply analytical and practical skills independently and in groups.

Assessment	**Optional Midterm (25%):**
	Multiple-choice test. Participation is voluntary, however students cannot opt to refuse the Midterm grade if they have a passing grade. Detailed instructions will be provided.
	Term Project (15%):
	Analysis of the financial statements of a public firm, to be done in groups of 6 students. The details of the term project will be provided in class and in the Open Learning Environment (OLE) at the beginning of the semester.
	Submission is compulsory via e-mail **even by non-attending students**. **Non-attending students** should contact the professor before the end of October.
	Final Exam (60% for students who passed the Optional Midterm grade; 85% for students who did not take or did not pass the Optional Midterm):
	Written, closed-book exam in English consisting of a combination of numerical problems and essay questions.
	The Optional Midterm, the Term Project and the final exam aim at assessing the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and ability to apply financial accounting concepts.
	The Term Project evaluates the student´s ability to make judgements in a team setting and to communicate effectively in writing.
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	**For attending students:**
	Optional Midterm: 25% covering Ch. 1-4
	Term project: 15%
	Final exam: 60% Ch. 5, 6 and 8-13
	For non-attending students:
	Term project: 15%
	Final exam: 85% on Ch. 1-6, 8-13
	The Term project (15%) is a compulsory group assignment even by non-attending students who can find all the necessary information in OLE and can submit their report via e-mail.
	A student must pass the final exam to have a passing grade in the course. The grades of the Optional Midterm and Term Project are valid for 1 academic year and cannot be carried over beyond that time-frame. The exam will be offered in February, June and September 2021.

Required readings	Weygandt, J.J., P.D Kimmel and D.E. Kieso, Financial Accounting, IFRS Edition, 3rd edition, Wiley, 2015. ISBN: 978-1-119-15370-2 (e-book) or 978-1-118-97808-5 (hardcover).
Supplementary material	For each topic, a few practice problems from the textbook are suggested to facilitate the learning process. It is very important that students work on these problems after each class to be able

	to understand the material of the next class. The solutions to these problems will be provided in OLE, as will be the Powerpoint slides to be used in class and other additional readings and problems.
	Students are encouraged to read a financial newspaper (*Wall Street Journal Europe*, *Financial Times*, *Handlesblatt*, *Il Sole 24 Ore*) on a regular basis to find stories related to the material covered in the course. Some of these stories will be posted in OLE and discussed in class.