

ACG 6258
Foreign Study Tour in International Accounting
Summer 2007

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Blackboard webpage: <http://blackboard.fau.edu>

Ecollege: www.faumba.net

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

TEXTS:

Saudagarn. International Accounting: A User Perspective. South-Western College Publishing, Second Edition.

Additional readings and resources: TBA and posted on course blackboard.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/accounting/ias_en.htm#regulation

<http://www.iasb.org/Home.htm>

<http://www.iasplus.com/country/greece.htm>

Turabian, Kate L. 1996. A manual for writers of term papers, theses and dissertations. 6th ed. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press. [Turabian] APA, MLA, Turabian and Chicago Citation Styles

OR

American Psychological Association. (2001). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association. (5th ed.). Washington, D.C. Author. [APA] APA, MLA, Turabian and Chicago Citation Styles

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this course is to provide an opportunity for a better understanding of specific and important aspects of doing business in Greece and the European Union in general. The experiences on this study tour will help to make the abstract concepts in international business real and relevant. Accounting students will study accounting practices and issues in an international business setting. This will be achieved by a mixture of emersion in a foreign culture followed by in depth study of international accounting topics related to the specific country visited. Topics will include but are not limited to the following: (1) the regulatory environment as it relates to financial reporting and access to financial markets, (2) traditional international accounting issues (segment reporting, foreign currency transactions and translations, hedging, and consolidations), (3) auditing and practice issues, (4) convergence of accounting and auditing standards, (5) risk assessment for purposes of understanding internal controls and auditing issues and (6) tax issues.

CLASS CONDUCT AND POLICIES:

The class will consist of a study trip abroad and other writing and web-based assignments. The trip in the foreign country will consist of visits to a variety of business firms, chambers of commerce, and international accounting firms with offices in the foreign country.

GRADING

Pre-tour assignment	10%
Attendance, Participation and conduct in all field experiences	20%
Diary of trip	20%
Web classes assignments (5 % each)	30%
Final Research paper	20%

Grade Breakdown:

92<=A<=100
 90<=A-<=91.99
 88<=B+<=89.99
 82<=B<=87.99
 80<=B-<=81.99
 78<=C+<=79.99
 72<=C<=77.99
 70<=C-<=71.99
 68<=D+<=69.99
 62<=D<=67.99
 60<=D-<=61.99
 F<60

Basic Communication Requirements: Students are responsible for the following means of communication throughout the semester:

Use of Web page: *Students are responsible for class announcements made via blackboard or ecollege.*

Required e-mail address: Students are required to have an e-mail account, either through a private provider or through the university. The service must be able to accept attachments. Students must have access to Word and Excel for attachments. *Students are responsible for class announcements made via e-mail.* Students must also ensure that the e-mail address on blackboard is accurate.

ACADEMIC IRREGULARITIES, HONESTY AND CLASSROOM CONDUCT:

All students are referred to the Chapter 6C5-4.001 of the Student Handbook entitled "Honor Code, Academic Irregularities, and Students' Grievances." It is the policy of the College of Business at Florida Atlantic University to adhere to the provisions of this section. Faculty of the School of Accounting will take action to secure the maximum penalty in the event of any observation of a violation.

A fundamental principle of academic, business and community life is honesty. In the academic environment, the following are critical:

Appropriate classroom behavior is expected at all times, including respect for the instructor and peers. Disruptive behavior is unfair to other students who are in class to learn, as well as to the instructor, and will not be tolerated.

The Internet is a powerful tool providing access to a wealth of information. Students are reminded that *plagiarism* guidelines that apply to printed materials also apply to materials accessed via the Internet.

Unless instructed otherwise, ALL work to be submitted for consideration toward a student's course grade is to be attempted and completed on an **INDIVIDUAL BASIS**.

Incomplete: Note that an "Incomplete" is not a substitute for a poor grade and is rarely granted. In accordance with the policy of the School of Accounting and the College of Business, an "Incomplete" will be given only under the following circumstances:

- * The student is otherwise passing the course (at least a C).
- * The student has an excused absence that prevented the on-time completion of the course requirements.

Withdrawals: Any student who decides to drop is responsible for completing the proper paper work required to withdraw from the course.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

Due Dates: All assignments must be posted to the digital drop-box in blackboard. All assignments turned in late are subject to a 10% reduction in grade for each day that the paper is late.

Due Date	Assignment
April 15 th	Pre-tour assignment
June 10th	Diary of trip
June 25	Chapters 1 & 2 Synthesis and Analysis
July 6	Chapters 3 & 4 Synthesis and Analysis
July 16	Chapters 5 & 6 Synthesis and Analysis
July 30	Final Research paper

1. Pre-tour assignment

Pre-travel assignment:

1. The Pre-trip written assignment

The **Pre-trip written assignment** is required to provide an overview of international accounting from the perspective and understanding the international accounting issues from the both the US and the EU (with an emphasis on Greek) perspective. The purpose of the pre-trip assignment is to ensure that students are adequately prepared for the trip. Lack of preparation decreases the potential benefits of the study tour. The paper should be **5-6 pages plus attachments**, professionally and properly footnoted/referenced (i.e., Turabian, MLA, or APA Style), due **April 15, 2007** (before departure).

2. Attendance and participation in all field experiences

Students are required to attend all scheduled visits including tours and dinners. Students will be exposed to a variety of business entities in the foreign country. Entities may include foreign companies that do business abroad, US companies that do business abroad, economic development agencies (foreign and US), local and international CPA firms, and stock or commodity exchanges.

3. Diary of field experiences

Each student must turn in a one-page summary of each business visit, and a five-page summary of cultural, social and political impressions. Students should be attentive during the visits so that the diary can reflect the information the student obtained from the visit. Students who miss any business visits will get a zero for participation that day and a zero on the diary for that day.

4. Web class assignments

The Saudagarn book contains six chapters. For EACH chapter, write a two-page paper on the chapter topic as the topic relates to one of the countries you visited. Each paper must include at least two references to accounting journals. Thus a total of six two-page papers will be turned in over the semester. There will be

a 25% reduction in grade for each reference that is not appropriately included in the paper. For example, if you only reference one accounting journal, the maximum grade that can be earned is a 75%.

5. Final paper

Students must prepare a 10-page (double-spaced) research paper on an international accounting, auditing, tax or regulatory topic as it relates to either Greece and/or Crete. This assignment requires in-depth research on the topic. Research is expected to include examination of relevant standards, laws, articles, and an investigation of companies' financial statements.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR FINAL PAPER

The instructions below apply to the final paper for the study tour. The paper needs to be formatted with first level headings with tables, charts, and well-written content. In all cases, proper citation and referencing is necessary. Please note that your papers may be filtered with a plagiarism software obtained by the university called TURNITIN.

Select an accounting topic that is relevant for companies that do business in the country or countries visited. The topic must be approved in advance by the instructor. Possible topics could include:

1. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and the Implications for Auditors
2. Accounting for Price Changes (Inflation)
3. Harmonization of Accounting Standards
4. Foreign Currency Translation and Adjustments
5. The Value of 20-F reconciliations.
6. Risk assessment for internal control assessments.
7. Understanding business risks and the related auditing issues.

The topic chosen for the paper must discuss the relevant accounting issues and how these issues are relevant for the countries visited.

The paper should include a cover-page, table of contents, and appropriate reference list. The body of the paper should be 10-12 pages (double-spaced).

FORMATTING THE PAPER

1. **Set up the paper using the Turabian 6th edition or APA 5th edition style manual.** (Indicate which one you have chosen on the cover page of the paper) Include:
 - A title page (see Turabian 14.18 or APA 5.15.)
 - A table of contents (see Turabian 1.11 - 1.18; for APA see the content note.)¹
 - In-text parenthetical references (see Turabian, section 10 and the **PR** examples in section 11 or APA pages 207 -214.) **A minimum of 10 separate references is to be used.**
 - A reference list (see Turabian, section 10 and the **RL** examples in section 11 or APA pages 215 - 281.)

NOTE: The title page, table of contents, and reference page(s) do **NOT** count as part of your professor's page limitation: These pages are additional.

2. **Begin with an Executive Summary.** Remember that an executive summary presents a snapshot of the entire paper. It includes the thesis, the issues being investigated, the findings, and the conclusions. It does not, however, include the details—supporting data. Limit the summary to **one page**.

¹Turabian's sample table of contents (14.19) is very detailed and lists "chapters." "Chapters" are used for theses, dissertations, and books, **not for term papers**. Your table of contents should list the paper's major headings and identify the page on which each major heading begins. APA does not provide any guidelines for a table of contents so simply follow this same directive.

3. **Follow** with an **INTRODUCTION**. This section provides the thesis and overviews the paper's contents--***and how that content supports the thesis***. For example, "Argentina would be an appropriate venue in which to offer kayaking excursions because [relate your reasons to the first-level headings of your paper, which represent the course topics.] In other words, you should be able to justify entering this market based upon an analysis of social responsibility, the regulatory environments, market forces, the competitive environment, transaction and translation costs, and the country's general demographics.
4. **Follow the Turabian (14.10 - 14.12) or APA (3.31) guidelines for headings and subheadings** (if you use them). Remember that the paper's major headings are to be the course topics. If any one of these topics (segments) is lengthy and contains sub-issues, you should consider using subheadings.² If you do use subheadings, be sure to write a lead-in sentence to set them up—to overview how the subsections relate to the overall major section. Remember to use transitions to link the ideas between and within the various sections.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Each major section* (class topic) needs to begin with an opening paragraph that clearly **states your assessment of that issue's impact on your thesis**. For example, the opening paragraph for the demographics section would state your assessment of how Argentina's demographics would support kayaking excursions. After the opening synthesis of your assessment, you would present the supporting facts in bullet points and/or table and graphs³ (here's where most of your references are likely to appear). Finally, each major section would summarize the facts presented and reiterate your conclusion related to that factor's impact on your thesis.

5. **End** with an **overall CONCLUSION**. This section summarizes your position on the company's effectiveness or ineffectiveness related to **all** the issues discussed—the major sections/course topics. No new facts of materials should be presented here.
6. **Edit and proofread this paper**. **Apply** the skills you learned in GEB 6215--clear, concise, complete, correct writing. Please review the handout of the most common grammar, punctuation, and spelling issues. Avoiding problems in these areas will result in a higher grade. Remember to cut clutter, vary your sentences, use active verbs when possible, and use transitions to show the logical relationship between ideas. Spell check the paper, but remember that spell check won't catch "wrong word" errors, e.g., if you mean "their," but word process "there."

Using these guidelines will help you organize your ideas strategically.

² For **Turabian**, use major headings--all caps, centered (**NO underline**) throughout the paper. If you use subheadings, choose the style of subheading from the options provided by Turabian 1.37 - 1.38. For **APA**, refer to rule 3.31. You **CAN** begin a new major heading on the same page--in other words, you don't have to begin a new page for each major heading--simply insert **three SINGLE** line spaces **before** a major heading and resume double spacing after it.

³ Be sure to format your enumerated or bulleted points according to rule 2.72 in Turabian and rules 2.11 and 3.33 (the segment on pages 116 and 117 entitled "separate paragraphs in a series") in APA. Format your tables and figures according to sections 6 and 7 in Turabian and pages 147 – 205 in APA.