

JOSEPH M. KATZ GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND COLLEGE OF  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Summer 2016

Survey of International Accounting Issues and the IASB -- BUSACC XXXX

Professor: TBD

Class meeting time: TBD, schedule for two meetings each week, 2.5 hours each class

Classroom: TBD Pitt London

Office Hours: By appointment.

**Text Book: This course will utilize a course packet designed by the professor and made available to students via courseweb. The sources for the course packet are public company financial reports and standards setting materials.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This financial accounting elective is designed for the Pitt Business study abroad program in London. The course focuses on exposing students to the international accounting standards setting process and the study of the application of international accounting issues in business. Learning will take place through a mix of classroom time as well as experience based learning opportunities, with each weekly class focused on an accounting issue and a related site visit experience with a company working on the accounting issue. Participation requires a good understanding of the accounting process and an interest in the global business environment. Prerequisites: completion of BUSACC 0030 Financial Accounting and BUSACC 0040 Managerial Accounting with a grade of "B" or better.

**THE INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD (IASB)**

The mission of the IASB is "to develop International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) that bring transparency, accountability and efficiency to financial markets around the world." During the semester, we will study the impact this organization has on global accounting and reporting and visit one of its open meetings as observers as scheduling permits.

## **CONDUCT OF THE CLASS**

Class time will be devoted to lectures, discussions of readings and preparatory assignments. Site visits will be devoted to understanding, observing and discussing how companies and accounting regulators solve and manage international accounting issues. Students are expected to attend weekly site visits in business dress and with professional decorum. Class and site visit attendance and an assessment of your level of engagement in the course and site visits will be included in your final grade.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

The reading of the company materials and completion of the weekly writing assignments should be done in accordance with the course schedule. Students will also maintain a public blog during the semester and post thoughts on each of our topics and company visits. The semester will conclude with a culminating group presentation on an assigned topic.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

As academic integrity is the goal of the University, students who are suspected of academic dishonesty will be dealt with severely in accordance with University policies.

## **COURSE GRADING – POINT DISTRIBUTION**

Technical writing assignments (5 assignments * 10 points each)		50
Group case presentation (given on the last day of class)		20
Weekly public blog updates on company visits (5 blogs * 4pts each)		20
Instructor evaluation of engagement and decorum		10
	Total Points Possible	100

## **POTENTIAL WEEKLY TOPICS AND SITE VISITS:**

- **IFRS vs US GAAP**
- **Foreign currency issues**
- **Financial reporting**
- **Business combinations**
- **Audits of foreign operations**
- **Transfer pricing / international tax issues**

The topics discussed and company site visits made will be at the discretion of the professor. A detailed schedule will be made available for prospective students prior to the deadline for enrollment.