Contact Details

Lecturers

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Course Coordinator
Academic – Professor Judy Brown

Administrative
Marina Dobrovolskaya
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Class Times and Room Numbers
Seminar Time: Friday 1.40-4.30pm in RW223

Course Objectives
By the end of the course students should have:

- an understanding of interpretive and critical theory accounting research and its place within the broader body of accounting literature;

- the ability to reflect critically on philosophical, theoretical and methodological issues in interpretive and critical theory research;

- a basic grounding in research design issues and the range of methods used in interpretive and critical theory studies; and

- an appreciation of the historical, social and political contexts of accounting research choices.
**Course Content**
This course provides students with an introduction to interpretive and critical theory accounting research. It explores the historical development and underpinnings of this research through a discussion of key concepts and issues within the philosophy of knowledge literature. It also illustrates the application of specific research methods used in interpretive and critical theory studies.

**Required Text and Course Materials**
The text for the course is:
Crotty, M. (1998), *The Foundations of Social Research*, St Leonards, Allen & Unwin. Copies of this text may be purchased from the Victoria University bookshop. Additional readings will also be provided, amounting to approximately one article per week. A fee will be charged for course materials.

**Assessment Requirements**
(See below for further details.)

Assessment will be based on the following:

- Research Journal and Class Participation 35%
- Essay 30%
- Final Exam 35%

**Penalties – Late Submission**
In fairness to other students, work submitted after the deadline will incur a 5% penalty (of the mark obtained) for each day late. Extensions may be granted with no penalty to those who meet the University’s aegrotat rules (e.g. medical certificate, family bereavement).

**Mandatory Course Requirements**
To pass the course you must complete all items of assessment and obtain a weighted average of 50% across all items.

**Research Journal and Class Participation**
Each student will be required to keep a research journal, comprising of a set of weekly written assignments (approximately 1-2 pages). These assignments will be handed in on a weekly basis and will form the basis for seminar and Blackboard discussions. You are expected to attend all classes, read assigned materials and participate fully in discussions.

The marks for the research journal and participation will be allocated as follows:

- Research Journal 25%
- Class Participation 10%
Essay 30% Due by 5pm Monday 21 May

Critically evaluate the following statement:

“Research must be useful to make a real contribution.”

Your essay should include specific reference to differences in the way positivist, interpretivist and critical accounting researchers might respond to this statement.

Expected length: 5,000 words.

Seminar Programme (note all references to Crotty 1988 refer to the course text)

Week 1: Mar 2 (JB)  
**Introduction**

Week 2: Mar 9 (JB)  
**The Research Process**
Crotty (1998) - Chapter 1

Week 3: Mar 16 (JB)  
**Approaches to Accounting Research**

Week 4: Mar 23 (DC)  
**Positivism - Points of Departure for Interpretive and Critical Inquiry**
Crotty (1998) - Chapter 2


Week 5: Mar 30 (DC)  
**Constructionism**
Crotty (1998) - Chapter 3

**Week 6: tba (DC)**

**Interpretivism**

Crotty (1998) - Chapters 4 and 5


[NB - Due to the Easter break, we will need to reschedule the class for the w/b April 2].

**Week 7: April 27 (CO)**

**Theory and Practice**


**Week 8: May 4 (CO)**

**Theory and Practice**


Week 9: May 11 (DC)  
**Critical Theory**

Crotty (1998) – Chapter 6


Week 10: May 18 (JB)  
**Critical Theory**

Crotty (1998) – Chapter 7


Week 11: May 25 (JB)  
**Postmodernism and Poststructuralism**

Crotty (1998) - Chapter 9


Week 12: June 1 (JB)  
**Research Choices**

Crotty (1998) - Chapter 10


**Communication of Additional Information**

Additional information will be posted onto Blackboard. It is essential that students have access to Blackboard throughout the course.
Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices
Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student and Academic Services Office
The Faculty’s Student and Academic Services Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Education/Law Kelburn Office
The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, Education and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building - it includes the ground floor reception desk (EA005) and offices 125a to 131 (Level 1). The office is available for the following:
- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- Forms for FCA Student and Academic Services (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.
To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

General University Policies and Statutes
Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to www.vuw.ac.nz/policy.

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty’s website www.vuw.ac.nz/fca under Important Information for Students:
- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme
Manaaki Pihipihinga is an academic mentoring programme for undergraduate Māori and Pacific students in the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade (back courtyard), Room 109D, and Room 210, Level 2, Railway West Wing. There is also a Pacific Support Coordinator who assists Pacific students by linking them to the services and support they need while studying at Victoria. Another feature of the programme is a support network for Postgraduate students with links to Postgraduate workshops and activities around Campus.

For further information, or to register with the programme, email manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5233 ext. 8977. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5842.