



Spring Term 2024 (FS 2024)

Economics of Auditing

Syllabus

Module Number: 22MO0213

Lectures:

Friday, 12.04.2024, 14.00 - 18.00 (Introductory lecture)

Friday, 19.04.2024, 10.15 - 18.00 (Presentations part I)

Friday, 26.04.2024, 10.15 - 18.00 (Presentations part II)

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Christopher Bleibtreu

Teaching Assistants: -

Exam Date: no written final exam

Curricula-Classification: MA: Wahlpflichtbereich BWL 1

ECTS-Points: 3.0

Course webpage: <https://www.business.uzh.ch/de/research/professorships/managerialaccounting/lehre/veranstaltungen/fs2024/ea.html>

Contact: If you have questions, please contact christopher.bleibtreu@bi.no, or for administrative questions only managerial.accounting@business.uzh.ch

Course overview

The seminar “Economics of Auditing” is not about “how” audits are done, but primarily about “why” there are audits and how auditors’ and audit clients’ decisions depend on each other. In the seminar, we will discuss the economic role of the audit and its beneficial (and potentially harmful) economic effects, and the students will develop an understanding of how auditors, audit clients, and addressees of audited financial statements interact.

Course objectives

By the end of the course, the students are familiar with the purpose and the underlying economic mechanisms of independent audits. They understand how auditors strategically interact with their audit clients. The students can identify the mechanisms that make audits a potential resolution of conflicts between firm insiders (e.g., firm management or informed owners) and outsiders (e.g., potential new investors or stockholders), but can also identify potential sources of conflicts inherent in the audit process. The students can analyze the impact of regulations on audit outcomes and the audit market structure. They also understand how the audit market structure, in turn, can influence the reliability of audit outcomes.





Course prerequisites

Completed BA degree in Economics or Business Administration

Exams and Grading

Students will have to write a short summary and give a seminar presentation of an assigned research paper. They will also have to discuss a second research paper and are expected to actively participate in class. The grading will be based on the quality of the short summary and the seminar presentation (including the quality of the presentation slides), the quality of the discussion of the second paper, and the individual contributions to the general discussion in class. The individual elements are weighted as follows:

Quality of research paper summary, presentation, and presentation slides (70 %)

Quality of discussion (20 %)

Quality of contributions to class discussion (10 %)

Total (100 %)

Regular class attendance at all three dates is mandatory. Students who miss classes without prior explanation and approval by the course organizers will receive an insufficient grade.

Course content

- Introductory lecture (12.04.2024)
- Presentations (19.04.2024 and 26.04.2024). A list of presentation topics with references as well as names of presenters and discussants will be available on the course web page (OLAT).

Course material

The slides of the introductory lecture as well as the seminar literature will be available on the course website (OLAT).

WWF Statutory Course Policies

According to WWF study regulations, all exam dates are *final* as published in the VVZ (VVZ – Vorlesungsverzeichnis). This means that the final exam date and time are *not negotiable*. It will not be possible to take any exams on different dates. Check your class schedule for possible *exam conflicts* at the beginning of the semester at your own responsibility.

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating or engaging in unethical behavior will be reported to the Dean's office according to the guidelines on academic dishonesty set forth by the University of Zurich.

Notes

- Don't forget to *officially register* yourself using the registration tool of the University of Zurich.
- The information in this syllabus supports the official information in the electronic university registration tool. In cases of doubt, the official information at the VVZ is decisive.



Contact

For questions about the course content, please contact:
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