Introduction

This course is designed for PhD students and post-doctoral researchers who would like to extend and deepen their expertise on current research issues in accounting.

The course investigates financial decision-making by corporate managers from a range of theoretical and methodological perspectives. Three specific topics will be considered:

- social norms and ethical motivations for honest accounting;
- responses to insider trading regulation; and
- the decision to exercise, purchase, or sell financial instruments.

Each of these topics will be considered from two or more theoretical perspectives using two or more research methods, so that the insights from specific economic models, laboratory experiments, and archival studies on related questions can be assembled. Economic, psychological, institutional, and sociological theories will be considered as foundations for understanding and predicting behavior.

Participants will be challenged to develop models, laboratory experiments, and archival/empirical tests that are logical and interesting next steps in these streams of research.

The course encourages young scholars in accounting to explore combinations of paradigms and methods with the aim of advancing their own research agendas.

Course Schedule

Students should read the papers assigned for each lecture and be ready to engage in discussion and problem-solving.

We will go over selected papers and one or two illustrative problems during each lecture. The illustrative problems are intended to highlight the critical tensions and insights extracted from the papers.
Accordingly, lectures will generally revolve around these problems.

After the morning sessions, there will be periods of time in which students break out and work on problems related to the work presented in the morning. Generally, these problems stem from existing papers in the literature, which build upon the frameworks developed in the papers discussed in the morning session.

**Venue**

The course will be held on the premises of the University of Bern in Switzerland. For further information on the city of Bern, see [http://www.bern.com/en](http://www.bern.com/en).

**Organisation**

The seminar leader is **Prof. Steven Huddart** (Penn State University), an internationally recognized colleague.

For more details, see: [http://www.personal.psu.edu/sjh11/](http://www.personal.psu.edu/sjh11/).

The summer school is jointly organised by

- Prof. Dr. Christian Hofmann (LMU Munich),
- Prof. Dr. Alexis H. Kunz (University of Bern), and
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Pfeiffer (University of Vienna).

**Course language**

The course language is English.

**Fees and Funding**

No enrolment fees apply.

The **European Accounting Association** provides special funding for students from Eastern and Southern Europe of up to € 750 per student.

**Admission requirements**

The course focuses on accounting issues at an advanced level. The participants should therefore exhibit, apart from analytic abilities, knowledge within the range of these topics. Moreover, a close relation of the topic of your own scientific work to the studied issues is desirable. The number of participants is limited to 35 persons.

**Application deadline**

The deadline for applications is March 11, 2013. A complete application includes (i) a short personal record (Curriculum Vitae), (ii) a list of visited lectures in accounting, control or finance and (iii) a short description of the thesis and/or postdoctoral lecture qualification in English.

Please mail the documents as a pdf file (yourname_yourUniversity.pdf) to andrea.probst@iuc.unibe.ch. Participants will be informed upon their acceptance by email (at the latest by March 22, 2013).

**Accommodation**

Below you find a list of hotels which we can recommend and which are closely located to the University of Bern. We recommend that you book early, especially if you would like to reserve a room in the youth hostel.

**Hotels**

**Sorell Hotel Ador**

History of the Summer School

The summer school takes place each year alternating between Bern, Munich, and Vienna. Previous summer courses were held by

- Joel Demski (University of Florida),
- Paul E. Fischer (Penn State University),
- Raffi J. Indjejikian (University of Michigan) and DJ Nanda (University of Miami),
- Chris Ittner (University of Pennsylvania),
- Madhav Rajan (Stanford University),
- Stefan Reichelstein (Stanford University).

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Institut für Unternehmensrechnung und Controlling, Universität Bern

Prof. Dr. Christian Hofmann
Institut für Unternehmensrechnung und Controlling, LMU München

Prof. Dr. Thomas Pfeiffer
Lehrstuhl für Controlling, Universität Wien

Detailed Program

Day 1: Social Norms and Ethical Motivations for Honest Accounting

Pre-Reading


Steven Huddart and Hong Qu, Peer influences on honesty in managerial reporting: the role of social norms and social references, Working Paper, Penn State University, 2012.

9:00 AM to 12:30 PM: Presentation and Discussion

12:30 PM to 2:00 PM Lunch

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM: Problem Sets
Day 2: Responses to Insider Trading Regulations

Pre-Reading


9:00 AM to 12:30 PM: Presentation and Discussion

12:30 PM to 2:00 PM Lunch

Day 3: Stock Options

Pre-Reading


9:00 AM to 12:30 PM: Discussion and Presentation

12:30 PM to 2:00 PM Lunch

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM: Problem Sets

4:00 PM to 5:00 PM: Discussion of Problem Sets

8:00 PM Dinner