



**MACQUARIE**  
University

## **ACCG 399: Accounting in Context**

### **Discovering the Political Influence on Accounting**

#### **Tutorial 2 - Week 3**

This written Comprehensive Professional Portfolio is comprised of individual and group tasks which are to be completed within tutorials and will require further work and writing up outside of the classroom. These set of tutorial activities extending till the end of the session, are intended to take you through a learning journey of exploration and development. They have been specifically designed to incorporate not only a real-life perspective to your university learning but also to further enhance graduate capabilities such as your ability to engage in critical, analytical and integrative thinking, problem solving and research capability, socially and environmentally active and responsible citizens and the ability to exercise professional and personal judgement and initiative, into your final year experience. It is with this in mind that we hope you will be equipped with the skills necessary for higher level study and effective professional performance.

#### **Thought Activity**

We would like you to take some time between your 'regulatory and political influence on accounting practice' class and your tutorial the following week to complete the activity outlined below.

Based on the material discussed in your lecture regarding the regulatory and political influence that can be placed on accounting practice, you are required to search for a newspaper/professional magazine article that discusses or relates to concepts presented in this lecture. Your article is required to be dated between July 2014 and February 2015. You will need to either print off the newspaper/magazine article or cut the article out and hold onto this.

When you have found an article you will need to provide a written summary and analysis of this. Your summary should contain the following items and can be entered in the box provided below:

- A brief synopsis of the content of the article?
- Why you personally chose to include this article (this could include for example, any interest or connection that you may have to the contents of the article)?
- A detailed description of how the article relates to the concepts/theories that were discussed in the 'regulatory and political influence on accounting practice' lecture. Here you should be providing a critical evaluation of the articles contents and the linkages, connections and relationships you have been able to see and draw from its contents to the contents of the lecture discussion.

Write a reflective entry on this here (if you need more space please expand further):

**Article Synopsis**

**Reasons for Inclusion**

**Description discussing the articles relation to the Political and Regulatory influence on Accounting**

You will need to bring your written thought activity with you along with a copy of the newspaper/ professional magazine article to your tutorial.

## **Tutorial Engagement Activity**

During your tutorial in week 3 you are required to engage in peer discussion. You will need to work with a peer (this could be your neighbour or it may be someone further abroad in your tutorial group or even someone you have not yet met).

### **Activity One**

With your peer for the first 20 mins, take 10 mins each to present your article to one another. (You will need to take notes of your discussion to feedback to other tutorial members and also to document in your portfolio). You should each briefly discuss the content of the article, why you chose it and how it links to the concepts presented in the lecture.

Your tutor will then facilitate a group discussion for 20 mins where you may be called to present your peers work (rather than your own) to the rest of the class.

### **Activity Two**

With your peer/neighbour from activity one, join another set of two so that you are now discussing in a group of four. Start to think (and record notes) about creating responses to the following questions:

- Were you aware of such a political and regulatory context of accounting previously? If so, can you describe this? If not, can you discuss what this might mean?
- Why might such a political context exist in accounting? What would be the main causes/reasons for this?
- What do you think the effect of the current business operating environment, Globalisation and the recent introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) has had on such a political and regulatory climate?
- How does this make you feel, bearing in mind that you will soon be an accounting graduate commencing your own professional journey within such a context?

## **Post-Thought Activity**

In the next couple of days after your tutorial you will need to begin to formulate a response to the following:

**In undertaking this exercise, talking with your peers and hearing the discussion that ensued in your tutorial. Outline what you have gained personally as a result of your engagement? How might you start to prepare yourself to enter such a political and regulatory professional context in which your ethics and judgement may be called into question? What might be the effect of such political and regulatory influence for the accounting profession?**

### **What are you required to Submit?**

You are required to submit to your tutor **during your next tutorial - the following week (week 4)** a collated neatly presented folio of work containing:

1. A completed written description to the thought activity.
2. A copy of the notes you took on your peer's newspaper/professional magazine article presentation during activity one.

3. An outline of key aspects of the discussion that took place with your group in activity two (this can be presented in bullet point form).
4. A completed written description of the post-thought activities described above (three questions). These should be formulated in an appropriately designed and logical structure.

Your tutor will collect this from you and keep a record of each of your submissions.

These are sent through to the Unit Convenor along with a tutorial participation grading each week for record keeping throughout the session. Please remember a failure to submit this piece of work on time will result in a forfeiture of 2% of your overall Comprehensive Professional Portfolio mark. It is a requirement of this unit that you achieve a passing grade in your Comprehensive Professional Portfolio to receive a passing grade or higher in this unit overall.