

Course Syllabus

Accounting Research Seminar: Financial Reporting Regulation

Professor

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Overview

This seminar focuses on accounting research in financial reporting regulation. We meet for seven three-hour sessions.

Class Preparation

For each session you should read and be prepared to discuss each assigned paper in detail and complete each of the assigned tasks. I will provide a copy of each paper to you before class. For each of the assigned papers, I select a student to present and discuss it in class.

For each of the assigned papers, write a one-page memo consisting of five paragraphs:

1. What is the research question?
2. What is the motivating question? Why is it important?
3. How is the research question addressed?
4. What are the major findings?
5. How does the paper fit into the existing literature? What is the paper's marginal contribution?
6. What are the conceptual and methodological weaknesses of the paper?

Please be prepared to share your opinions relating to each study's strengths and weaknesses, contributions to the literature, and possibilities for further exploration and extension.

Performance Evaluation

Performance in the course is assessed by class participation, quality of presentation, homework assignments (50%) and a final project (50%). The final project can be one of the following:

1. A review of research related to one of the topics we cover in the seminar
2. A replication of a research paper related to one of the topics we cover in the seminar
3. A research proposal
4. A referee report of a working paper

For each of these four options, the deliverables are (1) a slide deck and (2) an in-class presentation. More details will be provided as the end of the term approaches.

Reading List

Session 1 – Introduction

Assigned Readings:

1. Basu, S., and G. B. Waymire. 2006. Recordkeeping and Human Evolution. *Accounting Horizons* 20 (3):201–229.

Background Readings:

1. Soll, J. 2014. *The Reckoning: Financial Accountability and the Rise and Fall of Nations*: Basic Books (AZ).

Session 2 – Enforcement

Assigned Readings:

1. Binz, O., and J. Graham. 2022. The Effect of Disclosure Regulation on Financial Reporting Informativeness: Evidence from the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. *Journal of Accounting Research* 60 (4):1379–1418.
2. Christensen, H. B., L. Hail, and C. Leuz. 2013. Mandatory IFRS Reporting and Changes in Enforcement. *Journal of Accounting and Economics* 56 (2-3):147–177.
3. Barth, M. E., and D. Israeli. 2013. Disentangling Mandatory IFRS Reporting and Changes in Enforcement. *Journal of Accounting and Economics* 56 (2-3):178–188.

Background Readings:

1. Cameron, A. C., and D. L. Miller. 2015. A Practitioner's Guide to Cluster-Robust Inference. *Journal of Human Resources* 50 (2):317–372.

Session 3 – Comparability

Assigned Readings:

1. Binz, O., and D. T. Roulstone. 2026. Financial Reporting Effects of the 1934 Securities Exchange Act. *Management Science* (forthcoming).
2. Bourveau, T., M. Breuer, and R. Stoumbos. 2025. Learning to Disclose: Disclosure Dynamics in the 1890s Streetcar Industry. *Review of Financial Studies* 38 (9):2602–2651.

Background readings:

1. De Franco, G., S. P. Kothari, and R. S. Verdi. 2011. The Benefits of Financial Statement Comparability. *Journal of Accounting Research* 49 (4):895–931.
2. Cascino, S., and J. Gassen. 2015. What Drives the Comparability Effect of Mandatory IFRS Adoption? *Review of Accounting Studies* 20 (1):242–282.

Session 4 – Standardization

Assigned Readings:

1. Barth, M. E., W. R. Landsman, and M. H. Lang. 2008. International Accounting Standards and Accounting Quality. *Journal of Accounting Research* 46 (3):467–498.

2. Binz, O., R. Hills, and M. Kubic. 2023. Did the FASB Codification Reduce the Complexity of Applying US GAAP? *Journal of Accounting Research* 61 (5):1479–1530.

Background readings:

1. Daske, H., L. Hail, C. Leuz, and R. Verdi. 2008. Mandatory IFRS Reporting around the World: Early Evidence on the Economic Consequences. *Journal of Accounting Research* 46 (5):1085–1142.

Session 5 – Unintended Consequences

Assigned Readings:

1. Kim, S., S. Kim, R. Li, and A. Kleyменова. 2026. Current Expected Credit Losses (CECL) Standard and Banks' Information Production. *The Accounting Review* (forthcoming).
2. Binz, O., A. Lin, and M. Phillips. 2024. How Does Recognition of Forward-Looking Estimates Affect Learning When the Underlying Is Mostly Determined by Macroeconomic Developments? Evidence from CECL. Working paper.

Background Readings:

1. Ryan, S. G. 2019. The CECL Approach. *Banking Perspectives Quarter 1:1–7*.
2. Goldstein, I., and L. Yang. 2019. Good Disclosure, Bad Disclosure. *Journal of Financial Economics* 131 (1):118–138.
3. Jayaraman, S., and J. S. Wu. 2019. Is Silence Golden? Real Effects of Mandatory Disclosure. *The Review of Financial Studies* 32 (6):2225–2259.

Session 6 – Standard Setting

Assigned Readings:

1. Ling, Q., and D. P. Tinkelman. 2026. FASB Agenda Setting: The Case of LIFO Inventory Costing. Working paper.
 - Original agenda item proposal [comment letter](#)
 - Corresponding [video](#) and [handout](#) of the FASB Board Meeting
2. Binz, O., R. Hills, and T. L. Yohn. 2026. Rethinking Inventory Assumptions: LIFO, Inflation, and Earnings Usefulness. Working paper.

Background Readings:

1. Allen, A., and K. Ramanna. 2013. Towards an Understanding of the Role of Standard Setters in Standard Setting. *Journal of Accounting and Economics* 55 (1):66–90.
2. Jiang, J. X., I. Y. Wang, and D. D. Wangerin. 2018. How Does the FASB Make Decisions? A Descriptive Study of Agenda-Setting and the Role of Individual Board Members. *Accounting, Organizations and Society* 71:30–46.
3. Schipper, K. 2022. Why Do Accounting Issues End up in the ‘Too Difficult’ box? *Accounting and Business Research* 52 (5):482–506.

Sessions 7 – Students’ Final Project Presentations