# Syllabus

## *Course Description*

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| **Course Title** | Modeling Financial statement (curr. DCA) |
| **Course Code** | 25436 |
| **Course Title Additional** | |
| **Scientific-Disciplinary Sector** | ECON-06/A |
| **Language** | Italian |
| **Degree Course** | Master in Accounting and Finance |
| **Other Degree Courses (Loaned)** | |
| **Lecturers** | dr. Fabio Ciaponi,<br>Fabio.Ciaponi@unibz.it<br>https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/40631 |
| **Teaching Assistant** | |
| **Semester** | Second semester |
| **Course Year/s** | 2 |
| **CP** | 6 |
| **Teaching Hours** | 36 |
| **Lab Hours** | - |
| **Individual Study Hours** | - |
| **Planned Office Hours** | 18 |
| **Contents Summary** | Making educated decisions today by forecasting operating and financial performance is a critical exercise for owners, managers, consultants, investment bankers, creditors, equity and credit analysts, and investors such as private equity groups, hedge funds, institutional investors and individuals.<br>As we are ineluctably constrained by our inability to predict the future, financial projections are rarely perfect. Nonetheless, we endeavor to model several scenarios predicated on historical and anticipated results to derive various conclusions. There are myriad variables, which |

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| | can certainly be incorporated into projections. However, the best financial model is always the one that is stable and robust, yet simple and easy to build, navigate and audit.<br>The goal of this course is to instruct step-by-step how to build a comprehensive, multi-purpose projection model in Excel and subsequently interpret selective operating, credit and equity valuation data. Based on this information, you will learn how to (i) evaluate a company's operating and financial performance, (ii) develop models for analyzing projected results through the development of simulation techniques, and (iii) assess the quality of investments in a venture capital/private equity setting. |
| **Course Topics** | This course provides the fundamental tools to read, interpret, and analyze financial statements for decision-making purposes. Students will learn to evaluate financial performance, assess earnings quality, and create basic forecasts. The focus is on profitability, financial structure, earnings analysis, and stakeholder communication.<br><br>Main topics include:<br><br>Margin and ratio analysis<br><br>Cash flow statement interpretation<br><br>Reclassification of financial statements<br><br>Earnings quality and earnings management<br><br>Historical and prospective analysis<br><br>Industry and time-based comparisons |
| **Keywords** | Financial analysis<br><br>Accounting ratios<br><br>Statement reclassification |

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| | Cash flow statement<br><br>Profitability<br><br>Earnings quality<br><br>Investment decision-making<br><br>Sector benchmarking<br><br>Financial communication |
| **Recommended Prerequisites** | It is strongly recommended to complete the course "Introduction to Accounting" beforehand.<br>Basic knowledge of financial statements (IS, BS, CF) and key accounting concepts is required. |
| **Propaedeutic Courses** | |
| **Teaching Format** | The course combines:<br><br>Lectures<br><br>Case discussions<br><br>In-class exercises<br><br>Guided readings<br><br>Active participation is highly recommended and part of the assessment for attending students. |
| **Mandatory Attendance** | Strongly suggested, but not required |
| **Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes** | ILO (Intended Learning Outcomes)<br><br>ILO 1 – Knowledge and Understanding:<br>ILO 1.1 Knowledge of economic-financial communication to stakeholders in national and international contexts<br>ILO 1.2 Understanding of business models and performance measurement for planning and management control, as well as internal and external auditing methods and models<br>ILO 1.3 Accounting courses will also provide expertise in |

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| | specialised topics that characterise the profession of chartered accountant and auditor<br><br>ILO 2 – Applying Knowledge and Understanding:<br>ILO 2.1 Ability to develop and integrate the results of economic-financial communication into corporate decision-making models<br>ILO 2.2 Ability to engage and interact competently with heads of the various functional areas of the company, with financial markets, and with professionals in corporate and tax law<br><br>ILO 3 – Making Judgements:<br>ILO 3.1 Ability to apply acquired knowledge to make managerial and operational decisions and to solve problems related to administration and finance in companies, intermediaries, and financial markets, while jointly considering multiple analytical perspectives, from economic to legal, financial, strategic, and managerial<br>ILO 3.2 Ability to select data and use appropriate information to describe a problem concerning the management of companies, intermediaries, and financial markets<br>ILO 3.3 Ability to relate models and empirical evidence in the study of companies, intermediaries, and financial markets<br><br>ILO 4 – Communication Skills:<br>ILO 4 Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, the specialised content of individual disciplines, using different registers depending on the audience and the communicative and educational purposes, and to assess the educational impact of such communication<br><br>ILO 5 – Learning Skills:<br>ILO 5.1 Ability to frame a new problem systematically and to generate appropriate taxonomies<br>ILO 5.2 Ability to develop general models based on the phenomena studied |
| **Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)** | Knowledge:<br><br>Understanding of the structure and content of financial statements<br><br>Knowledge of core accounting ratios and analytical tools |

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| | Familiarity with performance assessment methods<br><br>Skills and judgment:<br><br>Ability to reclassify and interpret financial statements<br><br>Use of Excel to build analysis tools<br><br>Critical analysis of financial health and business sustainability<br><br>Communication and learning:<br><br>Ability to write and present financial reports<br><br>Group work on real-world cases<br><br>Independent use of analytical frameworks |
| **Assessment** | Non-attending students:<br>Final written exam (100%).<br><br>Attending students:<br><br>Midterm exam (30%)<br><br>Final exam (70%)<br><br>Final assessment details will be provided on the first day of class.<br><br>ILOs assessed 1-5 |
| **Evaluation Criteria** | Technical accuracy<br><br>Application of analysis methods<br><br>Communication skills (written)<br><br>Sound interpretation of financial data<br><br>Individual contribution to group work |

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| **Required Readings** | Instructor-provided materials (slides, exercises, case studies)<br>Additional readings distributed in class<br>Excel models and teaching aids on OLE/Teams |
| **Supplementary Readings** | **F. Giunta, M. Pisani**, *L'analisi di bilancio*, Apogeo – Maggioli Editore, edizione 2016 |
| **Further Information** | Students must register on OLE to access materials.<br>Laptops are required for in-class exercises.<br>Course language: Italian |
| **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** | Decent work and economic growth |