**ACCOUNTING 8000**  
**SEMINAR IN CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN ACCOUNTING RESEARCH**  
 **SPRING 2014 SYLLABUS**

**BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY**

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**Course Philosophy**

In teaching this postgraduate seminar course, I act as a facilitator in developing your understanding and appreciation for research in accounting. I have high expectations for what we will accomplish in this course based on the assumption that:

1. You have already been exposed to the tenets of accounting research in an introductory seminar.
2. You have basic knowledge of accounting (financial and managerial), auditing and some research methodology.
3. You are familiar with basic research terminology, fundamental principles of designing and doing research, the use of databases in accounting and auditing and tools for analyzing and critiquing accounting research studies.
4. You read all assignments before class. The quality of the class discussions and the ultimate value to be gained in this course are determined largely by the effort put in prior to class.

**Course Objectives**

This course is designed as a discussion-based seminar to provide postgraduate students with an understanding of accounting theory, practice and empirical research methods. However, the primary focus of the course is on empirical accounting research. The objective of this course is to develop and improve your ability to assess and conduct empirical research in accounting by examining past and current research and exploring future research. This course intends to provide students with a fundamental understanding and appreciation of:

1. The role of theory and anecdotal evidence in applied work and empirical research in accounting.
2. The nature of accounting research questions addressed in an empirical research setting.
3. The methods commonly used in accounting and auditing research.
4. The skills required to read and critique accounting and auditing research and apply these skills to accounting research.
5. The skills required to design and conduct empirical research and to foster the ability to independently formulate academic research projects.

**Course Conduct**

This course will be conducted using a seminar format which requires students to take an active part in discussing and evaluating the assigned materials for each class session. I will have the role of the facilitator, providing overall guidance and structure to each class session, offering background information and opening remarks, helping with difficult issues, asking questions, and evaluating the presenter.

1. I will present some background materials regarding the assigned six accounting topics.
2. Each student (group) will be assigned an accounting topic.
3. Students will present several papers (approximately three papers per topic). .

**Course Coverage:**

Accounting topics that are addressed in this course include, but not limited to, the following:

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| **Date** | **Lecturer** | **Topic** | **Additional readings** |
| May 20 | Z.Rezaee | Financial Reporting and Regulation | Begley, Joy, Qiang Cheng, and Yanmin Gao. "The impact of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act on information quality in capital markets." AAA 2008 Financial Accounting and Reporting Section (FARS) (2007).  Christensen, Hans B., Luzi Hail, and Christian Leuz. Capital-market effects of securities regulation: The role of implementation and enforcement. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2011.  Easley, David, and Maureen O'hara. "Information and the cost of capital." The journal of finance 59, no. 4 (2004): 1553-1583.  Eilifsen, Aasmund, and Kjell Henry Knivsflå. "How Increased Regulatory Oversight of Nonaudit Services Affects Investors' Perceptions of Earnings Quality." Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory 32, no. 1 (2012): 85-112.  Jain, Pankaj K., and Zabihollah Rezaee. "The Sarbanes‐Oxley Act of 2002 and Capital‐Market Behavior: Early Evidence\*." Contemporary Accounting Research 23, no. 3 (2006): 629-654.  La Porta, Rafael, Florencio Lopez-de-Silanes, Andrei Shleifer, and Robert Vishny. "Investor protection and corporate governance." Journal of financial economics 58, no. 1 (2000): 3-27. |
| May 21 | Z.Rezaee | Integrated Internal Control and Financial Reports | De Angelis, David. "On the Importance of Internal Control Systems in the Capital Allocation Decision: Evidence from SOX." Available at SSRN 1963902 (2013).  Chen, Lucy Huajing, Jayanthi Krishnan, Heibatollah Sami, and Haiyan Zhou. "Auditor Attestation under SOX Section 404 and Earnings Informativeness." Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory 32, no. 1 (2012): 61-84.  Goh, Beng Wee, Jayanthi Krishnan, and Dan Li. "Auditor reporting under Section 404: The association between the internal control and going concern audit opinions." Contemporary Accounting Research 30, no. 3 (2013): 970-995.  Rezaee, Zabihollah, Reza Espahbodi, PouranEspahbodi, and Hassan Espahbodi, 2011. Firm Characteristics and Stock Price Reaction to SOX 404 Compliance" ABACUS, Volume 48, Issue 4, December 2012, PP. 473-501.  Study of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 Section 404 Internal Controls over Financial Reporting Requirements,Office of Economic Analysis, US SEC, Sep 2009. |
| May 23 | Z.Rezaee | Corporate Sustainability: Integrating Performance and Reporting | Becchetti, Leonardo, Rocco Ciciretti, and Iftekhar Hasan. Corporate social responsibility and shareholder's value: an event study analysis. No. 2007-06. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, 2007.  Anthony Ng and Zabihollah Rezaee. Business sustainability performance and cost of equity capital. Working paper. May 2014.  Dhaliwal, Dan S., Suresh Radhakrishnan, Albert Tsang, and Yong George Yang. "Nonfinancial disclosure and analyst forecast accuracy: International evidence on corporate social responsibility disclosure." The Accounting Review 87, no. 3 (2012): 723-759.  El Ghoul, Sadok, OmraneGuedhami, Chuck CY Kwok, and Dev R. Mishra. "Does corporate social responsibility affect the cost of capital?." Journal of Banking & Finance 35, no. 9 (2011): 2388-2406.  Jackson, Aimee, Katherine Boswell, and Dorothy Davis. "Sustainability and triple bottom line reporting–what is it all about?." International Journal of Business, Humanities and Technology 1, no. 3 (2011): 55-59.  Kim, Yongtae, MyungSeok Park, and Benson Wier. "Is earnings quality associated with corporate social responsibility?" The Accounting Review 87, no. 3 (2012): 761-796. |
| May 26 | Z.Rezaee | Corporate Governance and Ethics | Bebchuk, Lucian A., Alma Cohen, and Charles CY Wang. "Learning and the disappearing association between governance and returns." Journal of Financial Economics 108, no. 2 (2013): 323-348.  Shi, Chenxia. "International corporate governance developments: the path for China." Australian Journal of Asian Law 7, no. 1 (2005): 60.  DeFond, Mark L., T. J. Wong, and Shuhua Li. "The impact of improved auditor independence on audit market concentration in China." Journal of Accounting and Economics 28, no. 3 (1999): 269-305.  Hermalin, Benjamin E. and Weisbach, Michael S., Information Disclosure and Corporate Governance (January 30, 2011). Fisher College of Business Working Paper No. 2008-03-016; Journal of Finance, Forthcoming; Charles A. Dice Center Working Paper No. 2008-17. Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1082513>  Rezaee, Zabihollah, and Ben L. Kedia. "Role of corporate governance participants in preventing and detecting financial statement fraud." Journal of Forensic & Investigative Accounting 4, no. 2 (2012). |
| May 28 | Z.Rezaee | Forensic Accounting and Financial Reporting Fraud | Report to the nations on occupational fraud and abuse. 2012 Global Fraud Study. ACFE.  Deterring and detecting financial reporting fraud. A platform for action. Oct 2010. CFAQ.  Dee, Carol Callaway, and Cindy Durtschi. "Return of the Tallahassee BeanCounters: A case in forensic accounting." Issues in Accounting Education 25, no. 2 (2010): 279-321.  Zabihollah Rezaee. Does financial reporting fraud recognize borders? Evidence from bank fraud in Iran. Journal of Forensic & Investigative Accounting Vol.5, Issue 2, 2013.  Rezaee, Zabihollah, D. Crumbley, and Robert Elmore, 2004. Forensic accounting education: A survey of academics and practitioners. Advances in Accounting Education Teaching and Curriculum Innovations 6, 193–232.  Fraudulent financial reporting 1998-2007. An analysis of U.S. public companies. COSO. |
| May 30 | Z.Rezaee | Private and Not-For-Profit Organization Governance and Reporting | Private company decision-making framework. A guide for evaluating financial accounting and reporting for private companies. FASB Private Company Council, 2013.  Bova, Francesco, Miguel Minutti‐Meza, Gordon Nichardson, and Dushyantkumar Vyas. "The Sarbanes‐Oxley Act and Exit Strategies of Private Firms." Contemporary Accounting Research (2013).  Brickley, James A., and R. Lawrence Van Horn. "Managerial Incentives in Nonprofit Organizations: Evidence from Hospitals\*." Journal of law and Economics 45, no. 1 (2002): 227-249.  Eldenburg, Leslie, Benjamin E. Hermalin, Michael S. Weisbach, and Marta Wosinska. "Governance, performance objectives and organizational form: evidence from hospitals." Journal of Corporate Finance 10, no. 4 (2004): 527-548.  Keating, Elizabeth K., Mary Fischer, Teresa P. Gordon, and Janet Greenlee. Assessing financial vulnerability in the nonprofit sector. No. rwp05-002. 2005.  Miller, Danny, Isabelle Le Breton-Miller, Richard H. Lester, and Albert A. Cannella Jr. "Are family firms really superior performers?." Journal of Corporate Finance 13, no. 5 (2007): 829-858.  Shapira, Roy. "Corporate Philanthropy as Signaling and Co-optation." Fordham L. Rev. 80 (2011): 1889.  Tracey, Paul, Nelson Phillips, and Helen Haugh. "Beyond philanthropy: community enterprise as a basis for corporate citizenship." Journal of business ethics 58, no. 4 (2005): 327-344.  Travaglini, Claudio. "Financial statement analysis for nonprofit organizations. An Italian perspective for voluntary organizations and other third sector entities in Italy for a better accountability."  Villalonga, Belen, and Raphael Amit. "How do family ownership, control and management affect firm value?" Journal of Financial Economics 80, no. 2 (2006): 385-417. |
| June 2 |  | Tutorial |  |