Discipline: Archival Taxation

1 Title
Seminar on Archival Taxation Research

2 Lecturer
Alexander Edwards, PhD, CPA, CA – University of Toronto, Rotman School of Management
http://www.rotman.utoronto.ca/FacultyAndResearch/Faculty/FacultyBios/Edwards

Alex Edwards is an Assistant Professor of Accounting at Rotman. His research is focused on taxation and capital markets and has been accepted for publication in the *Accounting Review*, the *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, the *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Contemporary Accounting Research*, the *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, the *Journal of the American Taxation Association*, and *Tax Notes*. Prior to joining Rotman, Alex taught a variety of classes at the University of Washington and Brock University. Before entering academics, Alex worked as a tax specialist and auditor with KPMG LLP.

3 Date and Location
Monday March 19, 2018 through Thursday March 22, 2018, 9.00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Universität Münster, Universitätsstr. 14-16, 48143 Münster.

4 Course Description
Abstract and Learning Objectives

The objective of this course is to enhance your ability to critically evaluate and conduct empirical tax accounting research. This course is also intended to expand your understanding of the interactions between income taxes, financial reporting, and external stakeholders, such as investors, analysts, and external auditors. In addition to introducing you to tax research that overlaps with research in financial accounting, managerial accounting, corporate finance, and economics, this course should also help you develop:

1. An appreciation for the role of theory in applied work.
2. An understanding of research designs commonly used in accounting and finance research.
3. The necessary skills to design and conduct empirical research.
4. Skills to identify a marketable project.
Content
To achieve the course objectives noted above, we will read and discuss seminal and recent archival research on taxation.

Schedule (tentative)

**Day 1 – March 19, 2018**

**Session 1 and 2 – Introduction and Overview**

**Session 3 – Accounting For Income Taxes Overview**
**Session 4 - Asset prices/implicit taxes**

**Day 2 – March 20, 2018**

**Session 1 – Taxes and Earnings Management**

**Session 2 - Information Content of Tax Expense and BTDs**

**Session 3 - Information Content of Tax Expense and BTDs**
Session 4 – Tax Avoidance


Day 3 – March 21, 2018

Session 1 - Reputation Costs and Tax Avoidance


Session 2 – Tax Avoidance and Managers


Session 3 - Agency costs


Session 4 - Taxes and Regulatory Scrutiny


Day 4 – March 22, 2018

Session 1 – Repatriation Taxes


Session 2 – Income shifting


Session 3 – Taxes and Cross-border M&A


Session 4 – Wrap-up

Course format
The course will be conducted following a seminar format. Therefore, participants are expected to actively participate in the discussion and evaluation of all readings assigned for each class session. Discussions will focus on two research studies in a particular area. Students will formally present these studies, and the presentations should be from the perspective of a discussant of the paper at a research conference (i.e., the student presenting a particular paper should use PowerPoint slides). You should prepare your discussion as-if the authors were in the audience. Your comments should include a discussion of the strengths of the paper and your concerns. You should also provide constructive suggestions for improvement. Despite the fact that most of the papers discussed are published you can pretend the authors would be able to make changes.

5 Preparation and Literature

Prerequisites
Master-level education in business, or economics. Students should have read accounting research published in the premier academic journals. Students benefit most when they have already taken courses in research design and data analyses. At least, they are expected to have dealt in-depth with the reading materials.

Essential Reading Material
The course readings are listed above in Section 4.23 “Schedule.”

Additional Reading Material
There is no additional required reading material.

To prepare
All participants are required to read the essential reading material prior to the course and prepare the short discussion for their assigned paper(s). It is also suggested that students attempt to briefly answer the following questions about each assigned paper (memo should be ≤ 1 page).

1) What is the research question and why is it important?
2) What are the hypotheses?
3) How is the question being addressed?
4) What are the main empirical findings? Do the results support the hypotheses?
5) How could the study be improved or extended (one or two suggestions)?
6 Administration

Max. number of participants
The number of participants is limited to 20.

Assignments
Students are required to serve as a discussant for one or two of the papers. The discussant should provide a short presentation, using 5-10 slides, as described above.

Additionally, students are required to turn in the for each discussion paper (on days 2 through 4 only) their responses to the five questions listed in Section 5.4. These will be turned in on the day that the paper is discussed.

Finally, students should actively participate in the class discussions.

Exam
The grade will depend on
- Class Discussion: 33.33%
- Prepared Discussion of one paper: 33.33%
- Paper summaries: 33.33%

Credits
The course (including the exam) is eligible for 6 ECTS.