

Financial Accounting – 200A
Fall Quarter, 2006
Syllabus

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Course Objectives:

Corporate financial reporting is concerned with the form and content of the financial information disclosed by firms to external parties (e.g. shareholders, financial analysts). In the United States, financial reporting practices must follow “Generally Accepted Accounting Principles” (GAAP) which are set by the Financial Accounting Standard Board (FASB), a private-sector regulatory authority. GAAP define the set of accounting method and disclosure practices from which firms select when providing information to external parties. The primary emphasis of this course is to assist you in developing the *basic* skills required to interpret, analyze and evaluate information contained in published financial statements. The course will introduce a variety of financial reporting topics. Later elective courses in the program cover many of the same topics, as well as additional topics, at a deeper level.

Class Materials:

Textbook Bundle: Financial Accounting 2nd Edition by Antle and Garstka bundled with the Questions, Exercises, Problems, and Cases (QEPC) (either the basic or master’s level QEPC will suffice).

Additional Materials:

- Readings packet from study.net
- Announcements, assignments, solutions, class notes, and other materials will be posted throughout the quarter on MyUCDavis. Note that electronic copies of the class notes are not a substitute for the material covered in class. They are a base set of notes to assist you in note taking during class.

Class Format:

You are expected to have read the textbook material and assigned articles and attempted the assigned QEPC from the textbook prior to coming to class. Although you are responsible for all QEPC assigned, I will cover only the more challenging ones in class. The class format is a lecture that highlights key conceptual issues followed by working select problems and cases from the textbook. I do not collect homework.

Attending class is valuable in helping you understand the material; therefore I suggest you attend class. However, if you do need to miss class, please see the course website for any missed class announcements. You will need to rely on a classmate for any additional notes taken in class. If

you have to miss a class, I am happy to answer questions about the material, but only after you attempt to work through it yourself.

Classroom Etiquette:

Class will begin on time. Please do your best to arrive in time. I realize that circumstances may occur where you may be late to class. Please feel free to join the class late, but enter quietly and sit close to the door so as to minimize disruption to the class. Similarly, if you *must* have your cell phone on during class then please turn it on vibrate and sit in an area of the class room where you can minimize disturbance should you need to leave the room to take a call. Finally, be respectful to all of your classmates and do not talk to your neighbors during class.

Performing well in the course:

This course does not require a prerequisite and will be taught assuming no prior knowledge of accounting. Therefore, students who have completed previous courses in financial accounting are strongly advised to test out before or during the first week of the quarter. If you have not already attempted to test out and wish to, please contact the professor.

This course can prove challenging. Because this is a master's course we move through the material quickly. This gives you little time to digest the material before we move on. Not understanding the material in early chapters will prevent the understanding of material in later chapters since the accounting concepts build on each other. Thus, many students will be inclined to get lost quickly unless they keep up and invest in understanding each concept as it is covered. If you find yourself getting behind, I strongly suggest that you find time to study. If you are confused, you need to see me for help (but only after you attempt to understand the material on your own).

Assessment:

Your final grade will be determined by a comprehensive case assignment (10%), 4 quizzes (60%), and a comprehensive final exam (30%). There will be no makeup quizzes. If you miss a quiz, your final exam will replace that quiz score. If you take all quizzes, you have the option of replacing one quiz score with your final exam score. The content of the quizzes and final exam will be derived from the textbook and article readings, assigned QEPCs, and class notes. You are responsible for understanding all of the assignments regardless of whether we covered them in class (detailed solutions of all of the assignments will be posted on the MyUCDavis website).

Requests for regrading must be made in writing within two weeks from the return of the graded item. I will regrade the entire item and, therefore regrading may result in a higher or lower score.

If you know in advance that you will miss the final exam, you should contact me as soon as possible to arrange an alternate time. With the exception of emergencies, failure to contact me before the exam will result in a score of 0 on the final.