**Texas A&M University – Commerce**  
**College of Business and Entrepreneurship**  
**Department of Accounting**  
**Accounting 540**  
**ADVANCED INCOME TAX ACCOUNTING**  
**Fall 2012**

**Professor:** Megan Burke, Ph.D., CPA (VA)  
**Office:** This is an online course. I have no set office hours and there are no set class times. You may stop by my office on the main campus (BA 122) on Thursday evenings before my class at 6:15.  
**Email:** Megan.Burnham@tamuc.edu  
**Office Hours:** Online chat will be scheduled for most Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (Central). You are not required to attend. I will log on and be available for live chat. If no one joins after 10 minutes, I will log off. Questions can be emailed to me or posted to the online forum. Posting is the preferred method so that other students may join in answering questions. Posting and answering questions counts towards your participation grade.

**Course Description**
This course is a study of taxation of partnerships, corporations, estates and trusts under current federal income tax laws. An emphasis will be placed on solving practical problems.

**Course Embedded Assessment Objectives**
1. Demonstrate an understanding of corporate income taxation concepts and principals by calculating corporate taxable income and explaining the tax implications of formation, operation, distributions, acquisitions and reorganizations.

2. Demonstrate an understanding of partnership taxation concepts and principals by explaining the tax implications of partnership formation, operation, distributions and liquidation along with describing the similarities and differences between partnerships, C corporations and S corporations.

3. Demonstrate an understanding of the federal transfer tax system by calculating gift and estate taxes resulting from the transfer of assets in life or at death.

4. Demonstrate an understanding of taxation of trusts and estates by calculating the income for simple trusts and complex trusts and estates.

**Course Objectives Rubric for ACCT 540**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria (Course Objectives)</th>
<th>1 (Unsatisfactory)</th>
<th>2 (Emerging)</th>
<th>3 (Proficient)</th>
<th>4 (Exemplary)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate an understanding of corporate income taxation concepts and principals by calculating corporate taxable income and explaining the tax implications of formation,</td>
<td>Student is able to identify very few tax concepts surrounding corporate formation, operation, distributions, acquisitions and reorganizations.</td>
<td>Student is able to identify some of the tax concepts surrounding corporate formation, operation, distributions, acquisitions and reorganizations.</td>
<td>Student is able to identify many of the tax concepts surrounding corporate formation, operation, distributions, acquisitions and reorganizations and apply them to</td>
<td>Student is able to identify most of the tax concepts surrounding corporation formation, operation, distributions, acquisitions and reorganizations and apply them to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate an understanding of partnership taxation concepts and principals by explaining the tax implications of partnership formation, operation, distributions and liquidation along with describing the similarities and differences between partnerships, C corporations and S corporations.</td>
<td>Student is able to identify very few tax concepts dealing with partnership formation, operation, distributions and liquidation and can only minimally describe similarities and differences between partnerships, C corporations and S corporations.</td>
<td>Student is able to identify some of the tax concepts dealing with partnership formation, operation, distributions and liquidation and can partially describe similarities and differences between partnerships, C corporations and S corporations.</td>
<td>Student is able to identify many of the tax concepts dealing with partnership formation, operation, distributions and liquidation and can apply them to simple facts along with being able to describe most similarities and differences between partnerships, C corporations and S corporations.</td>
<td>Student is able to identify most of the tax concepts dealing with partnership formation, operation, distributions and liquidation and can apply them to complex facts along with being able to fully describe similarities and differences between partnerships, C corporations and S corporations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate an understanding of the federal transfer tax system by calculating gift and estate taxes resulting from the transfer of assets in life or at death.</td>
<td>Student is unable to accurately identify transfer tax issues and calculate taxes owed as a result of assets being transferred under simple facts.</td>
<td>Student can partially identify transfer tax issues and calculate taxes owed as a result of assets being transferred under simple facts.</td>
<td>Student is able to accurately identify transfer tax issues and calculate taxes owed as a result of assets being transferred under moderately complex facts.</td>
<td>Student is able to accurately identify transfer tax issues and calculate taxes owed as a result of assets being transferred under complex facts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate an understanding of taxation of trusts and estates by calculating the income for simple trusts and complex trusts and estates.</td>
<td>Student is unable to accurately identify tax issues and concepts concerning trust and estates or calculate income tax owed as a result of asset distributions and receipts.</td>
<td>Student can partially identify transfer tax issues and concepts concerning trusts and estates and can calculate income tax owed as a result of asset distributions and receipts under simple facts.</td>
<td>Student is able to accurately identify transfer tax issues and concepts concerning trusts and estates and can calculate income tax owed as a result of asset distributions and receipts under moderately complex facts.</td>
<td>Student is able to accurately identify transfer tax issues and concepts concerning trusts and estates and can calculate income tax owed as a result of asset distributions and receipts under complex facts.</td>
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</table>
Textbooks and Materials


Financial Calculator: Any type is acceptable. We have found that the HP-12C is an excellent choice.

Computer: High speed internet connection is suggested and recommended. Students will search various databases to gather information. Some databases or sources may charge access fees. You are required to gain familiarity with and download information from the Internal Revenue Service website (http://www.irs.gov), our University library (http://www.tamuc.edu/library), and other sources.

Student Responsibilities

Learning is every student’s responsibility. My role as your professor is to facilitate your learning process. Each student is required to:

1. Read assigned material on schedule.
2. Listen to published lectures and review other published material each week.
3. Take quizzes and exams within the posted time frames.
4. Participate in the class online forum (Student Lounge) by posting questions and answering questions posted by classmates and/or myself.
5. Prepare diligently for weekly assignments, quizzes and examinations.
6. Respect the e-learning environment by being prepared and observing net-etiquette.

Evaluation

Grades are based upon total points received.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>450</td>
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</table>

Expect exams and quizzes to be difficult. I prefer to test students at their upper limits so that those who study vigilantly have the opportunity to shine. Final grades may be adjusted upwards on a class curve. Students should strive for mastery of the objectives and content and not worry about competing against each other. The levels of mastery are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 – 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quiz & Exam Rubric

4 – The student’s answers show a mastery level of understanding of the concept(s).
3 – The student’s answers show proficient understanding of the concept(s).
2 – The student’s answers show a basic understanding of the concept(s).
1 – The student’s answers show minimal understanding of the concept(s).
Tax Return Project Rubric
4 – The student’s tax returns have the correct entries and final results which show a masterly level of understanding of the concept(s).
3 – The student’s tax returns have most of the correct entries and the final results show a proficient understanding of the concept(s).
2 – The student’s tax returns have some correct entries and the final results show a basic level of understanding of the concept(s).
1 – The student’s tax returns have few correct entries and the final results show a minimal understanding of the concept(s).

Participation Rubric
4 – The student introduced themselves in the student lounge, commented on another student’s post and contributes to class by offering ideas, asking and answering questions more than once every couple of weeks.
3 – The student introduced themselves in the student lounge, commented on another student’s post and contributes to class by offering ideas, asking and answering questions once every couple of weeks.
2 – The student introduced themselves in the student lounge but did not comment on any other student’s post and/or rarely contributes to class by offering ideas, asking and answering questions.
1 – The student may or may not have introduced themselves in the student lounge and has made little contribution to class by offering ideas, asking and answering questions.

Assignments
All reading assignments should be completed before logging in and completing the online course content. We will be covering a lot of material this semester and it is important to stay caught up so that you will be prepared for quizzes and exams. Assignments will be given deadlines, which must be adhered to. Late assignments will not be accepted. Students are required to take all examinations within the posted timeframe. There are no make-up exams or quizzes. Quizzes and exams will be online. You will log in during the timeframe that the quiz or exam is open to be taken and complete the exam in one sitting. Quizzes and exams will be multiple choice, true/false and short answer.

Attendance/Participation
One advantage of an online course is that you do not have to be in a certain place at a certain time. You can study when convenient and log into the course and review course content when convenient. I will have an online class each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. (Central) at which time you may log in and join in the class questions and discussions. I will use this time to review answers to assigned problems and review for quizzes and exams. You are not required to attend the Wednesday chat. These sessions will be recorded and you can log on anytime to review the chat session. However, participation in the class forum is important for you to get your participation grade. Be sure to post your answers to questions posed by me or your peers. Also, use of the forum to ask questions will benefit all of the class. We have a lot of smart students who can often answer questions quicker than I may be able to. I will review discussions on the forum and offer corrections and/or additional explanations when needed.

Ethics
Integrity is the hallmark of the accounting profession and will be stressed throughout the course. Any type of student breach of ethics, including, but not limited to: illegal activity, dishonest conduct, cheating, plagiarism or collusion will result in failure on the assignment and/or further academic sanctions (i.e. failure of the course, dismissal from class and/or referral to the Dean of the College of Business and
Entrepreneurship). You will be required to sign the Academic Honesty Policy and submit it within the first two weeks of class. **Failure to submit a signed Academic Honesty Policy will cause a 50 point deduction from your overall score for the class.**

**Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
Texas A&M University – Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

**Email**

Emails are typically the best way to contact me. I will try to respond to all emails within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours on the weekend. If you do not receive a response in that timeframe, please re-send the email.

**Other**

University policy will be followed in regards to withdrawals during the semester. *It is the student’s responsibility to conform with the university rules relating to dropping or withdrawing from the course.*

**NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change as needed to meet the objectives or administration of the course at the discretion of the professor. It is not anticipated that there will be any substantive changes.**
Classes begin August 27th, 2012. We will review one chapter per week (2 the last week). However, you may want to get ahead a bit before the third week because chapter three is a pretty heavy chapter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 8/27/12 – 9/2/12 | 1       | Course and Classroom Introductions, Tax Research | • Introduce yourself in the student lounge  
• Review unit Objectives  
• Read Chapter 1  
• View & Listen to Chapter 1 PowerPoint/Lecture  
• Optional – Login to Class Live Session (Wednesday)  
• Post Questions & Answers in the Student Lounge  
• Complete the following problems from the text. (Solutions will be posted and reviewed in the Wednesday Live Session)  
  Problem 1-55  
  Problem 1-56  
  Problem 1-66 |
| 2    | 9/3/12 – 9/9/12 | 2       | Corporation Formation and Capital Structure | • Review Unit Objectives  
• Read Chapter 2  
• View & Listen to Chapter 2 PowerPoint/Lecture  
• Optional – Login to Class Live Session (Wednesday)  
• Post Questions & Answers in the Student Lounge  
• Complete the following problems from the text.  
  Problem 2-30  
  Problem 2-32  
  Problem 2-34  
  Problem 2-41  
  Problem 2-49 |
| 3    | 9/10/12 – 9/16/12 | 3       | The Corporate Income Tax | • Complete Quiz 1: Chapters 1 & 2 (Open the 8th and closes midnight on the 10th)  
• Academic Honesty Policy DUE on 10th  
• Review Unit Objectives  
• View & Listen to Chapter 3 PowerPoint/Lecture  
• Optional – Login to Class Live Session |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4    | 9/17/12 – 9/23/12 | Corporate Non-liquidating Distributions | - Review Unit Objectives  
- View & Listen to Chapter 4 PowerPoint/Lecture  
- Optional – Login to Class Live Session (Wednesday)  
- Post Questions & Answers in the Student Lounge  
- Complete the following problems from the text.  
  Problem 3-39  
  Problem 3-40  
  Problem 3-43  
  Problem 3-49  
  Problem 3-52  
  Problem 3-65 |
| 5    | 9/24/12 – 9/30/12 | Other Corporate Tax Levies | - Complete Quiz 2: Chapters 3 & 4 (Open the 22nd and closes midnight on the 24th)  
- Review Unit Objectives  
- View & Listen to Chapter 5 PowerPoint/Lecture  
- Optional – Login to Class Live Session (Wednesday)  
- Post Questions & Answers in the Student Lounge  
- Complete the following problems from the text.  
  Problem 5-37  
  Problem 5-48  
  Problem 5-55  
  Problem 5-57  
  Problem 5-63  
  Problem 5-64 |
| 6    | 10/1/12 – 10/7/12 | Corporate Liquidating Distributions | - Complete Exam 1: Chapters 1-5 (Open on the 29th and closes at midnight on the 1st)  
- Review Unit Objectives  
- View & Listen to Chapter 6 PowerPoint/Lecture |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 7    | 10/8/12 – 10/14/12 | 7   | Corporate Acquisitions and Reorganizations | - Optional – Login to Class Live Session (Wednesday)  
- Post Questions & Answers in the Student Lounge  
- Complete the following problems from the text.  
  - Problem 6-34  
  - Problem 6-35  
  - Problem 6-37  
  - Problem 6-46  
  - Problem 6-50 |
| 8    | 10/15/12 – 10/21/12 | 8   | Consolidated Tax Returns                 | - Complete Quiz 3: Chapter 5 & 6 (Open the 6th and closes at midnight on the 8th)  
- Review Unit Objectives  
- View & Listen to Chapter 7 PowerPoint/Lecture  
- Optional – Login to Class Live Session (Wednesday)  
- Post Questions & Answers in the Student Lounge  
- Complete the following problems from the text.  
  - Problem 7-48  
  - Problem 7-53  
  - Problem 7-56  
  - Problem 7-69  
  - Problem 7-71 |
| 9    | 10/22/12 – 10/28/12 | 9   | Partnership Formation and Operation      | - Tax Return Project Due on the 15th at midnight  
- Review Unit Objectives  
- View & Listen to Chapter 8 PowerPoint/Lecture  
- Optional – Login to Class Live Session (Wednesday)  
- Post Questions & Answers in the Student Lounge  
- Complete the following problems from the text.  
  - Problem 8-50  
  - Problem 8-51  
  - Problem 8-56 |
|      |                   |     |                                          | - Complete Quiz 4: Chapters 7 & 8 (Open on the 20th and closes at midnight on the 22nd)  
- Review Unit Objectives  
- View & Listen to Chapter 9 PowerPoint/Lecture  
- Optional – Login to Class Live Session  |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Problem Numbers</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
- Complete the following problems from the text.  
  Problem 9-27  
  Problem 9-29  
  Problem 9-39  
  Problem 9-42 |
| 11   | 11/5/12 – 11/11/12  | 10-29, 10-32, 10-37, 10-41 | - Complete Quiz 5: Chapters 9 & 10 (open on the 3rd and closes at midnight on the 5th)  
- Review Unit Objectives  
- View & Listen to Chapter 10 PowerPoint/Lecture  
- Optional – Login to Class Live Session (Wednesday)  
- Post Questions & Answers in the Student Lounge  
- Complete the following problems from the text.  
  Problem 10-29  
  Problem 10-32  
  Problem 10-37  
  Problem 10-41 |
| 12   | 11/12/12 – 11/18/12 | 11-36, 11-41, 11-46, 11-49 | - Complete Exam 2: Chapters 6-10 (open on the 10th and closes at midnight on the 12th)  
- Review Unit Objectives  
- View & Listen to Chapter 12 PowerPoint/Lecture  
- Optional – Login to Class Live Session (Wednesday)  
- Post Questions & Answers in the Student Lounge  
- Complete the following problems from |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Start/End Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/19/12 – 11/25/12</td>
<td><strong>The Estate Tax</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Complete Quiz 6: Chapters 11 &amp; 12 (open on the 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; and closes at midnight on the 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;)&lt;br&gt;• Review Unit Objectives&lt;br&gt;• View &amp; Listen to Chapter 13 PowerPoint/Lecture&lt;br&gt;• Optional – Login to Class Live Session (Wednesday)&lt;br&gt;• Post Questions &amp; Answers in the Student Lounge&lt;br&gt;• Complete the following problems from the text.&lt;br&gt;  Problem 13-40&lt;br&gt;  Problem 13-45&lt;br&gt;  Problem 13-46&lt;br&gt;  Problem 13-54</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/26/12 – 12/2/12</td>
<td><strong>Income Taxation of Trusts and Estates</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Review Unit Objectives&lt;br&gt;• View &amp; Listen to Chapter 14 PowerPoint/Lecture&lt;br&gt;• Optional – Login to Class Live Session (Wednesday)&lt;br&gt;• Post Questions &amp; Answers in the Student Lounge&lt;br&gt;• Complete the following problems from the text.&lt;br&gt;  Problem 14-38&lt;br&gt;  Problem 14-39&lt;br&gt;  Problem 14-40&lt;br&gt;  Problem 14-44&lt;br&gt;  Problem 14-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12/3/12 – 12/7/12</td>
<td><strong>Administrative Procedures</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Complete Quiz 7: Chapters 13 &amp; 14 (open on the 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; and closes at midnight on the 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;)&lt;br&gt;• Review Unit Objectives&lt;br&gt;• View &amp; Listen to Chapters 15 &amp; 16 PowerPoint/Lectures&lt;br&gt;• Optional – Login to Class Live Session (Wednesday)&lt;br&gt;• Post Questions &amp; Answers in the Student Lounge&lt;br&gt;• Complete the following problems from the text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>12/8/12 – 12/10/12</td>
<td>Complete the Final Exam: Comprehensive (Open on the 8th and closes at midnight on the 10th).&lt;br&gt;Comprehensive with an emphasis on Chapters 11-16</td>
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<td>Problem 15-38&lt;br&gt;Problem 15-46&lt;br&gt;Problem 15-50&lt;br&gt;Problem 16-39&lt;br&gt;Problem 16-40&lt;br&gt;Problem 16-44</td>
</tr>
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