



SYLLABUS (v.2)

ACCT 440 – 01E, Monday nights, Commerce Campus
Income Tax Accounting
Fall 2013 (Aug 26 – Dec 13)

Instructor: Jennifer H. Smith, JD, CPA, CFF, CFE
Location: **Online (eCollege)**
E-mail: Tamuc.Smith@gmail.com ***
I rarely use tamuc.edu email; please use the email address given

Course Description:

This course provides a survey of income tax laws. The course emphasizes the impact of federal income tax on the individual taxpayer. Research and software tools may be used to solve practical tax problems.

Course Embedded Assessment Objectives:

After completing this course, you should have an understanding of the following general topics:

- Identify the obligations of taxpayers and tax return preparers;
- Calculate the elements of the income tax formula as applied to common personal and business transactions;
- Comply with IRS reporting and payment requirements.

Textbooks and Materials:

Required Textbook:

Whittenbug: *Income Tax Fundamentals* (2013). Publisher: CCH. Twelfth edition.

Evaluation:

In general, the following grading schedule will apply for items in the course.

- A: 90-100% (superior)
- B: 80-89% (above average)
- C: 70-79% (average)
- F: under 70% (failing)

Note: all written assignments are to be turned in to the appropriate drop box located in the Dropbox tab of eCollege (online.tamuc.org).

General Expectations:

Participation, Homework:

Your participation and homework grade is based on your completion of the all required assignments by the stated deadlines. There will be two homework assignments during the semester. They will provide practice (and feedback from me) before your exams. You should also use them to test how well you are understanding the material.

It is expected that you read and understand the chapters before attending class. College courses are expected to require 3-4 hours per week of your time PER CREDIT HOUR, inclusive of lecture time. That is, you should expect to spend **9-12 hours per week** reading, studying, understanding the material and working on your assignments.

I reserve the right to lower any student's grade for lack of participation and/or disruptive behavior during class. No side conversations. If you are tempted to talk to your friends during class, do not sit together. If you wish to use laptops, any indication that you are participation in non-class activities will adversely affect your participation grade. Use of laptops during class must be approved by me in advance.

Purpose of Having an Instructor:

The instructor's function is not to provide a "knowledge dump" to you, but instead to formulate and present issues in a differently accessible way and to help you with more challenging concepts of the course. It is assumed that you read and study the written materials to the degree you need to in order to gain understanding. Experience has shown repeatedly that students who take ownership of such tasks perform significantly better than those who hope for an instructor knowledge-dump. Your textbook authors have already provided a great deal of technical, conceptual, and practical knowledge.

The instructor is also the primary facilitator of class discussions.

Exams:

There will be one midterm and one final given in the course. Points assigned and schedule of these evaluations are indicated on the calendar page of this syllabus.

Communication:

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Please note that the primary email to be used to contact me is not my tamuc email address. I do check my university email, but not with the same frequency as the preferred email.

Use: tamuc.smith@gmail.com

I received hundreds of email each week. I do my best to respond to your emails on in a timely manner but some emails just get by me. If you do not hear from me within 48 hours during the week or by close of Monday for email sent over the weekend, please feel free to resend me a reminder email. I will not be offended. Please do, though, give me a reasonable amount of time to respond.

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 of assignment or exam (F) and/or further academic sanction (i.e. failure of course (F), dismissal from class and/or referral to Dean of the College of Business and Technology).

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

I am fully aware that solutions, answers, research papers, previous versions of class materials, and options for purchasing answers to assignments are readily available to you. However, this class is not intended as an exercise in simply locating and repeating, paraphrasing, or even referring to other people’s work. I encourage you to exchange ideas or discuss problems in order to reach a conclusion, but you are expected to demonstrate an appropriate level of master of the material on your own. Any assignments which bear too close a resemblance to materials previously submitted or available elsewhere **will not receive credit.**

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**

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Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Technical Problems/Questions:

eCollege: Technical support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from the college's technical support personnel (I cannot trouble-shoot technical issues). If you have questions related to eCollege, A&M Commerce's online course management system, click on "TECHNICAL SUPPORT" on the left side of your computer screen. An email box will appear. Fill out this technical support form, click submit, and your question will be forwarded to the technical support staff. A resolution will be sent to you from the technical support staff via email. If at any time you experience technical problems (e.g., can't log into the course, can't see certain material, etc.) please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The HelpDesk can be reached by emailing helpdesk@online.tamuc.org or by calling **866-656-5511**. Additionally, you can click the "help" button located at the top of each page for more information.

If you have not already done so, please complete the student tutorial on using eCollege.

Newer versions of Explorer block pop-ups. You should disable the pop-up blocker to the online learning sites to avoid this problem. To temporarily turn it off or disable it for a specific web site, go to tools and then pop-up blocker and select the off or pop-up blocker settings. The off selection temporarily turns it off until the browser is closed and the settings selection lets you permanently allow a specific web site to use pop-ups.

Personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, Office Services such as Kinko's, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore such as Barnes & Noble, etc.

Dropping or Withdrawals:

University policy will be followed in regard 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 expected that there will be material substantive changes.

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Assignments and Evaluations:

Assignment	Points Possible	Percentage of Grade
Homework Assignments	300	30%
Attendance Participation	100	10%
Midterm	300	30%
Final	300	30%
TOTAL	1,000	100%

Class Schedule and Assignments
ACCT 440: Income Tax Accounting
Fall 2013

Week	Date Ended	Topics (Whittenburg)	Assignments
1	8.31.13	Course Introduction Chapter 1	
2	9.7.13	NO CLASS: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
3	9.14.13	Chapter 1: As needed Chapter 2: Gross Income and Exclusions	
4	9.21.13	Chapter 3: Business Income and Expenses	
5	9.28.13	Chapter 4: Business Income and Expenses (Part II)	
6	10.5.13	Chapter 5: Itemized Deductions and Other Expenses	HW 1 Due
7	10.12.13	Chapter 6: Credits and Special Taxes	
8	10.19.13	Midterm <i>Open during regular class time, 615-9 p.m. Monday night</i>	Midterm Chapters 1-6

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9	10.26.13	Chapter 7: Accounting Methods and Depreciation	
10	11.2.13	Chapter 8: Capital Gains and Losses	
11	11.9.13	Chapter 9: Withholding, Estimated Payments, and Payroll Taxes	
12	11.16.13	Chapter 10: Partnership Taxation	
13	11.23.13	Chapter 11: Corporate Income Tax	HW 2 Due
14	11.30.13	Chapter 12: Tax Administration and Tax Planning	
15	12.7.13	Final Exam: Semi-Comprehensive 40%: Weeks 3,6,7 60%: Weeks 8-14	

In the unusual circumstance that class grades are curved during the semester, anyone receiving a zero on an assignment will not participate in the curve. Because any curving will have been done on specific assignments, your final course grades will not be rounded.

900 – 1,000 points: A

800 – 899 points: B

700 – 799 points: C

As accountants or business professionals, you will encounter the concept of “double counting” as a no-no at various times in your career. In the case of this class, any appropriate curving will have been applied during the course. To round grades at the end of this course would essentially be double-counting. It’s a good idea to start to get used to this idea as a bad one right now.

Good luck in the course! Glad to have you.

GRADING RUBRIC

Homework	Exemplary	Good	Needs Improvement	Unacceptable
2 Homework Assignments (300 points total: 150 each)	270-300 points	240-269	210-239	0-209
Graded based on demonstrated understanding of the material	Understanding of nearly all of the concepts	Understanding of most of the concepts	Understanding of some of the concepts	Understanding of few of the concepts.

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Attendance and Participation (up to 100 points)	<u>Exemplary</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Needs Improvement</u>	<u>Unacceptable</u>
Attend class; active participation encouraged	Attendance at 90% of classes	Attendance at 80% of classes	Attendance at 70% of classes	Attendance < 70% of classes
Midterm (300 points)	<u>Exemplary</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Needs Improvement</u>	<u>Unacceptable</u>
	270-300 points	240-269 points	210-239 points	0-209 points
Graded based on demonstrated understanding of the material	Correctly answers at least 90-100%	Correctly answers at least 80-89%	Correctly answers 70-79%	Correctly answers less than 70%
Total Midterm (300 points)				
Final (300 points)				
Final Exam (300 points)	270-300 points	240-269 points	210-239 points	0-209 points
Graded based on demonstrated understanding of the material	Correctly answers at least 90-100%	Correctly answers at least 80-89%	Correctly answers 70-79%	Correctly answers less than 70%
COURSE TOTAL: 1,000 POINTS				

YOUR MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAM GRADES MAY BE AFFECTED BY:

- Indications of plagiarism, group work, or cheating.
 - Indications that the exams were completed by someone other than the registered student.
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COURSE RUBRIC

Criteria (Course Objectives)	1 (Unsatisfactory)	2 (Emerging)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)
Identify the obligations of taxpayers and tax return preparers;	Student is unable to identify.	Student can identify some.	Student can calculate many	Student can identify most rights and liabilities
Calculate the elements of the income tax formula as applied to common personal and business transactions;	Student is unable to calculate.	Student is able to calculate some.	Student is able to calculate	Student is able to calculate all
Calculate the elements of the income tax formula as applied to common personal and business transactions;	Student is unable calculate.	Student is sometimes able to calculate.	Student is frequently able to calculate	Student is consistently able to calculate