SYLLABUS

ACCT 575 – 01W (20697)
FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANALYSIS
SPRING 2014 (Jan 13 – May 9, 2014)

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor:	Christopher Meadors, JD, CPA, CFF *Assistant Professor, Department of Accounting*
Lecture Time(s):	As Posted on eCollege
Location:	Online: eCollege
Office:	*Main Campus*: Dept. of Accounting, Room 253 *UCD*: Accounting Offices 3rd Floor
Office Hours:	*Main Campus: Mondays, 3 pm – 6 pm* *UCD: Thursdays, 5 pm – 6 pm* *Also by Appointment.*
Contact:	Christopher.Meadors@tamuc.edu (*Note: you must include "ACCT 575" in the Subject line*)

Course Description:

This course takes a user-oriented approach to the study of financial statements with an emphasis on for-profit public companies. Students will study the role of the income statement, balance sheet, statement of cash flows, footnotes and the annual report in the financial reporting and analysis process. Topics include:

1. Examination of firms' past performance via analysis of efficiency, financial condition, profitability, liquidity, solvency, and risk using various analyses including vertical and horizontal common-size analysis, trend analysis, ratios and industry comparisons;
2. Effects of differing accounting methods on financial statement analysis;
3. Application of general purpose financial statements and related data to derive estimates and develop inferences useful in business decisions;
4. Information needs of different users (e.g., lenders', investors'); and
5. Analyses for specialized industries.

Course Embedded Objectives

Your achievement level for each objective will be measured by your ability to perform the following tasks:

1. Explain the basic principles of accounting and the assumptions of the financial accounting model.

2. Explain the role of the income statement, balance sheet, statement of cash flows, footnotes, and the annual report in the financial reporting process.

3. Explain various financial statement analysis techniques– their purpose, uses, and limitations.

4. Accurately calculate ratios and other measures as a first step in financial statement analysis.

5. Analyze and interpret a company's efficiency, financial condition, profitability, liquidity, solvency, and risk, etc., using vertical and horizontal common-size analysis, trend analysis, ratio analysis, industry comparisons.

6. Analyze and interpret the effects of differing accounting methods and management disclosures on financial statement analysis.

7. Display professionalism (attendance, participation, ethical conduct) becoming of a CPA

Textbooks and Materials:

Required Textbook:

1. Gibson, Charles H. (2012). *Financial Reporting and Analysis (13th ed.)* Mason, OH: South-Western Cengage Learning. (ISBN-10: 1-133-18879-6).

Recommended Texts:

1. Any current text on Intermediate Accounting (as a reference).

2. American Psychological Association (APA). (2009) *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.)*. Washington, D.C.: Author. (ISBN: 1-4338-0562-6). Or go to the Purdue Online Writing lab (OWL) at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/

Online Course Format/Attendance:

eCollege: This is a web based course utilizing eCollege. As such, Live Lectures (or recordings of them), student grades, important announcements related to the class as well as discussions of course material will be available on the eCollege class space. You may e-mail me or any student in the class by utilizing the e-mail feature in eCollege.

Documents will be made available in eCollege. If you have not already done so, please complete the student tutorial on using eCollege.

Live Lectures: A benefit of the eCollege online format is the flexibility it offers in meeting your (and my) scheduling needs. These Live Lectures are an opportunity for you to interact with your instructor and fellow students as well as ask questions/make comments as the material being discussed. You are encouraged to do so as your participation it improves the discussions. Live Lectures are required, but YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND LIVE LECTURES AT THE TIME THEY ARE CONDUCTED. Each Live Lecture is recorded and will available for you to watch at a time that works for you.

Each week we will have 1 Live Lecture. Exact timing of the Live Lectures will be posted on eCollege, and may change based on the needs of the class. The exact Lecture schedule will be posted under the Lecture tabs and Assignment Notes located on the left hand bar of eCollege.

Other Assignments: While we do not have a book per se, I will be assigning articles (either posted or linked online), film clips or other materials related to our subject. You should treat these materials as though they are assigned or presented in class. The exact assignments will be listed in each week.

STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

Evaluation:

In general, the following grading schedules will apply for this course:

Grade Scale			
	Percentage	Points	
A	100 - 90%	90 - 100	(superior)
B	89 - 80%	80 - 89	(above average)
C	79 - 70%	70 - 79	(average)
D	69 - 60%	60- 69	(below average)
F	≤ 59%	0 - 59	(failing)

	Percentage
Participation	15%

Exam 1	30%
Exam 2 (Cumulative)	30%
Paper	25%
TOTAL	**100%**

Participation/Discussion: Students are expected to be engaged in discussions (either during Live Lectures or on Discussion Boards). Your participation in class discussions is expected and is counted towards your final grade. I will discuss the participation portion of your grade during the first Live Lecture.

Problems/Exercises: I will be assigning problems from the textbook. While I am not requiring students to submit these problems, students are expected to work them and be prepared to discuss them in class. If I find that students are failing to come to class adequately prepared, I reserve the right to require them to be submitted and incorporated into student's grades.

Examinations: Students will have 2 Examinations in this class. These exams will test students understanding of the material covered. The final examination will be cumulative. Details of the exam coverage will be provided during class.

Paper: You will perform a comprehensive financial statement analysis on the publicly traded company of your choice. Further details will be provided in Class and posted on eCollege.

COMMUNICATIONS

Email:

Emails are the best way to contact me, and please INCLUDE THE COUSE NUMBER IN THE SUBJECT LINE. I am swamped with email generally and I am also bombarded by spam. To try and cut down on these – I have a filter on my inbox. This filter is intended to allow important and/or legitimate class related email through – but it sometimes inadvertently eliminates student e-mails.

If you send an e-mail to me give me at least 72 hours (during the workweek) to respond. If you do not get a response then send again. I will not be offended if you "remind me" or alert me that have not responded to your email.

Office Hours/Communication

I will typically be in my office before class days and I am also available by appointment. However, I participate in various school committees and activities – so I recommend you make an appointment, or at least check with me, before making the drive out.

POLICIES

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).

By way of clarity, I am fully aware that in this information age, solutions, answers, research papers, and previously versions of class materials are easily available to you. However, this class is not intended as an exercise in simply locating and referencing other peoples 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 mastery of the material on your own. Any assignments which bare too close a resemblance to materials previously submitted or available elsewhere will not receive credit.

STUDENT RESOURCES

Library Database Assistance:

The library offers a web-based access. You can access this site at the following address: http://www.tamuc.edu/library/

Please take a look – you can access these resources and learn about using basic search skills, selecting the best databases for your needs, and accessing the databases both on-campus and off-campus.

If you have any questions or would like to offer some feedback, please contact:
Sarah Northam <Or another reference librarian>
Interim Head of Reference, Gee Library
Phone: 903/886-5714
Email: **Sarah.Northam**@tamuc.edu

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@tamu-commerce.edu

Technical Problems/Questions:

eCollege: I AM NOT TECHNICAL SUPPORT! Technical assistance is available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week. 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 course screen. An email box will appear. Fill out this technical support form, click submit, and your questions 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., you can't log in to the course, you 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 sending an email to helpdesk@online.tamuc.org or by calling 866-656-5511. Additionally, you can click on the "Help" button located at the top of each page for more information.

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 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.

.