

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING – FALL 2006
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
TAMKANG UNIVERSITY

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COURSE AIM

This course is intended to acquaint students with basic concepts of financial accounting. Specifically, this course is designed to help students understand the basic financial statements with the analysis of specific components of balance sheet, income statement, and statement of cash flows.

COURSE MATERIALS

Financial Accounting (5th edition) by Jerry Weygandt, Donald E. Kieso, and Paul D. Kimmel, Wiley, 2006.

FORMAT OF CLASSES

The majority of class time involves recitation, demonstration, discussion, and lectures on the assigned topics. The class will be conducted in a manner suitable to encourage student participation, consistent with the course objectives. Given that this is a one-semester course, the discussion of chapters and problems will focus on the significant points only. However, students are expected to read all assigned materials **before** coming to class.

You may also from time to time be given homework assignments that ask you to be a little more expansive in your thinking. One or more groups of students will go to the board and present a solution to an assigned problem. Students that are not presenting will be called on to correct, comment on, or verify a solution that is being presented. The purpose of this approach is to ensure that students keep up with the class.

The only prerequisite for this course is English proficiency, given that this is an all-English class. If you need help, call on me during my office hours. Even if you do not need help, please feel free to stop by and say hello.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Your grade at the end of the course will depend on your ability to demonstrate your understanding of the basic financial accounting concepts. The course grade will be determined as follows:

Class Participation	10%
Group Project and Presentation	15%
Quizzes	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Class Participation (worth 10% of total assessment): Class participation will be based on students' contribution to class discussions during the lectures. Each time you make a positive contribution, you will be awarded one participation point. The student who has the highest number of participation points will be awarded full marks for class participation (10%). The other students will then be marked in relation to this student. Attendance to class does not constitute class participation. However, attendance is mandatory in this course.

Group Project and Presentation (worth 15% of total assessment): Students are required to write a group project and to make an oral presentation before the final exam. The group project will be to perform a financial statement analysis, using the techniques from Chapter 15 in the textbook, for a U.S. public company in a selected industry. Each group will be assigned a chosen company for their project few weeks before their presentations. Each member's grade on the project will be the group grade, assessed by me, adjusted by the depth of content of each student's input. This marking scheme should be a strong incentive for all group members to give their best effort in contributing to the presentations, since it will not allow someone, who did not contribute fairly to the group effort, to receive the same mark as the rest of group members.

The group project should be no more than 15 double-spaced, single-sided, and typed pages preceded by a cover page with each member's name and designated role on the project and a one-page "executive summary," and followed by the chosen company's financial statements. The highest degree of professionalism is expected.

Quizzes (worth 25% of total assessment): Three quizzes will be given during the semester.

Midterm Test (worth 25% of total assessment): A midterm examination will be held during the exam period (Nov. 13-19). Make-up tests will not be granted.

Final Test (worth 25% of total assessment): The final examination will be held during the exam period (Jan. 3-9). Make-up tests will not be granted.

The final grade for each student will be based on his/her cumulative score in each of the above areas of assessment. Students must satisfactorily complete all major tasks in order to pass the course.

TENTATIVE OUTLINE

Week	Date	Topic
1	Sep. 12	Introduction to Course/Syllabus Overview Chapter 1 – Why Accounting Matters
2	Sep. 19	Chapter 1 – Why Accounting Matters
3	Sep. 26	Chapter 2 – Understanding the Recording Process
4	Oct. 3	Chapter 2 – Understanding the Recording Process
5	Oct. 10	National Holiday
6	Oct. 17	Chapter 3 – Adjusting Accounts Properly
7	Oct. 24	Chapter 3 – Adjusting Accounts Properly
8	Oct. 31	Chapter 4 – The Accounting Cycle Process
9	Nov. 7	Chapter 4 – The Accounting Cycle Process
10	Nov. 13-19	<i>Midterm Exam</i>
11	Nov. 21	Chapter 15 – Analyzing Financial Statements
12	Nov. 28	Chapter 15 – Analyzing Financial Statements
13	Dec. 5	Chapter 5 – Accounting for Merchandisers
14	Dec. 12	Chapter 5 – Accounting for Merchandisers
15	Dec. 19	<i>Class Presentation and Group Project Due</i>
16	Dec. 26	<i>Class Presentation and Group Project Due</i>
17	Jan. 2	National Holiday
18	Jan. 3-9	<i>Final Exam</i>

I wish you a productive semester and success in your studies.