

Management 4 / Economics 4 Financial Accounting

Summer 1 2016

Center Hall 212: Mo / Tu / We / Th 12:30 to 1:50pm

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Teaching Fellows:

Description

This is a lecture course and a broad-based introduction to financial accounting. It serves as a prerequisite for the Accounting minor at Rady, the Management Science major, and the International Business major at GBS. For this reason, we will look at accounting from two perspectives: the producer perspective and the user perspective. Accounts are trained to translate commercial transactions into aggregate summaries of business performance, i.e. financial reports. Economists and financial analysts are trained to interpret accounting results and make asset allocation and/or investment decisions based on financial reports.

OBJECTIVES

- **Explain** the Accounting Cycle.
- **Demonstrate** how commercial transactions are translated into communications about financial performance.
- **Understand** the difference between cash flows and accrual profits.
- **Describe** the influence that a firm's accounting policies have on that firm's reported profits.

MATERIALS

- 1) Course Reader & Workbook. Summer 2016 Edition. UCSD Bookstore.
- 2) Nordstrom, Inc. 2015-16 Form 10-K, Annual Report, on the Course webpage.
- 3) All items on the course webpage: PPT Slides, Syllabus, Articles, and Financial Reports:
- 4) A few dozen 3x5 index cards

GRADING

Assignments	Date	Weights
One In-class Quiz.	Professor's Summer Calendar	10 percent
One Midterm Exam	Professor's Summer Calendar	25 percent
Participation including Attendance	Get involved	15 percent
Final Exam	July 29, 2016 @ 11:30am	50 percent
Total		100 percent

SCHEDULE

Date	Assignments	Topics
Week 1	Reader Ch. 1-2	Financial Accounting & Reporting and Conceptual Foundations
Week 2	Reader Ch. 3-4	Financial Accounting: the Process
Week 3	Reader Ch. 5	Doing It
Week 4	Reader Ch. 5-6	Doing It w/ Cash
Week 5	Reader Ch. 7-8	Creative & Hollywood Accounting

Teaching Assistants

Our Teaching Fellows will grade and record scores and hold one office hour each week, week.

POLICIES

Professionalism. Accounting is a professional art. Now is a good time to adopt professional habits: seek help and ask questions, speak clearly, be polite, be punctual (it's difficult at UCSD), do not procrastinate, follow instructions, and do not make excuses.

Grades. Grades will be "curved" at the class average based on rank, with marginal exception only for significantly improved performance on the final exam. The "Top" student in the course will receive an A+. A final score of 90% will guarantee an "A" letter grade. Often, however, a lower score will earn an "A". In any case, at least 5 percent of the class will receive a letter grade of "A". I put no limit on "A-" grades. I simply look for solid, discriminating performance and consider significant improvements in performance on an *above average* base.

A final score of 60% will guarantee a "P" and/or "C-" letter grade, however there are circumstances when a passing grade will be awarded for a final score less than 60.

Scores. Scores will be posted as quickly as exams are graded and recorded. Highlighted scores indicate special circumstances: **OK** (roll-over score) to **Bad** (not following instruction), and **Very Bad** (no *Number* or seeking an unfair advantage over peers)

Pay attention to your scores – occasionally there are recording mistakes – let someone know; **no revisions will be made to any score after two weeks from initial recording.**

The Reader may be used during exams. You may write in your Reader and add tabs or sticky notes. **Do not add extra pages or append *duplicated* information,** especially old exams. If you violate this stipulation, then you will lose the privilege of using your Reader during all exams.

Exams. All three exams are multiple-choice assessments. Bring a Scantron and a lead pencil. Students *may partner-up* on the first midterm exam. This is an option, not a requirement. A partnership is two persons. Partners may share information and converse quietly during the exam. **Each partner must turn-in a Scantron.** Pick-up your exams, all unclaimed documents will be destroyed 2 weeks from the date that scores are recorded.

NUMBERS. On July 1, 2016, each student will be assigned a **NUMBER** to identify assignments for grade recording purposes. **NUMBERS** are not PIDs. *Numbering* is sequential and in alphabetical order – if your last name begins with the letter “A” then your number will likely be something between 1 and 10; if your last name begins with the letter “Z” then your number will likely be between 130 or higher. No one will have a number greater than 170. This means that **your NUMBER will be a 3 digit integer.** **Find** your NUMBER by looking for the last 4 digits of your PID on the *Scores Sheet*. If you cannot find your number on the Scores Sheet, ask a Teaching Assistant.

NUMBERS are required on all assignments. No number, no score, no exceptions.

Sleeping. Do this at home or in the library, not during lecture. There is no shame in fatigue, so if you become drowsy during lectures, stand at the back of the hall. Sleeping in public is unprofessional. It indicates a lack of discipline and is demeaning to yourself and your peers. There will be no warnings about this. **If you fall asleep during lecture (even once), you will be given an “F” grade for the course,** regardless of your scores.

Missing a Quiz or Exam. Any missed quiz or exam will be rolled-over to the next, most similar assignment. The professor must be informed within 12 hours of the missed exam unless something serious occurs. You need not explain.

Email. Email is a useful way to exchange information. It is not however, a medium of instruction. Use it for simple, close-ended, factual inquiries, not for open-ended explanations. In addition, **use your UCSD email address.** For security purposes, non-UCSD emails will not be opened. Check you UCSD emails. Periodically, the professor will email important information but only to your UCSD email.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. As members of the U.C. community, we pledge ourselves to uphold the highest ethical standards. The University expects that both faculty and students honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work and the academic credentials awarded. Read the Code. The complete UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship can be viewed at: <http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/Appendices/Appendix2.pdf>

We are all adults so I assume that we each know right from wrong. If you are unsure, ask the professor. We expect you each to do your own work. It is extremely important that the playing field remain level for all. Do not seek (for yourself) or assist another student in acquiring an advantage or obtaining unearned credit on any required or graded activity. Any attempt to tilt the playing field in favor of anyone will earn an “F” grade for the course.

The exam environment is not a teaching environment. During exams, no questions will be answered. None. If you find a typo or don’t understand a word on the exam, raise your hand and point to the typo or word on your exam.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

A student who has a disability or special need and requires an accommodation in order to have equal access to the classroom must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). The OSD will determine what accommodations may be made and provide the necessary documentation to present to the faculty member.

The student must present the OSD letter of certification and OSD accommodation recommendation to the appropriate faculty member in order to initiate the request for accommodation in classes, examinations, or other academic program activities. **No accommodations can be implemented retroactively.**