

**THE LEONARD N. STERN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
ACCT-GB.1306: FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING
Fall 2015**

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1. Introduction

This introductory accounting course assumes no prior academic knowledge of accounting. The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the concepts of financial accounting and its underlying assumptions. We will discuss the uses and limitations of the financial statements. Procedural aspects of accounting will be discussed in order to enhance your understanding of the content of the financial statements. However, the emphasis of the class is on using accounting information in the evaluation of business performance and risk. This aspect will be highlighted throughout, but more so in the second part of the course (after the midterm).

2. Required Textbook

The textbook is Horngren, Sundem, Elliott & Philbrick, Introduction to Financial Accounting, 11th edition (2014, Prentice Hall, ISBN-10: 0133251039). The book's suggested retail price is \$249.87; used books are available for a discount (see, for example, www.amazon.com).

3. Preparation for Class Sessions

Assigned Chapters and Problems

The most effective and efficient use of classroom time teaching introductory-level financial accounting aims at reinforcing or clarifying what you have tried to learn on your own before entering the classroom. Hence, prior to each class you should read the assigned chapters and do the assigned problems listed on the syllabus. Doing problems is the best way to learn accounting and to understand how the transactions affect the financial statements. All assigned problems should be completed before coming to class, and must be *hand-written*; they will be collected at the beginning of class and returned the following class. The assignments will be graded as either zero (no credit due to insufficient effort) or one. Solutions to all problems will be available on *NYU Classes* once they are collected. The assigned problems will be used in class discussions; be prepared to answer questions regarding them in class.

Mini-Cases

The class discussions will also focus on two “mini-cases” that will be available on *NYU Classes*. These cases, which must be *hand-written*, will be collected at the beginning of class and returned the following class. This is a group project (the group size should not exceed four); you do not have to work with the same people on every case. The cases will also be graded as either zero or one. Solutions to all mini-cases will be available on *NYU Classes* once they are collected.

Articles

Various articles will be handed out during class. They provide you with the viewpoints of academicians, practitioners, business journalists, corporate managers, regulators, politicians, and stock analysts on accounting issues. Although most of the articles are not technical, to fully understand the issues they raise you need a sound understanding of the material covered in the related chapters of the text. You are responsible for the content of these articles.

4. Learning Accounting

Experience in this course suggests the following:

- Classes make extensive use of homework problems assigned from the text and the mini cases. I will not discuss all the assigned work in class. You will learn accounting better (and will perform better on the problem-oriented exam) if you do the assigned reading and if you work on the assigned problems prior to each class.
- Each class in Financial Accounting builds on material from previous classes. You therefore must keep up to date, or you will find subsequent classes difficult.
- Data from course evaluations of earlier offerings of this course suggest that you should plan to spend ten or so hours each week outside class on the readings, cases, and problems.
- Showing up late to class disrupts class, so I do not permit late entrance, defined as arriving at the door more than one minute after scheduled start time.

5. Teaching Assistant

Block No.	Classroom	Name	Office Hours (KMC 10-181)	E-Mail
1		Letian Feng	Monday, 4:20 – 6:00	lf1402@stern.nyu.edu
2		Benjamin Jarvis	Wednesday, 1:00 - 2:00	bj588@stern.nyu.edu
4		David Liang	Friday, 10:00 - 11:30	dcl341@stern.nyu.edu

6. NYU Classes

All course materials including the solutions manual, this syllabus, the two electronic progress tests, the lectures notes, and the cases are available through NYU Classes, a web-based course administration package. To access *NYU Classes*, please log in to <http://sternlife.stern.nyu.edu/> with your Stern netID and password, and then click on the *NYU Classes* link.

7. Grading

Examinations

There are two open-books electronic progress tests, which should be completed online through *NYU Classes* (<http://sternlife.stern.nyu.edu/>, logging in using your Stern netID and password) within the specific time period indicated in the class schedule. There are also two cumulative in-class examinations. You should bring a calculator (simple, financial, or scientific) to these exams; laptops are not allowed. I will not give a makeup midterm examination for any reason. If you miss the midterm examination and have a valid reason, I will base the examination portion of your course grade on the two electronic progress tests, and the final exam (see below for details). All in-class exams are closed books/notes; you may bring in one 8.5"x11" sheet of notes, and hand write or type on the front, back, and edges of the sheet.

Course Grade Computation

Classroom Professionalism	15%
Diagnostic Test 1 (Oct. 1 – Oct. 3)	5%
Diagnostic Test 2 (Oct. 8 – Oct. 10)	5%
Weekly Problem Assignments (including mini-cases)	10%
Midterm Examination (Nov. 2)	25%*
Cumulative Final Examination (Dec. 14)	40%*
	<u>100%</u>

*If the final exam score exceeds that of the midterm, then the weights are 0% midterm exam and 65% final exam.

CLASS SCHEDULE			
Date	Day	Reading Assignment	Assigned Problems / Mini-Cases ¹
1. Sep. 21	Mon.	Introduction: Organizational Issues, and Introduction to Financial Accounting Chapter 1: The Balance Sheet	1-40, 1-43, 1-55
2. Sep. 28	Mon.	Chapter 2: Income and Cash Flow Statements; Accrual vs. Cash-Basis Accounting; Income Recognition	2-33, 2-52, 2-55
3. Oct. 1, Thur., 7am – Oct., 3, Sat., 9pm		DIAGNOSTIC TEST 1: Measuring Income	45 min.; 15 questions.
4. Oct. 5	Mon.	Chapter 3: Recording Transactions and the Accounting Cycle	3-28, 3-39, 3-51
5. Oct. 8, Fri., 7am – Oct. 10, Sat., 9pm		DIAGNOSTIC TEST 2: Recording Transactions	45 min.; 15 questions.
6. Oct. 12	Mon.	Chapter 4: The Adjustment and Closing Processes Chapters 1-4: Communicating Financial Information	4-22, 4-31, 4-47 Case: AOL (Available on <i>NYU Classes</i>).
7. Oct. 19	Mon.	Chapter 6: Revenue, Cash and Accounts Receivable Chapter 9: Time Value of Money (pp. 422-429)	6-46, 6-75 9-46
8. Oct. 26	Mon.	Chapter 7: Inventory and Cost of Goods Sold Review: Chapters 1-4 & 6	7-45, 7-58 Sample midterm exam (Available on <i>NYU Classes</i>)
9. Nov. 2	Mon.	MIDTERM EXAM (Chapters 1-4 & 6)	
10. Nov. 9	Mon.	Chapter 7 (cont'd): Inventory and Cost of Goods Sold Chapter 8: Long-Lived Assets	7-75, 7-78 8-41, 8-48, 8-60, 8-72 Case: Delta Airlines (Available on <i>NYU Classes</i>).
11. Nov. 16	Mon.	Chapter 11: Acquisitions & Goodwill (pp. 504-509; 515-516) Chapter 9: Current Liabilities (pp. 386-393)	11-36 9-38, 9-39
12. Nov. 23	Mon.	Chapter 9 (cont'd): Accounting for Bonds (pp. 394-405) Review: Chapters 7, 8, 9, & 11	9-59, 9-66, 9-69

CLASS SCHEDULE			
Date	Day	Reading Assignment	Assigned Problems / Mini-Cases ¹
13. Nov. 30	Mon.	Chapter 5: Preparing the Cash Flow Statement	5-49, 5-50
14. Dec. 7	Mon.	Chapter 5: Preparing the Cash Flow Statement (Cont'd) Review: Chapters 1-9 & 11	5-56 Sample final exam (Available on <i>NYU Classes</i>).
15. Dec. 14	Mon.	FINAL EXAM (Chapters 1-9 & 11)	

¹ Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date shown; no need to turn in sample exams.