

**THE LEONARD N. STERN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
ACCT-GB.1306: FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING
Fall 2016**

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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. I strongly recommend that all assigned problems be *hand-written*, completed before coming to class, and turned in at the beginning of class. Still, all assignments are subject to one-week grace period. The assignments will be graded as either zero (no credit due to insufficient effort) or one, and be returned the following class. 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 (no grace period) and returned the following class. This is a group project, and you should work with your assigned study group or on your own. 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 it requires a relatively large amount of time devoted to both reading and working on problems and cases.
- 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 (KMEC 10-181)	E-Mail
1	KMEC 3-50	Eytan Veitzman	Wednesdays, 3-4 pm	ev747@stern.nyu.edu
2	KMEC 3-50	Michael Trentham	Mondays, 3-4 pm	mlt401@stern.nyu.edu
4	KMEC 3-50	Madi Kapparov	Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 pm	mk5710@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 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, which may be hand written or typed on the front, back, and edges.

Course Grade Computation

Classroom Professionalism	15%
Diagnostic Test 1 (Sep. 24 – Sep. 26)	5%
Diagnostic Test 2 (Oct. 1 – Oct. 3)	5%
Weekly Problem and Mini-Case Assignments	10%
Midterm Examination (Nov. 2)	25%*
Cumulative Final Examination (TBA)	<u>40%*</u>
	<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. 7	Wed.	Introduction: Organizational Issues, and Introduction to Financial Accounting (purpose; users; institutional setting) Chapter 1: The Balance Sheet	1-40, 1-43, 1-55
2. Sep. 14	Wed.	Chapter 2: Income and Cash Flow Statements; Accrual vs. Cash-Basis Accounting; Income Recognition	2-33, 2-52, 2-55
3. Sep. 21	Wed.	Chapter 3: Recording Transactions and the Accounting Cycle	3-28, 3-39, 3-51
4. Sep. 24, Sat., 7am – Sep. 26, Mon., 7pm		DIAGNOSTIC TEST 1: Measuring Income (Chapters 1 & 2)	45 min.; 15 questions.
5. Sep. 28	Wed.	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>).
6. Oct. 1, Sat., 7am – Oct. 3, Mon., 7pm		DIAGNOSTIC TEST 2: Recording Transactions (Chapter 3)	45 min.; 15 questions.
7. Oct. 5	Wed.	Chapter 6: Revenue, Cash and Accounts Receivable Chapter 9: Time Value of Money (pp. 422-429)	6-46, 6-75 9-46
8. Oct. 19	Wed.	Chapter 7: Inventory and Cost of Goods Sold	7-45, 7-58 Sample midterm exam (Available on <i>NYU Classes</i>)
9. Oct. 26	Wed.	Chapter 7 (cont'd): Inventory and Cost of Goods Sold Review: Chapters 1-4 & 6	7-65, 7-78
10. Nov. 2	Wed.	MIDTERM EXAM (Chapters 1-4 & 6)	
11. Nov. 9	Wed.	Chapter 8: Long-Lived Assets Chapter 11: Acquisitions & Goodwill (pp. 504-509; 515-516)	8-41, 8-48, 8-60, 8-72 Case: Delta Airlines (Available on <i>NYU Classes</i>). 11-36
12. Nov. 16	Wed.	Chapter 9: Current Liabilities (pp. 386-393) Review: Chapters 7, 8, 9, & 11	9-38, 9-39

CLASS SCHEDULE			
Date	Day	Reading Assignment	Assigned Problems / Mini-Cases¹
13. Nov. 23	Wed.	THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS	
14. Nov. 30	Wed.	Chapter 9 (cont'd): Accounting for Bonds (pp. 394-405) Chapter 5: Preparing the Cash Flow Statement	9-59, 9-66, 9-69 5-49, 5-50
15. Dec. 7	Wed.	Chapter 5: Preparing the Cash Flow Statement (Cont'd)	5-56 Sample final exam (Available on <i>NYU Classes</i>).
16. Dec. 14	Wed.	Chapter 5: Preparing the Cash Flow Statement (Cont'd) Review: Chapters 1-9 & 11	

¹ Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date shown (with one-week grace period for problems); no need to turn in sample exams.