



PRINCIPLES OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

Spring 2018

Tuesday and Thursday

ACCT-UB.0001.08, 9:30-10:45am, T-UC25

ACCT-UB.0001.09, 11:00-12:15pm, T-UC25

ACCT-UB.0001.10, 2:00-3:15pm, T-UC25

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Michael (Minye) Tang

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Phone: 212-998-0087

Office: KMC 10th Floor, Suite 10-84

Office Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:15-4:45pm (walk in) or by appointments for other times

I will have more office hours before exams.

Teaching Assistants (TA's):

Joy Liu (jl7259@stern.nyu.edu): Homework #1, #3, #5.

Rohit Nadkarni (rn1056@stern.nyu.edu): Homework #2, #4, and #6.

Yitong (Norah) Zhang (yz1992@stern.nyu.edu): Practice exams and any other questions.

Please contact TA's if you have any question as listed above. If emails cannot solve your problem, you can also make an appointment with them when necessary.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is intended for students with no previous exposure to financial accounting. The objective is to help you become intelligent readers of the financial reports of publicly-traded companies. The course focuses on the development, analysis and use of these reports. It also provides an understanding of what these reports contain, what assumptions and concepts accountants use to prepare them, and why they use those assumptions and concepts. A solid understanding of the fundamentals covered in this course should enable you to do well in more advanced finance and accounting courses and to interview intelligently for jobs in finance and consulting.

The course begins with the basic concepts of accounting. We look at the main financial statements: balance sheet, income statement, statement of cash flows, and statement of stockholders' equity. Particular attention is paid to how these four statements relate to each other and how they provide information about the financial health of a company. We then cover specific items from the financial statements and apply tools of analysis whenever possible.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook (optional): Libby, Libby and Short (LLS), *Financial Accounting, 8th or 9th Edition*. The NYU Custom Edition is also fine. There is no need to acquire an Access Code for this course. To reduce your expense, you may also consider sharing a textbook with teammates of your group, as there is a group project for this course, which I will explain later. The textbook covers the basic material in the course, including background information, accounting rules and conventions. It is highly recommended that students come to class prepared to discuss the scheduled topics by going over the slides on NYU Class. Chapters and pages from the textbook will be assigned for the relevant topics for background reading.

Lecture Slides: Most lectures will use the aid of PowerPoint slides, which will be available prior to each class on NYU Classes. You should print your own copies before class in whatever format works best for you and at least browse through the slides so that you can get the most out of the lectures.

Other Materials: I will be using NYU Classes to post other materials such as notes and homework assignments, and to communicate with you throughout the term.

GRADING POLICY

Final grades will be determined as follows:

Homework Assignments	15%
Midterm Exam 1	15%
Midterm Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	45%
Class Participation	5%
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Total Grades	100%

Homework: There will be 6 individual homework assignments (10%) and 1 group assignment (5%). For the individual homework, you need to submit only 5 of the individual homework. If you submit all 6, the highest 5 scores will be counted to your grade. You may discuss with one another but you must submit your own homework. Copying others' homework is considered as plagiarism and is subject to disciplinary actions. You must submit a hardcopy of your completed homework at the beginning of class on the due date; late homework will not be accepted. I will not accept assignments in my mailbox, over the web, through e-mail, etc. Please make a copy or take a photo of your homework for record purpose before submitting your homework in class. Solutions to homework will be posted to NYU Classes after the homework due dates.

For the group assignment, you need to form a group of two or three students in your class and write an industry report of 6-10 pages. Although the report is due at the end of the semester, there will be a task given to you with each individual assignment, focusing on various parts of financial statements that we have just covered in class. Your report must contain at least one page on each required task. Each group must submit a hardcopy of your final report on the due date as indicated on this syllabus. All members of the group will receive the same grade based on your final report.

I will also hand pick textbook problems that are useful and reinforce basic accounting proficiency, but they will not be submitted or graded. Doing problems is the best way to learn accounting.

Solutions to these problems will be uploaded on NYU Classes.

Exams: There will be three exams, two midterms and one final. All exam questions can resemble questions from homework assignments, lectures, and even textbook problems. The first two exams are tentatively scheduled for February 22 and April 5, 2018.

Exam dates will NOT be rescheduled for any individual student. If you miss any exam, you will receive zero credit for that exam.

Re-Grading: If you believe your exam or homework is incorrectly graded, submit your request to me within seven days of the return of the exam or the posting of homework grades. Include a memo which clearly explains your contention. Exams that have been altered in any way will not be re-graded, the exam score will be changed to a zero, and the Student Disciplinary Committee will be notified. Only exams written in pen (not pencil) will be accepted for a re-grade.

Class Participation: This course will emphasize participatory and collaborative learning. Hence, a portion of your mark will be based on your verbal participation and contribution to class discussions.

STERN POLICIES

General Behavior: The School expects that students will conduct themselves with respect and professionalism toward faculty, students, and other present in class and will follow the rules laid down by the instructor for class room behavior.

Code of Conduct: As a student at Stern, you are expected to conduct yourself as a young business professional. The Stern School does not tolerate cheating, nor does your future employer. Please know that the penalty for cheating is an automatic grade of F for the course and appearance before the Student Disciplinary Committee. I am very strict on this issue. I will do what I can to help you learn the material in this course. All I ask is that you do not cheat yourself, your fellow classmates or the Stern School of Business. Please see www.stern.nyu.edu/uc/codeofconduct for more information.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a qualified disability and will require academic accommodation, please contact the Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) and provide me with a letter from them verifying your registration and outlining the accommodations they recommend. Please see www.nyu.edu/csd for more information. If you will need to take an exam at the CSD, you must submit a completed Exam Accommodations Form to them at least two weeks prior to the scheduled exam time to be guaranteed accommodation.

Grading Guidelines: At NYU Stern, we strive to create courses that challenge students intellectually and that meet the Stern standards of academic excellence. To ensure fairness and clarity of grading, the Stern faculties have adopted a grading guideline for core courses with enrollments of more than 25 students in which about (but not more than) 35% of students will receive an “A” or “A-” grade and the median grade is “B”.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The following is a tentative schedule of classes, readings and assignments. I may make adjustments as circumstances require.

DATE	TOPICS	READINGS	HOMEWORK
1/23	Introduction	Chapter 1	
1/25	Overview of Accounting and Financial Statements	Chapter 1	#1 due on 2/8
1/30; 2/1	Balance Sheet and Recording the Transactions	Chapter 2	
2/6; 2/8	Income Statement: Cash versus Accrual Accounting	Chapter 3	#2 due on 2/15
2/13	Adjustments and Closing the Books	Chapter 4	
2/15	Misstatement, Fraud and the Hall of Shame		
2/20	Review for Midterm 1		
2/22	Midterm Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)		
2/27; 3/1; 3/6	Statement of Cash Flows	Chapter 12	#3 due on 3/8
3/8	Margins and EPS	Pp. 122; 177; 549	
3/13; 3/15	<i>Spring Break, No Classes</i>		
3/20; 3/22	Liabilities	Chapter 9	#4 due on 3/29
3/27; 3/29	Bonds	Chapter 10	
4/3	Review for Midterm 2		
4/5	Midterm Exam 2 (Chapters 12, 9,10)		
4/10; 4/12	Shareholders' Equity	Chapter 11	#5 due on 4/19
4/17	Revenue, Receivables, and Cash	Chapter 6	
4/19	COGS and Inventory	Chapter 7	#6 due on 4/26
4/24	Property, Plant, and Equipment	Chapter 8	
4/26	Financial Statement Analysis: Ratio Analysis		
5/1	Basic Valuation of Firms and Stocks		Group report due
5/3	Review for Final		
Final Exam	TBA		