



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
STERN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
ACCT-UB.1
PRINCIPLES OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING
SECTION 3 (ONLINE)
(SUMMER 2023)

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: Mondays: 3 – 5 PM (Zoom)

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TEACHING ASSISTANT

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Principles of Financial Accounting! Financial accounting is the measurement of economic activity, and financial statements are the key products of this measurement process. The objective of the course is for you to learn how to read, understand, and analyze financial statements, the key measurement of economic activities for firms. The focus of this course is to learn the methods and rules used to develop financial statements, interpret and analyze financial information, and understand where there is discretion in reporting financial results. The course is intended for students with no prior accounting background and will focus more on real-life examples than other traditional introductory financial accounting courses.

The course will begin with basic accounting concepts and principles. Throughout the course, we will go over the main financial statements: balance sheet, income statement, statement of cash flows, and statement of stockholders' equity. Particular attention is paid to exploring how these four statements are constructed, how they relate to each other, and how they convey information about the financial health of a company.

MATERIALS

- There is **NO required textbook** for this course. All the lecture notes, slides, and assignments will be posted on Brightspace.
- If you really need a textbook for reference, my recommended one is Libby, Libby, and Hodge (LLH) Fundamentals of Financial Accounting, 11th edition (McGraw-Hill). **Note that the exam will be solely based on lecture notes, slides, pre-recorded videos and assignments, but NOT on LLH.**

COURSE COMPONENTS AND ASSESSMENT SCHEME

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Memos After Class | 10% |
| In-Class Participation/ Attendance | 10% |
| Homework | 20% |
| Midterm Exam | 25% |
| Final Exam | 35% |

To ensure fairness in grading, the Stern faculty have adopted a grading guideline for undergraduate core courses with enrollments of more than 25 students. Approximately 35% of students will receive “A” or “A-” grades.

I reserve the right to adjust your final grade based on your level of participation and your professionalism in class. Each component of the class is discussed below in detail.

Memos:

After each lecture, you are **required to submit a memo to reflect on your key takeaways and share any confusion about the lecture content.** The memos will let me know the topics that need further clarification. I will read every memo and your questions raised in the memo will be addressed in the next class. Each after-class memo will be open for 24 hours, starting from the end of every class, and will constitute 1% of your course grade. Please finish it on time so that I can prepare for the class accordingly.

Homework:

The homework is designed to let you familiarize yourself with the concepts and methods taught in class. I will give FIVE assignments in total. The tentative due date can be viewed in the Class Schedule. I will post the homework on Brightspace one week before the due date, and you should finish it individually. I encourage collaborations when finishing your homework, but each student will need to submit her own copy before the deadline.

You should submit a **single typed PDF document** for each homework. Please include all your work and corresponding question number in that PDF file. Any other attachments will not be graded. The submission portal will be closed at the exact due time, and no late homework will be accepted.

Exams:

There will be one midterm and one final exam during the semester. All exams will be open book and open notes. Please note that you can use your personal notes but any discussion, collaboration, screenshots, sharing of answers or any other correspondence with an outside source is a violation of the honor code (and it will hurt your standing in the class). Although the exams are open book, there is no time to "hunt and gather" answers so I highly recommend you prepare accordingly. The midterm exam will cover the materials until Lecture 5 of the slides/notes. The final exam will be cumulative, but the focus will be the materials that are not covered in the midterm.

Participation/Attendance:

As this course is conducted online, consistent attendance via Zoom is required. Your log-in and log-out times will be monitored during each class, and maintaining punctuality and full participation will contribute 5% towards your overall course grade. While it is highly recommended that you enable your camera during class sessions, we understand that some may have concerns. If necessary, please email me to discuss your situation. Habitual absence or camera-off attendance without a valid reason is considered unprofessional and may impact your grades.

This course will also incorporate group exercises using Zoom's 'breakout room' feature. Engage actively in these discussions, as I will visit each room to monitor progress and address any questions. Active participation in group activities will account for another 5% of your final grade.

Pre-Recorded Videos:

There will be occasionally pre-recorded videos that I would like you to watch before class. Please watch them as we will not go over the materials with you in details during the class but only discuss the questions you have. The materials covered in the pre-recorded videos will appear in the exam.

Brightspace:

I will use Brightspace to make announcements, email you, and post lecture notes, assignments, and other course material. So please make sure you check our site on a regular basis.

Gradescope:

All your assignments and exams should be submitted to Gradescope. I will send you the instructions before the class.

Class Recordings:

With few exceptions, all classes will be recorded. The recordings are available on Zoom tab of Brightspace.

Integrity is critical to the learning process and to all that we do here at NYU Stern. As members of our community, all students agree to abide by the NYU Stern Student Code of Conduct, which includes a commitment to:

- Exercise integrity in all aspects of one's academic work including, but not limited to, the preparation and completion of exams, papers, and all other course requirements by not engaging in any method or means that provides an unfair advantage.
- Clearly acknowledge the work and efforts of others when submitting written work as one's own. Ideas, data, direct quotations (which should be designated with quotation marks), paraphrasing, creative expression, or any other incorporation of the work of others should be fully referenced.
- Refrain from behaving in ways that knowingly support, assist, or in any way attempt to enable another person to engage in any violation of this Code of Conduct. Our support also includes reporting any observed violations of this Code of Conduct or other School and University policies that are deemed to adversely affect the NYU Stern community.

The entire Stern Student Code of Conduct applies to all students enrolled in Stern courses and can be found here: www.stern.nyu.edu/uc/codeofconduct

GENERAL CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR

Students are also expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards of professional conduct and behavior. Please familiarize yourself with Stern's Policy in regard to In-Class Behavior & Expectations

(<http://www.stern.nyu.edu/portal-partners/current-tudents/undergraduate/resources-policies/academic-policies/index.htm>) and the NYU Disruptive Behavior Policy (<http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/bullying--threatening--and-other-disruptive-behavior-guidelines.html>).

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY

If you will require academic accommodation of any kind during this course, please notify me at the beginning of the course and provide a letter from the Moses Center for Students Accessibility (CSA, <https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/student-accessibility.html>) verifying your registration and outlining the accommodations they recommend. If you will need to take an exam at the Moses Center for Student Accessibility, you must submit a completed Exam Accommodations Form to them at least one week prior to the scheduled exam date to be guaranteed accommodation.

CLASS SCHEDULE

| Class | Date | Topics | HW Due |
|-------|------------------|--|---|
| 1 | Mo 05/22/2021 | Overview of Financial Accounting | |
| 2 | We 05/24/2021 | The Flow of Accounting Information Statement of Cash Flow (Direct Method) | Pre-Recorded Videos for Par Value |
| | Mo 05/29/2021 | No Class - Memorial Day | |
| 3 | We 05/31/2021 | Adjusting Entries | HW 1 |
| 4 | Mo 06/05/2021 | Accounts Receivable Inventory | |
| 5 | We 06/07/2021 | Inventory (Continue) Long-Lived Asset (Property, Plant and Equipment + Intangibles) | HW 2 |
| 6 | Mo 06/12/2021 | Long-Lived Asset (Continue) Current Liabilities - Overview | Pre-Recorded Videos for Time Value of Money |
| 7 | We 06/14/2021 | Midterm Exam (to Inventory) Long-term Liabilities | HW 3 |
| | Mo 06/19/2021 | Juneteenth, No Class | |
| 8 | We 06/21/2021 | Long-term Liabilities Shareholders' Equity | |
| 9 | Mo 06/26/2021 | Shareholders' Equity (Continue) Statement of Cash Flow (Indirect Method) | HW 4 |
| 10 | We 06/28/2021 | Statement of Cash Flow (Indirect Method, Continue) Financial Statement Analysis | |
| 11 | Mo 07/03/2021 | Financial Statement Analysis (Continue) Catch-up / Final Review session | HW 5 |
| 12 | We 07/05/2021 | Final Exam | |