



Principles of Financial Accounting

Summer 2024

WARNING: This course requires constant attention and consistent effort. Batch processing will almost surely be inefficient, frustrating, and unproductive. I urge you to keep up with the busy class schedule, including ONE hour reading before EACH class and up to FOUR hours of weekly homework. It will be worth the investment of your time!!!

Professor Information:

Name: Aleksander A. Aleszczyk
Email: aleszczyk@stern.nyu.edu
Zoom Office Hours: TBA

Teaching Assistants (TAs) Information:

Name: TBA
Email:
Zoom Office Hours:

Course Description:

Welcome to Principles of Financial Accounting! Do you use Instagram, Facebook or Google? Do you wear any Nike or Adidas products or eat at McDonald's or have coffee at Starbucks? If so, all of these companies are required to report their financial results, details such as how much they earn from selling products or services (even the salaries of their top executives!). Detailed financial information is available for "public" companies. But in order to understand the information, you must first learn the "language of business": Accounting. Accounting is the tool businesses use to measure and communicate their financial results. By understanding accounting, not only will you be able to evaluate the current condition of a business but you will also be able to assess its likely future prospects. Our perspective is that of EXTERNAL users of financial information, such as investors, creditors, customers, suppliers, government regulators, and business school students. I will refer to current events that show the impact of accounting in the business world. The objective of this course is not to train you to become an accountant but rather to help you develop into an informed user of financial statement information. Specific objectives include:

- Learning basic vocabulary, definitions, measurement methods, and double-entry procedures associated with accounting and financial management;
- Preparing and interpreting financial accounting reports;
- Articulating how business transactions affect the financial statements;
- Understanding where and when there is discretion in reporting financial results (and the implications).

A solid understanding of accounting is one of the basic building blocks of the business world. You will use the skills you learn in this class in your future classes and future career.

Required Text and Material:

For this course, the required textbook is Libby/Libby/Hodge, Financial Accounting 10th edition provided by McGraw-Hill Education Connect® access The Connect platform will provide full access to the eBook and homework assignments, so you are not required to have a print text. Please be aware if you purchase a used textbook, you will still need to purchase Connect access to complete your homework assignments. In our efforts around affordability, we have a few options for our students as follows:

- **Online - All DIGITAL (most affordable option):** You can purchase Connect (without the print book, but this includes the complete eBook and access to all course content) directly from the course website for **\$105 (TBD)**
- **Print Version at NYU Bookstore:** If you would like a print version of the text and access to Connect, the bookstore is carrying a discounted bundle for **\$157**. ISBN # 9781264082162
- Connect URL – register: [TBD](#)

McGraw Hill Technical Support: If you have technical issues, please contact the McGraw Hill Technical Support Team. The following information is available through links on the Connect pages:

Technical Support Phone Number: 1-800-331-5094

Email and Chat Support: www.mhhe.com/support

Course material:

I will post PDFs that include the relevant PowerPoint slides used during lecture and the problems we will complete together in class. These slides are not a substitute for reading the textbook. The PDFs are interactive worksheets for note-taking and to solve class problems. If you have access to a printer, it is ideal to print and keep the PDFs in chronological order in a binder. The final slides from each class will be posted on Brightspace after we have finished a topic and will include the solutions that we solved together in class.

Grading:

Participation and Professionalism	10%
SmartBook Assignments	5%
Chapter Homework	20%
Midterm I (diagnostic test)	15%
Midterm II	25%
Final Exam	25%

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 faculty have adopted a grading guideline for core courses with enrollments of more than 25 students in which approximately 35% of students will receive an “A” or “A-” grade.

Class Participation, Professionalism and Preparation:

Please read each chapter in advance of our class meeting as our class time will be spent developing a deeper understanding of the material you have already read. My lectures will focus on the more challenging concepts presented in your textbook and I will aim to present the “big picture” of how the concepts build upon each other and relate to each other. Class time will be a collaborative working session of problem-solving and interactive discussion. Additionally, I will also provide articles for class discussion that tie our academic material back to real world current events.

Since you will be engaged in the most difficult processing of information in class, your success depends critically on your presence in our live Zoom class. This is your chance to get help when you need it most from your peers and me. Please make every effort to log in to class on time, **have your camera on** and remain for the entire class period. **During our online class, please limit outside distractions, such as other technology.** I would appreciate knowing if you are going to arrive to class late, and, if you are going to be late, please enter as unobtrusively as possible. If you miss class for exceptional reasons, I would appreciate if you notify me in advance.

I hope you that will be an ACTIVE participant in class. I will do everything I can to make the classroom a hospitable and respectful environment where you feel comfortable expressing your ideas. I would expect you to make the same effort in return. This course strives to support and cultivate diversity of thought, perspectives, and experiences. The intent is to present materials and activities that will challenge your current perspectives with a goal of understanding how others might see situations differently. By participating in this course, it is the expectation that everyone commits to making this an inclusive learning environment for all.

SmartBook Assignments:

This is your online reading and related assignment. You will read material in the book and then answer questions related to that material. SmartBook (SB) is an adaptive reading experience so it will guide you to spend the most amount of time on material you are least familiar with and will not spend extra time on material you already know. SB will work well for you if you read ALL the material (**not just material highlighted in yellow**) AND answer the SB questions honestly. Each time you answer a question, SB will prompt you to rate your confidence in your answer. An honest answer will result in the most learned in the least amount of time. What counts is showing that you have read the text and you are ready to apply the information in a coherent manner. The grading will simply be credit (100%) or no credit (0%). The assignment due date will be on Monday or Wednesday before we begin a chapter. This due date is included on Connect and it is your responsibility to ensure that you submit on time for credit. **Assignments will not be accepted late**, however, I will drop the lowest score of the SB assignments.

Online Graded Homework:

We will be making extensive use of the McGraw-Hill Connect online platform which will allow you to complete your homework anytime and anywhere, get feedback on your work and access additional resources. Please ensure that you register for Connect using the same name and the NYU email address as used in NYU Albert (e.g., aa7648@nyu.edu). Once you purchase the registration code, you will need this URL to register: [TBA](#))

After we have concluded each class topic, Homework (HW) will be due that will give you an opportunity to show me, and yourself, that you have understood and learned the material. I have personally selected all of the problems, so they are representative of important curriculum. You should start working on these assignments as each chapter is discussed in class; do not wait until the last minute to begin HW. I have set up the Connect website so that it will give you immediate feedback after you complete each question. My purpose in doing this is so you will see how you are doing on the assignment as you are completing it and be able to identify the areas you need to revisit to improve. After submitting your assignment, you will see your score, the correct answer, and explanation and the solution. As with SB assignments, the lowest score in HW will be dropped. **You should plan to spend at least 3 hours on weekly homework.**

The assignment will be due after we have completed a chapter (generally, on the Sunday evening of each week). The specific due date and time will be included on Connect and on the syllabus; it is your responsibility to ensure that you submit on time for credit. The assignments are available for you to begin as soon as you like so you are welcome to submit earlier than the due date. **Assignments will not be accepted late**, however, I will drop the lowest score of the HW assignments. **Please understand that completing these homework assignments is the key to success in the course.**

You are welcome and encouraged to discuss and work on homework with your classmates. The answers you submit via Connect must be YOUR answers and submitted electronically by YOU; in other words, no one else should have your login details and submit answers on your behalf. Please note that Connect presents the same problems using different numbers for different students, thus, you can discuss/analyze problems theoretically as a group but your actual answers will differ from your classmates.

Extra Practice Assignments:

In addition to the graded assigned homework, the syllabus will include additional practice problems. Out of respect for your busy schedules, these problems will not be due or part of your grade, however, you should complete them to ensure sufficient reinforcement of the material. I strongly encourage you to complete the additional problems in small groups of 4 to 6 students. Although the assignments are available on Connect, I would highly recommend that you complete them **on paper**. Although the digital Connect platform is a wonderful and convenient tool, solving problems on paper is very important and will help prepare you for the midterms and final (which are on paper!). Your textbook and Connect include even more practice problems that you can solve for areas that you find particularly challenging. I have assigned the “due date” for these extra practice assignments to be the next midterm date; I have also set up these assignments so you can return to them after the due date for extra study attempts.

If you are diligent in attending class, completing the in-class problems and the textbook assignments (graded and ungraded), you will master the curriculum.

Midterm and Final Exams:

There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. All exams will be cumulative. **Make-up exams are not permitted.**

Correspondence:

General course questions should be posted to NYU Brightspace' Discussions. By doing so, the entire class can see questions posted by students and the responses. If you have questions of a private nature, please email the TAs or the Professor directly.

When emailing, please include your full name and **class time/section** in the email. If you are emailing about a specific homework problem, please include a screenshot as we may not have access to the textbook.

Academic Integrity

Our undergraduate [Academics Pillar](#) states that we take pride in our well-rounded education and approach our academics with honesty and integrity. Indeed, integrity is critical to all that we do here at NYU Stern. As members of our community, all students agree to abide by the [NYU Academic Integrity Policies](#) as well as 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 the 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 [Stern Code of Conduct](#) and Judiciary Process applies to all students enrolled in Stern courses.

General Conduct & 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-students/undergraduate/resources-policies/academic-policies/index.htm>) and the NYU Student Conduct Policy (<https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-student-conduct-policy.html>).

Students Accessibility:

If you will require academic accommodation of any kind during this course, you must notify me at the beginning of the course and provide a letter from the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (212-998-4980, mosescsa@nyu.edu, www.nyu.edu/csd) 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 time to be guaranteed accommodation.

Students Wellness:

Classes can get stressful. I encourage you to reach out if you need help. The NYU Wellness Exchange offers mental health support. You can reach them 24/7 at 212-443-9999, or via the “NYU Wellness Exchange” app. There are also drop in hours and appointments. Find out more at <http://www.nyu.edu/students/health-and-wellness/counseling-services.html>.

Indicative schedule. Please note that the dates and assignments listed below are subject to change.

Date	Chapter	Submit digitally via Connect (SB SmartBook, HW Homework)
Wed, 7/3	Ch.1: Financial Statements and Business Decisions (including Supp A) + Ch.2: Investing, Financing Decisions & the Balance Sheet	
Mon, 7/8	Finish Ch.2 + Ch.3: Operating Decisions & the Income Statement	Ch.1,2,3 SB and Ch.1 HW due Mon 7/8 by 9 am
Wed, 7/10	Ch.4: Adjustments, Financial Statements & the Quality of Earnings	Ch.4 SB due Wed, 7/10 by 9 am
Mon, 7/15	Midterm I + Ch.12: Statement of Cash Flows (excluding Supplements)	Ch.2,3,4 HW and Ch.12 SB due Mon 7/15 by 9 am
Wed, 7/17	Finish Ch.12 + Ch.6: Sales Revenue, Receivables & Cash (including Supp. on pg. 313-4, “Recording Discounts & Returns”)	Ch.6 SB due Wed, 7/17 by 9 am
Mon, 7/22	Ch.7: Cost of Goods Sold & Inventory (excluding Supplements)	Ch.6,12 HW and Ch.7 SB due Mon 7/22 by 9 am
Wed, 7/24	Ch.8: PPE; Natural Resources; & Intangibles (including Supp “Changes in Depreciation Estimates” & read CP8-7 on pg. 463-466)	Ch.8 SB due Wed, 7/24 by 9 am
Mon, 7/29	1 h Review and Q&As + Midterm II	Ch.7,8 HW due Mon 7/29 by 9 am
Wed, 7/31	Ch.9: Liabilities (including Supp B) + begin Ch.10 Bonds (excluding Supplements)	Ch.10 SB due Wed 7/31 by 9 am
Mon, 8/5	Finish Ch.10 + Ch.11: Owner’s Equity	Ch.9 HW and Ch.11 SB due Mon 8/5 by 9 am
Wed, 8/7	Review	
Mon, 8/12	Final Exam – cumulative :)	Ch.10,11 HW due Mon 8/12 by 9 am