

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

FALL 2011

Tuesdays 6-9pm

COR1-GB.1306.10, T-LC25

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Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30pm to 5:30pm and by appointment.

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Overview: The objective of the course is for you to learn how to read, understand, and analyze the financial statements of most publicly-traded companies. The course is intended for students with no previous exposure to financial accounting. This course takes an external user’s perspective, as opposed to an accountant or internal user’s perspective. External users include investors, creditors, customers, suppliers, government regulators, and business school students. A solid understanding of the fundamentals covered in this course should enable you to do well in more advanced finance and accounting courses.

The course begins with the basic concepts of accounting. We begin by looking 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.

Topics Covered: A more precise schedule will be available a week or two prior to the first class. My plan is to cover the following topics in order: how to account for economic transactions, revenue recognition, expense recognition, cash flow analysis, inventory accounting, current and long-term assets, margin analysis, time value of money, bonds, contingent liabilities, stockholders’ equity, inter-corporate investments, employee stock options, financial statement analysis, and valuation.

Textbook: Libby, Libby and Short, *Financial Accounting, 7th Edition*. The textbook covers the basic material in the course, including background information, accounting rules and conventions. I will assign the pages from the textbook that I expect you to read. Any material that I assign from the textbook is fair game for exams.

Lecture Slides: Most lectures will use the aid of Powerpoint slides, which will be available prior to each class on Blackboard. You should print your own copies prior to class in whatever format works best for you. Just like with the textbook material, any material included in the slides is fair game for exams.

Homework: There will be two types of homework assignments: textbook and non-textbook. I hand pick textbook problems that I think are useful to practice and that reinforce basic accounting proficiency, but

they will not be submitted or graded. Conversely, non-textbook homework assignments will be submitted and graded. These assignments typically require you to gather information about a company (from the company or SEC website) and conduct the analyses that we discuss in class. You must submit a hardcopy of your completed homework at the beginning of class on the date due; late homework will not be accepted. Solutions to textbook and non-textbook homework will be posted to Blackboard.

Exams: There will be two exams—**10/25/11** and **12/13/11**. All exam questions are based on actual financial statements from a publicly-traded company, and the questions can resemble questions from homework (textbook and non-textbook), lectures, and even prior exams. Prior exams will be made available for your practice.

Grading: Your grade will be based on 15% homework, 40% first exam, 40% second exam, and 5% class participation.

Exam Re-Grading: If you believe your exam is incorrectly graded, submit the entire original copy of the complete exam to me within one week of the return of the exam. Include a memo which legibly and fully explains your contention. Exams which 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 will be accepted for a re-grade.

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. Please see www.stern.nyu.edu/uc/codeofconduct for more information.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability that you feel may affect your class performance, please let me know early in the semester so that arrangements can be made, in consultation with the Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities, to accommodate your needs. Please see www.nyu.edu/csd for more information.