

University of Pittsburgh

Katz Graduate School of Business

BACC 2252 – Corporate Tax Accounting and Planning

3 Credit Hours – Fall 2013
Wednesday, 6:20 - 9:20 p.m.
Lawrence Hall, Room 104

Professor

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Office Hours: Thursday 2-4pm and by Appointment

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to provide participants with both a core technical corporate tax accounting and planning curriculum as well as macro "walk-a-ways" to facilitate the identification and recognition of tax issues impacting business and management decisions. Initially, the course will define some fundamental tax terminologies and address the operations of the U.S. tax system and its role in establishing social, economic, and political policies. We will spend a considerable amount of time exploring business formations and the associated tax considerations. The course will also focus on the specific tax considerations impacting the management and operation of a business (e.g. accounting methods, alternative minimum tax, property dispositions, etc.) and the motivation behind mergers, acquisitions, and restructurings that are common in today's business environment. Finally, we will discuss and compare corporations with tax flow-through entities (partnership) in a general manner so that you can better understand choices made in entity formation.

Required Materials

Prentice Hall's Federal Taxation of Corporations, Partnerships, Estates & Trusts, 2014 Edition, by Kenneth E. Anderson, Thomas R. Pope and Timothy J. Rupert

Course Strategy

Weekly sessions will incorporate lectures, case studies, current events and real life examples of the practical application of tax law. Classroom lectures will be interactive and will encourage student participation. The most important part of the participant's body for the next fifteen weeks is their hand. We welcome and encourage questions and requests to clarify any of the written or presented material.

Prior to the start of each class, we will provide the class with materials of the evening's subject matter so that everyone can focus on the classroom discussion rather than taking dictation. Of course, it will still be important to acquaint / reinforce classroom concepts by reading the text prior to and after class.

Other Course Materials:

On certain days a **laptop** will be required in class for completion of assignments. **Non programmable calculator** for use on exams will also be needed. **Courseweb** is a requirement for the course and will allow you to access course materials. Courseweb will also be used to post announcements and communicate regularly with students. Please be sure to check your Pitt email or forward it to an email address that you use on a regular basis, otherwise, you may not receive important information.

Course Administration

Grading:

Practice Assignment	15%
In-Class Problems	10%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	<u>40%</u>
	100%

Extra credit is not allowed. You will earn your grade in this course, I do not give grades. **Please save yourself the time and embarrassment of asking for special consideration for your grade.**

Practice-Oriented Assignment and In-Class Assignments:

As noted above, the primary objective of this class is to give you an understanding and appreciation of the knowledge and skills that are essential for success in tax practice. To facilitate this understanding, you will be completing some short assignments. These assignments are intended to give you insight into the types of problems and issues that tax professionals encounter. The Book-To-Tax Reconciliation Practice Assignment will be completed outside of class and should be turned in by the due date. Late submissions will

be penalized 10% for each workday past the deadline (beginning from the time the assignment is collected in class). In-Class problems will be completed during class with the use of a laptop and will be discussed during/after completion.

Exams:

NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!

For both the midterm and final exam, you will be allowed **one 5x8 index card** with anything you want **hand-written on both sides**. No photocopy reductions of book materials or notes are allowed. You will be allowed to use a **non-programmable** calculator, but no sharing of calculators will be allowed. Failure to follow these instructions is considered cheating. We will discuss the exams as the dates approach but each exam will consist of short answer and essay type questions.

Attendance & Contribution to Class:

It will be difficult to benefit from the course if you are not here. Undoubtedly, situations will arise that may necessitate your missing a class. However, if you expect to miss more than two classes, please discuss it with me sooner rather than later. We can determine if this is the appropriate time to take this course. As this is a small class, classroom participation is expected and encouraged. I doubt you all want to hear me drone on for a couple of hours so please come prepared to each class and participate.

Ethical Responsibilities:

All exams and assignments are individual projects unless I explicitly indicate otherwise. Any collaboration on the individual assignments will not be tolerated. Evidence of such collaboration will result in no credit for that assignment or examination, and I reserve the right to take additional action should I feel that it is warranted. If you are not sure if you are cheating, ask me before you engage in the activity.

Classroom Conduct:

You are all expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. The classroom should be viewed as a business environment. Students should conduct themselves as they would in any business setting. This means that students should not engage in any form of distraction. Arrive to class on time and notify me in advance if you will have to leave early. I have a low tolerance for class disruptions including consistently late arrivals, side conversations, students who leave during class frequently, texting, etc.

Technology and the Classroom:

Today's technology offers some great opportunities to enhance your learning. However, technology can also hinder your learning if it distracts you from focusing on the material. For this reason, I ask that you turn off your cell phone when you are in class (if there's a reason that you have to leave it on in case of an emergency, please let me know before the class starts). Similarly, it's inappropriate to text message others during the class as it will

divert your attention from the material we are covering (and most likely will also divert the attention of those around you). Finally, if you choose to take notes using a laptop, you are expected to use the laptop only for class purposes. Surfing the web, participating in chat groups, and checking e-mail are inappropriate uses of your laptop during class time. If the use of laptops becomes a distraction, I reserve the right to request all students close their laptops for the remainder of a given class period or for the remainder of the semester.

Attendance

Both the mid-term and final examination will cover material that is only presented during classroom discussions. Therefore, it is imperative that students attend and actively participate in each class. Attendance and classroom participation will be the deciding factor in any borderline grade.

Grading Scale

The plus / minus grading scale is used in this course. The complexities of the mid-term and final examination will be graded based on a relative distribution of the overall scores (i.e. curve).

Syllabus

Class	Date	Subject Matter	Reading Assignment
1	August 28	Introduction to Fundamentals of Taxation	
	September 4	Chapter 2 – Choice of Entity, Corporate Formation & Capital Structure	pages 1-36
2	September 11	NO CLASS – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY	
3	September 18	Chapter 3 – Corporate Income Tax	pages 1-31
4	September 25	Chapter 3 – Corporate Income Tax	pages 35-54
5	October 2	Chapter 4 – Corporate Nonliquidating Distributions	Hand in Practice Assignment pages 1-37
6	October 9	Chapter 4 – Corporate Nonliquidating Distributions / Chapter 5 – Other Corporate Tax Levies	Chapter 5, pages 1-37
7	October 16	Chapter 5 – Other Corporate Tax Levies / Midterm Review	
8	October 23	MIDTERM CH 2-5	
9	October 30	Chapter 6 – Corporate Liquidating Distributions/Go over Midterm	pages 1-21
10	November 6	Chapter 7 – Corporate Acquisitions and Reorganizations	pages 1-33
11	November 13	Chapter 7 – Corporate Acquisitions and Reorganizations	pages 33-51
12	November 20	Chapter 8 – Consolidated Tax Returns	pages 1-34
13	November 27	NO CLASS	
14	December 4	Chapter 9 – Partnership Formation and Operation	pages 1-12, 16-29, 32-34
15	December 11	FINAL EXAM CH 6-9	