

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Katz Graduate School of Business & College of Business Administration

Course: BUSACC 1242 Individual Tax Accounting and Planning (3.0 credits) – undergraduate
BACC 2559 Individual Tax Accounting and Planning (3.0 credits) - graduate

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00pm to 3:15pm, in 2404 Sennott

Text: West Federal Taxation: Individual Income Taxes, 2013 Edition, South Western
Hoffman & Smith
ISBN: 978-1-133-18870-4

Supplemental Materials: provided on Blackboard:

- Course Schedule (in Syllabus folder)
- Overview of Tax Forms for Individuals & for Partnerships/SCorps (please bring to class)
- Chapter Outlines (please bring to class)
- Solutions Manual to Text
- True/False by Chapter
- Tax Return Fact Patterns
- Cases for Graduate Students

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course focus on a student's ability to assimilate the most important features of the Internal Revenue Code as they apply to Individuals, sole proprietorships and property transactions. The student, through the use of the text, chapter summaries, numerous chapter examples and class assignments, should be able to understand the tax issues associated with a variety of business and personal transactions, evaluate the tax implications for different taxable entities, and calculate the regular federal tax, additional taxes and tax credits associated with these transactions. In addition, through special class assignments, the student will further develop his/her oral and written communicative abilities.

Prerequisites: Financial Accounting; Managerial Accounting; Intermediate Financial Reporting I; and Intermediate Financial Reporting II

Class Structure:

Classes will be a combination of lectures, discussions of problems included in chapter outlines & clarification of issues that students raise.

Course Schedule:

Provided as a separate document on Courseweb in the Syllabus folder.

Course Grading:

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

		Undergrd	Graduate
Participation & Cases		5%	5%
Exam #1	Chapters 3, 4 & 5	20	20
Tax Returns	15% each	30	30
Exam #2	Chapters 6, 7, 9 and 10	20	20
Final Exam	Chapters 13, 14, 15 & 17	25	25
Total		100%	100%

Class Participation & Cases:

Students are expected to participate during class lectures and/or office hours. Attendance does not necessarily ensure full credit for participation. In addition to participation, *graduate students are required to brief 3 historic legal cases*. Case documentation and guidance to prepare a case brief are provided in the Cases for Graduate Students folder on Courseweb.

Tax Returns:

Students will be required to prepare tax returns using forms provided on www.irs.gov. All tax returns are done at home and submitted at the start of class on the dates indicated. Students will complete 2 tax return problems during the term. The tax return assignments should be hand-written in pencil. Typed tax returns will not be accepted.

As tax returns represent a significant portion of each student's overall grade, students are **not permitted to work together or communicate with anyone in any way.** Please see **Academic Integrity** below.

Interim Exams and Final Exam:

Two interim exams and a final exam will be administered during the semester. Please refer to the class schedule for the dates and chapters covered on each exam. Exceptions will be made in only extreme circumstances. There are no make-up exams. Exams are open book and notes.

Academic Integrity: There are take-home test items included in this course due to the time consuming nature of the tasks. This is a privilege that I hope the students will appreciate and not abuse by working together in any way. You should not speak to anyone about take-home material. **Any communication of any form about take-home materials will be considered a violation of the CBA Code of Academic Standards,** and as such, the students in question will earn a 0% on the item, without the ability to drop the grade. All other violations of the Code of Academic Standards will be dealt with according to University policies and procedures.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 216 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890/(412) 383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Classroom Etiquette:

During class lectures, all forms of technology, with the exception of a calculator, should be turned off. There is no need to use a computer during class lecture, as outlines of each chapter are provided on Courseweb and should be completed in pencil prior to lecture. Surfing the web and texting during lecture is very disruptive to other students and to the instructor. Unless you have notified the instructor, *prior to lecture*, of an emergency or a particular reason for your cell phone to be turned on, it should be OFF (on vibrate is not OFF).

If a student is found to be texting or using a computer during class time, without prior permission, that student will be asked to leave lecture for the day.

How do I study for this class?

1. Read a small section of the chapter (the chapter topics for which students are responsible are on the Course Schedule attached and also listed on the top of each chapter's handout);
2. Do the "Suggested Textbook Problems" directly associated with the particular section of the chapter;
3. Check the solutions manual (do this only after attempting the problem/question on your own);
4. Proceed to the next small section of the chapter, repeating steps 1 to 3;
5. Go the publisher's website at www.cengage.com/taxation/swft;
 - a. select our text (about mid-way down the page, it's green, *2013, Individual Income Taxes, 36th edition*);
 - b. on the right-side of the page, click on "Students: Access Free Companion Content";
 - c. under "Study Tools", click on the "Access Now" button;
 - d. select the applicable chapter from the drop down menu;
 - e. from the chapter's menu, select any of the three items: Crossword puzzle; Interactive Quiz; or Flashcards.
6. Prior to an exam, do the additional true and false questions provided on Courseweb in the True/False folder.

Strong Recommendations:

- Read the chapter outlines prior to lecture; frequently, there are examples within the chapter outlines; attempt these prior to lecture.
- It is strongly advised that the student prepare responses to all questions and problems included on the course schedule under "Suggested Textbook Problems," **prior to class lecture**. The entire solutions manual for the text is provided on Courseweb.
- **DO NOT READ THE CHAPTER IN ITS ENTIRETY IN A SINGLE SITTING. READ THE CHAPTER IN PIECES, DOING PROBLEMS DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PIECE PRIOR TO GOING TO THE NEXT SECTION. AGAIN, DO NOT READ THE CHAPTER IN ONE SITTING, PRIOR TO DOING ANY PROBLEMS!!!!!!!!!!**