

ACCOUNTING 4300
FEDERAL INCOME TAXATION
SPRING 2016
SYLLABUS AND COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR: Peggy Jimenez, PHD, CPA
OFFICE: BLB 329L
EMAIL: Peggy.Jimenez@unt.edu. I generally respond to e-mails within 24 hours Monday-Friday.

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 10:30am-12:00PM, after class, and by appointment

CLASS TIME: Tuesday 6:30-9:20PM Section 003 (BLB 260)

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Murphy & Higgins. Concepts in Federal Taxation. 2016 edition published by Cengage Learning.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to introduce students to the Federal tax system while providing them with a skill set that will enable them to apply the appropriate tax law concepts to various tax situations. After completion of this course, students should maintain knowledge or skills related to:

- The Federal tax system including the different types of taxes and various tax compliance practices and procedures.
- Individual taxation: including key concepts such as gross income inclusions and exclusions, deductions for adjusted gross income, itemized deductions and the calculation of individual tax liabilities.
- Business taxation: including tax years, acceptable tax accounting methods, book/tax differences, depreciation/amortization methods, and self-employment income and taxation.
- Taxation of business and personal property transactions: including calculation of capital gains/losses, and calculation of business property transactions including those under sections 1231, 1244, 1245 and 1250.
- Entity choice including the different methods used to tax different entities.
- Preparation of federal income tax forms for individuals including form 1040 and related schedules.

COURSE POINT DISTRIBUTION:

	Points
Quizzes (10 @ 10 points each)	100 points
Exams (3 @ 100 points each)	300 points
Final Exam	130 points
Tax Return & Research Problems	120 points
Total	650 points

As a general rule the percentage of points to achieve a certain letter grade will be as follows:

90% or more = A 70% - 79% = C less than 60% = F
80% - 89% = B 60% - 69% = D

IMPORTANT GRADING NOTES:

- A. Any work you submit will be graded and will count in accordance with the grading scheme. No other work can be substituted for the required work.
- B. **I do not discuss or disclose any grade information over the phone or by email. Please visit me during office hours to discuss grades.**
- C. Once graded, I will post exam grades to Blackboard as promptly as possible.

QUIZZES: Unless told otherwise, there will be a quiz at the beginning of every class. The quiz will cover material discussed in the previous class and material in the textbook readings for that day. There will also be pop quizzes later in the class on selected class days. Students must be present in class to take the quiz. Exceptions will only be made for excused absences. The ten best quiz grades will count towards your final grade.

EXAMS: There will be four exams this semester, 3 midterm exams and a final.

TAX RETURN & RESEARCH PROBLEMS: I will periodically assign problems that are integrative in nature or that involve completing a certain tax form or schedule and/or tax return project. These problems will be graded on accuracy. The expectations and grading criteria for these assignments will be discussed in class.

HOMEWORK: The homework assignments listed on the Course Schedule on the back page of the syllabus will not be picked up for a grade. However, these homework assignments will help you learn the material and study for exams. We will go over select problems during the class lectures.

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS: You will receive a zero for any assignment turned in late. Exceptions will only be made for excused absences. If you expect to be absent for an excused absence you must submit any assignments in advance. If your absence is unexpected, assignments must be submitted by the next class period. Excused absences are absences that are beyond your control, serious in nature, and documented if possible.

MISSED ASSESSMENTS (EXAMS, QUIZZS, ETC.): You will receive a zero for any missed assessment. Exceptions will only be made for excused absences. You must notify me before the absence or as soon as possible (within 24 hours) after the absence for any accommodation to be considered. Excused absences are absences that are beyond your control, serious in nature, and documented if possible.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Student questions are always welcome and often lead to interesting discussions. Your participation in class will lead to a better learning experience. This semester we will be using another tool to interact with each other called, Poll Everywhere. You can participate in the polling using a variety of devices: cell phone, laptop, iPad, etc. Throughout class I will ask questions and ask you to respond using your device. You can send a text message

to submit your response or you can submit your response on a webpage. Both the number to text and the webpage to visit will be given on the polling page.

PROFESSIONALISM: I expect professional behavior from you in class and in all your communications with me. For example, assignments should be typed or neatly (and legibly) handwritten on a regular paper with proper margins and numbered correctly. If the assignment is more than a page, the pages should be stapled together in the top left corner. Your name should appear on the front. Assignments that are untidy or sloppy will not be accepted for grading. NO EXCUSES. The same rule applies for quizzes. Your e-mail communications with me should also be professional and include an appropriate subject line. Please do not e-mail me via blackboard; instead, e-mail me at peggy.jimenez@unt.edu.

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: Please make certain to update your email address within Blackboard. **YOU MUST CHECK THIS EMAIL ADDRESS FREQUENTLY!** I send important emails including exam locations through Blackboard and you are responsible for any information that is sent through this medium. The fact that you did not read your email from me will not excuse any missed exams or assignments.

BLACKBOARD LEARN: We will use Blackboard Learn in this class. You can reach the Blackboard Learn site at www.ecampus.unt.edu. Once on the site please log in with your UNT Username and Password. That will take you to your personal page that lists all of the classes for which you are registered that are using Blackboard Learn. Periodically throughout the semester I will post your individual scores to Blackboard Learn. I will also post class announcements and other materials to, and send emails through, Blackboard. We will be using this system extensively during the semester. If you have had no previous experience with the system, you should take advantage of the available training resources early in the semester.

COURSE STUDY MATERIALS: I expect that you will read the assigned text material prior to attending class. Please plan on devoting regular time to learning the material. It is expected that outside study time for this course will be about 9 hours per week.

CHEATING: Honesty and integrity are very important characteristics of an accountant or any businessperson. Failure to perform within the bounds of accepted ethical standards is sufficient grounds for your discontinuance in this course with a grade of F and could lead to expulsion from the University. Failure to abide by the university's rules regarding academic honesty will not be tolerated in this course. The term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to, (1) use or provision of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in completing homework, writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; or (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member or staff of the university. University policy regarding this matter is a part of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline and can be found in the UNT Policy Manual, Vol. III, No. 18.1.11, and in the Student Handbook. The university's academic integrity policy can be found at http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf

WITHDRAWALS: University policy relative to withdrawals will be followed. The drop policies are important to your academic career, and it is your responsibility to discuss the ramifications of dropping a class with your **advisor**. I do not have sufficient knowledge of your program to advise you of the impact of dropping a class. Be especially cognizant of the last drop day and obtain any appropriate signatures, approvals, etc. in advance of the deadlines. You may obtain information about dropping classes from your academic advisor or the Registrar's office. **February 26, 2016:** Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the semester with a grade of W for courses that the student is not passing. **April 5, 2016:** Last day for a student to drop a course with the consent of the instructor; W or WF may be assigned.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA): If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please consult with me during the first week of the semester. I will provide "reasonable accommodation" to any student with a disability, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. It is your responsibility to inform me of the disability at the beginning of the semester and provide me with documentation authorizing the specific accommodation. UNT's Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) is responsible for verifying and implementing accommodations to ensure equal opportunity in all programs and activities. You must contact ODA who will instruct you on how to proceed. I recognize that any disclosure by a student of their need for accommodation is extremely sensitive. I assure you that all conversations and other communications will be kept protected and confidential and disclosed only on a need-to-know basis.

ABSENCES BASED ON RELIGIOUS BELIEFS: A student who misses an examination or other assignment due to the observance of a religious holy day will be given the opportunity to complete the work missed. Please notify me as soon as possible if you expect to miss class to observe a religious holy day.

TEACHING EVALUATIONS: Teaching evaluations are a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the Teaching Evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

This syllabus does not constitute a contract.

Course schedule-Subject to change

Date	Topics	Reading	Homework
19-Jan	Course Introduction Federal Income Taxation	Ch. 1	1, 4, 10, 12, 18, 20, 28, 29, 36, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 52, 54, 56, 59, 63, 65, 67
26-Jan	Income Tax Concepts	Ch. 2	8, 12, 13, 16, 20, 22, 25, 28, 31, 33, 35, 46, 49, 50, 54, 61, 62, 63
2-Feb	Income Sources Form 1040EZ Due	Ch. 3	3, 7, 10, 11, 12, 19, 20, 27, 31, 42, 44, 46, 47, 51, 55, 60, 79, 84
9-Feb	Income Exclusions	Ch. 4	2, 7, 17, 18, 20, 27, 30, 35, 40, 45, 46, 48, 51, 55, 60, 79, 84
16-Feb	Midterm Exam I		
23-Feb	Intro. To Business Expenses	Ch. 5	1, 4, 21, 24, 26, 27, 32, 37, 41, 42, 69, 18, 19, 20, 51, 57, 58
1-March	Business Expenses	Ch. 6	1, 7, 10, 12, 22, 26, 27, 29, 32, 35, 38, 43, 47, 61, 63, 67, 68, 70, 74, 77, 78
8-March	Midterm Exam II		
15-March	No Class-Spring Break		
22-March	Losses-Deductions/Limits Part I Tax Return Project Due	Ch. 7	1, 2, 5, 7, 15, 16, 20, 23, 26, 33, 35, 39, 43, 45, 47, 50, 61, 67
29-March	Taxation of Individuals	Ch. 8	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 43, 52, 57, 68, 71
5-April	Midterm Exam III		
12-April	Acquisition of Property	Ch. 9	2, 6, 8, 12, 20, 22, 27, 30, 32, 44, 47, 48, 59
19-April	Cost Recovery Part II Tax Return Project Due	Ch. 10	1, 2, 3, 9, 13, 22, 26, 37, 38, 41, 42, 47, 52, 53, 60
26-April	Property Dispositions	Ch. 11	10, 12, 14, 17, 26a-b, 29, 33, 43, 44, 45, 47, 58, 59, 60, 64, 65, 70
3-May	Personal tax planning, looking to the future, and final review		
10-May	Comprehensive Final Exam		