

Syllabus

Instructor

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Class

M,W 2:40 p.m. to 3:55 p.m.
Cleveland L1
Office Hours: M,W 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The course, while using traditional accounting techniques and methodology, will focus on the needs of external users of financial information. The emphasis is on learning how to read, interpret, and analyze financial information as a tool to guide investment decisions. Concepts rather than procedures are stressed and class time will be largely devoted to problem solutions and case discussions. A basic knowledge of arithmetic and a familiarity with a spreadsheet program is suggested.

Textbooks

- Kimmel, Weygandt, and Kieso. *Accounting: Tools for Business Decision Making*. (3rd edition)
ISBN: 978-0-470-37785-7

The textbook is currently in its 4th edition. We will use the 3rd edition because it is available used for five dollars and the new edition costs several hundred dollars.

Grades

25% **Problem Sets**

25% **Midterm I**

25% **Midterm II**

25% **Final Exam**

Letter grades will be assigned based on the typical 90,80,70,60 scale. The course is not curved in the traditional sense, but I reserve the right to adjust the scale in order to assign higher letter grades. I will not adjust the scale to make it harder to get a good letter grade. For example, if you earn 80% in the course, you will get at least a "B-".

Problem Sets

Problem sets will be assigned periodically throughout the semester. The problem sets are due on Mondays. On the Wednesday before the problem set is due, a group of students will present and explain the solution to one or two problems in class. You are encouraged to work with other students to solve the remaining problems, but you must turn in your own copy of the work and make note of who you worked with. If you choose to work in a group, I recommend re-writing the problem set on your own to make sure that you understand the problems. This small amount of extra work will pay dividends on exams.

Problem sets must be written in legible handwriting (or typed), with problems appearing in correct order, and stapled. Failure to follow these instructions (or a failure to acknowledge the students you worked with) will result in a 20% deduction from your score. At the end of the semester I will drop the lowest problem set score from your grade.

I will post answer keys online shortly after each problem set is due. As such, late assignments are not accepted. A missed or late assignment will count as your dropped score.

Exams

There are three exams: two midterms and a final. All exams are closed note and closed book. You can use a calculator on the exams, but other electronic devices such as mobile phones are not allowed.

The exam dates are on the schedule on the last page. If we deviate from the course schedule, the material covered on the exams will adjust – not the date of the exams.

Academic Honesty

You will follow the College's honor code:

*I will honor myself, my fellow students, and Mount Holyoke College
by acting responsibly, honestly, and respectfully in both my words and my deeds.*

If you are not sure how this applies in some particular context, please ask me for clarification. Violation of this policy will result in an F for the course and will be reported to the College.

Schedule

We may get ahead or fall behind on the material, but the dates of exams will not change. Please plan ahead so that you will be able to attend class on the dates of the midterms.

Week 0	25-JAN-2012	Syllabus and Introduction	
Week 1	30-JAN-2012 01-FEB-2012	Ch. 1: Introduction to Financial Statements	
Week 2	06-FEB-2012 08-FEB-2012	Ch. 2: A Further Look at Financial Statements	PS 1 Due
Week 3	13-FEB-2012 15-FEB-2012	Ch. 3: The Accounting Information System	PS 2 Due
Week 4	20-FEB-2012 22-FEB-2012	Ch. 4: Accrual Accounting Concepts	PS 3 Due
Week 5	27-FEB-2012 29-FEB-2012	Midterm I Review Midterm I	PS 4 Due
Week 6	05-MAR-2012 07-MAR-2012	Ch. 6: Reporting and Analyzing Inventory	
Week 7	12-MAR-2012 14-MAR-2012	Ch. 7: Fraud, Internal Control, and Cash	PS 5 Due
Week 8	19-MAR-2012 21-MAR-2012	Spring Break Spring Break	
Week 9	26-MAR-2012 28-MAR-2012	Ch. 8: Reporting and Analyzing Receivables	PS 6 Due
Week 10	02-APR-2012 04-APR-2012	Midterm II Review Midterm II	PS 7 Due
Week 11	09-APR-2012 11-APR-2012	Ch. 14: Managerial Accounting	
Week 12	16-APR-2012 18-APR-2012	Ch. 18: Cost-Volume-Profit	PS 8 Due
Week 13	23-APR-2012 25-APR-2012	Ch. 23: Incremental Analysis and Capital Budgeting	PS 9 Due
Week 14	30-APR-2012	Final Review	PS 10 Due