

ACCOUNTING 301

Financial Accounting I – Spring 2009

Instructor: Kevin Melendrez, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: 1:00 pm –3:00 pm MW
and by appointment
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Required Text: Intermediate Accounting (12th Edition, FASB Update), Kieso, Weygandt, and Warfield.

Prerequisite: Accounting 251 & 252 with a grade of “C” or better in 252.

Course Objective: Intermediate Accounting is a two semester course series covering all aspects of financial accounting and reporting. This course will specifically cover the underlying theory and objectives of financial reporting, the detailed composition of the financial statements and related disclosure content, the accounting cycle, current and non-current assets, and the related issues pertaining to acquisitions, valuation and adjustments, impairments, and dispositions.

At the end of this course, you should have a thorough understanding of the accounting cycle including the ability to journalize and post transactions and adjustments, a comprehension of the conceptual financial reporting framework and environment, a detailed understanding of the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and Statement of Cash Flows, an appreciation of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), and an understanding of the affects that alternative methods of accounting have on the financial statements.

In addition, this course will cover many of the foundational financial accounting topics incorporated on the CPA exam. Accordingly, this course should be beneficial for those students who plan to eventually sit for the CPA exam.

Grading:

The total points available for this course are as follows:

Exams (3 @ 100 pts.)	300
Comprehensive Final	150
Homework	25
Writing Assignments	50
Review Quiz	5

Total Points	530
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Letter grades will be determined as follows:

477 – 530 = A
424 – 476 = B
371 – 423 = C
318 – 370 = D
0 – 317 = F

If you are taking this course on the S/U grading basis, your grade will be computed in the same manner as those of the other students. You must receive a grade of "C" or better for satisfactory completion of the course. An incomplete "I" grade will not be assigned except under circumstances that clearly comply with university regulations as set forth in the catalog.

Exams: There will be four exams given during the semester, which will include a comprehensive final exam to be administered during finals week. The exams may consist of multiple choice, short answer essay, and structured problems. There is NO provision for a make-up exam during the semester. In the event that a student has a DOCUMENTED university excused absence, an alternative exam will be provided; however, the student MUST provide written notification in advance of the missed exam. The specific time and date will be provided to any student that qualifies for and is thus in need of an alternative exam. Also, programmable calculators or any other text capable devices are NOT allowed for any exam and sharing of calculators during an exam is forbidden.

Homework: Students will be responsible for the assigned chapter and related problems set forth on the assignment sheet. Homework problems are due at the beginning of the class on the assigned date. Late homework will NOT be accepted. Students are strongly encouraged to stay current with the class. Should problems be encountered, you will need to seek immediate help. DO NOT FALL BEHIND! Also, the instructor may assign additional problems not listed on the assignment sheet. This will be announced in advance during class; and accordingly, you will be responsible for completing. Failure to timely submit homework problems may have an adverse impact on your final grade. There are 24 homework assignments listed on the syllabus. Of the 24 homework assignments, 12 will be collected randomly, and the 10 best scores will count in the calculation of your grade. The homework assignments will be worth 2.5 points each and will be graded for effort.

Course Expectations: Welcome to Intermediate Financial Accounting I. For many of you, this course will prove to be one of the most challenging and time consuming courses you have taken thus far in your degree program. Accounting cannot be learned by merely reading the text; you must work, rework, analyze and then perhaps work again the assigned exercises and problems before you truly understand the material. Simply showing up to the lecture and COPYING the exercises covered in class as the professor is presenting them, and then later attempting to work the assigned homework problems will not ensure your success in this course. You MUST prepare for each class in advance, which requires you to carefully READ the assigned chapter and then work through EACH assigned exercise BEFORE it is discussed in class. Your success in this course is directly related to your preparation and effort. Accordingly, YOU must assume the responsibility for your learning. This course will require a substantial time commitment on your part. If you have a full time job and/or a full course load please carefully consider the additional time commitment that this course will require.

Attendance: Accounting is more than just knowing how to work problems. The lecture/discussion will tie everything together; however, you should have read the assigned material and attempted the exercises BEFORE coming to class and be prepared to ask and answer questions in class. Regular attendance is expected. You will be held responsible for any announcements made and any material covered during class.

Disabilities: If you have a disability that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged for academic reasons to discuss this on a confidential basis with your instructor, in order to provide reasonable accommodations. In addition, you may wish to contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office located at Garcia Annex to register. If you have already registered, please make sure your instructor receives a copy of the accommodation memorandum from SSD within the first two weeks of class. It will be your responsibility to inform the instructor and the SSD representative (in a timely manner) if the services/accommodations provided are not meeting your needs.

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to conduct themselves with the highest level of integrity. Academic dishonesty in ANY form will NOT be tolerated. For a definition of academic dishonesty and the related consequences, consult the student handbook. The instructor will pursue every available course of action against any such student. In addition, plagiarism or any other form of unauthorized collaboration will constitute academic dishonesty. ANY student caught submitting ANY work that is not his or her own will receive a failing grade for the ENTIRE COURSE – NO EXCEPTIONS! High academic standards will be adhered to in this course.

Writing Assignments: Two writing assignments will be assigned during the semester. The assignment and respective due date will be announced in class. Further details will be provided.

Studying for the Exams: Preparation for an exam begins on the first day of class. In other words, to be successful, you must engage in a continuous process of studying. Slacking off, followed by cramming DOES NOT WORK. For one thing, the competition is too strong. Assuming you have been diligently keeping up with your work, begin your preparation for a test by reviewing your notes several days before the test. Note items the professor has stressed and items that were either not covered at all or declared to be of lesser importance. Concentrate on the items the professor considered important. Chances are they will be on the exam. Review your notes and the chapter outlines or summaries you prepared. Skim through the chapters that will be covered on the exam. Focus on those items that were declared to be important and if you have forgotten anything or if you are unsure, re-read the relevant sections in depth. Work some comprehensive, difficult problems. If you find them easy, congratulations, you are ready. If however you have difficulties with these problems, go back to the text and your notes. Work some easier problems; now try the harder ones again. Budget your time carefully and NEVER study at the last minute. Good Luck! You will need it!

Web CT: Upon registering for this course, you were placed on the Web CT page for the section you are enrolled in. You will use this during the semester for checking grades, obtaining various posted assignments, obtaining another syllabus copy, etc. We will discuss this in class.

Additional: Attached is a tentative assignment schedule for the term. I reserve the right to make any changes in the assignment schedule. Thus, should there be any changes in this assignment schedule, they will be announced in class, accordingly, you will be held responsible for such changes.

Withdrawing from the Course: If you are considering withdrawing from the course, I strongly encourage you to first meet with me to discuss your situation. Should you still decide to withdraw from the course, please be sure to secure a signed course withdrawal form to ensure a "W" is designated for your course grade. Do not simply stop coming to class. If you do not formally withdraw from the course, you will most likely receive an "F" for the final course grade.

CPA EXAM and 150-Hour Requirement: New Mexico law requires applicants for the CPA Examination to have at least 150 semester hours of education. Texas and most other states also have the 150-hour rule, but the nature of these 150 hours can vary significantly from state to state. For example, in New Mexico, only 30 total hours of accounting are required to sit for the CPA exam, and 3 of these hours can be in business law. In Texas, 30 UPPER DIVISION accounting hours, plus an approved accounting ethics class, are required to sit for the exam. Including sophomore-level accounting courses, this totals 39 hours of Accounting. (NMSU will provide a Texas-approved accounting ethics class beginning in Fall 2005.)

To find the requirements for a particular state, see the following AICPA website, which links to the various state boards of accountancy: <http://www.aicpa.org/yellow/yopsboa.htm>

Master of Accountancy: Many who plan to sit for the CPA Exam choose to remain in school for a Master of Accountancy degree. If you are thinking about a career in public accounting, you may wish to consider this program as the most beneficial way to enhance your background and credentials before accepting a career position. The Master of Accountancy degree is fully accredited by the AACSB. In addition, the M.Acc. Degree should allow you to meet the CPA certification requirements in most, if not all, states. If you are interested in entering the M.Acc. program at NMSU, please contact the director, Dr. Cindy Seipel (cseipel@nmsu.edu, Room BC 333, 646-5206) for more information. You should keep in mind, however, that professional certifications other than the CPA are available and may be more appropriate for your career objectives. Should you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me or any other accounting faculty member. Our primary concern is your success.

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Tentative Assignment Schedule

DATE	READING	Homework Problems	Suggested Problems
1/15	Introduction/ Accounting Review	Review Assignment	
1/20	CH 1/CH 2		CA1-1, 2, 6, 11, 12
1/22	CH 2	CA1-4, E2-2	E2-4 CA2-2
1/27	CH2/CH 3	CA2-3, E3-1	CA2-4, 9 E3-5, 6, 7
1/29	CH 3	E3-10, 12	E3-11, 13
2/3	CH 3	E3-16, P3-4	P3- 2, 3, 8
2/5	EXAM 1		
2/10	CH 4	E4-1, 2	E4-4, 8
2/12	CH 4	E4-5, 11	E4-13, 14
2/17	CH 4	E4-12, P4-1	P4-5,7
2/19	CH 5	E5-1, 2	E5-3, 7
2/24	CH 5	E5-5, 11	E5-12 P5-2, 5
2/26	CH 23	E23-1, 2	E23-3
3/3	CH 23	E23-6, 10	E23-11, 17 P23-2
3/5	CH 23	P23-6 Part B	P23-7 part C, 8 Part B
3/10	EXAM 2		
3/12	CH 7	E7-1, 7	E7-5, 8, 9
3/17	CH7	P7-2, 5	P7-3, 6, 10
3/19	CH 8	E8-12, 13	E8-2, 11, 14, 23, 24, 25
3/24	Spring Break - Class		
3/26	Spring Break - Class		
3/31	CH 8	P8-11 part A	P8-1, 4, 7
4/2	CH 9	E9-3, E9-12	E9-4, 13, 14
4/7	CH 9	E9-15, P9-2	P9-5
4/9	EXAM 3		
4/14	CH 10	E10-7, 8	E10-2, 3, 13
4/16	CH 10/CH 11	E10-10, P10-7	E10-17, 18, 19 P10-1, 4
4/21	CH 11	E11-1, 2	E11- 4, 6, 11, 17
4/23	CH 11	E11-12, P11-11	E11-18, P11- 2
4/28	CH 12	E12-4, 7	E12-9, 12, 13, 16
4/30	CH 12/ REVIEW	E12-14, P12-5	

Final Exam:

10:20 am – 11:35 am Section: Th 5/7 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

11:45 am – 1:00 pm Section: T 5/5 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm Section: T 5/5 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm