ACCT 252 -- Financial Accounting
College of Business Administration
New Mexico State University
Course Outline
Spring, 2012

Professor: Dale Spencer         GU 307
Office Phone: 646-2004

Office Hours: 10:30 – 11:30 TR and by appointment

Course Objective: To introduce students to the basic concepts of financial accounting.
Financial accounting statements are prepared mainly for investors, creditors and other interested
external users. The main emphasis of this course will be on teaching the student to use accounting
information. The course will provide enough knowledge of accounting to enable a person to use
financial statements to assess a company's financial strengths and weaknesses.
At the end of the course students should be able to
1. List the purpose of the four required financial statements
2. Create a balance sheet, income statement and retained earnings statement.
3. Define assets, liabilities, stockholders’ equity, revenues and expenses
4. State the accounting equation and illustrate how changes affect it
5. Explain the difference between cash and accrual bases of accounting
6. Prepare basic journal entries
7. Prepare adjusting entries
8. Compute and analyze basic ratios
9. Use well developed critical thinking and problem solving skills

Required Materials:
• *WileyPlus Homework manager (Shrink Wrapped with the textbook)*
• Scantron forms 882-ES, one per exam

Learning Methods: You have the opportunity to learn from lectures, in class team activities,
and writing tasks. Ask questions frequently in class. Please come to class well prepared and
ready to participate actively in class discussions by reading the material before each session, and
attempting assigned homework problems and exercises.

Other resources: Powerpoint presentations, self-study quizzes and self tests for each chapter are
available at [Http://wiley.com/college/kimmel](Http://wiley.com/college/kimmel). You will see the book. On the right side of it, you
will click on “student companion site. An “Academic Survival Kit” with resources on writing and
presentation skills is available on the College web page at
[http://business.nmsu.edu/students/survival-kit/](http://business.nmsu.edu/students/survival-kit/).
Blackboard:

Upon registering for this course you will enrolled in the Blackboard Page for this course. You may access it via the Internet at http://learn.nmsu.edu. You will be expected to visit this site regularly and use it as one of the key tools for this course.

Grade Composition: Determination of the final course grade will be based on the cumulative points you earn from the following evaluations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework/Quizzes/Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WileyPlus Homework</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester exams (4 each)</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Comprehensive)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points Available</td>
<td>650</td>
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</tbody>
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Grades are guaranteed according to the following scale:
- A: 90% and above
- B: 80-89%
- C: 70-79%
- D: 60-69%
- F: below 60%

A grade of “C” or better must be earned to qualify as satisfactory performance on an S/U option for undergraduates. Graduate students must earn a grade of “B” or better to qualify as satisfactory performance under an S/U option. There will be NO extra credit projects available to individual students.

Homework/Quizzes/Participation:
- Homework assigned for a particular day must be completed prior to that meeting day. You should be prepared to submit any assigned problem in the chapter being discussed that has not yet been covered in class. An acceptable solution is one from which the instructor can infer that you have made a genuine attempt to learn the content of the assignment. **NO LATE HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.** If you must be gone for a particular class meeting, submit your work early. Students will be required to complete online quizzes before class using WileyPlus. Additional problems will be assigned periodically and graded as take-home quizzes.
- The assignments for this course can be found in this syllabus and on Blackboard under the Assignments heading, arranged by class date. The “Work Due” column shows assignments due the following class period

Participation:
- I expect to start classes promptly and end promptly according to the published class schedule times. I expect students to come on time and prepared to learn. I expect students to behave professionally in class. Permission to attend and participate in class is contingent upon such non-disruptive and appropriate behavior.
- Excessive absences, aside from impact on in-class assignments, will have negative consequences. Most important is the lost learning opportunity, followed by low performance on exams. In accordance with university policy, the instructors reserve the right to administratively withdraw students from the class for lack of attendance.

Exams: There will be four regular semester exams and a final. The exams will be based upon text material, homework assignments and class discussion and will consist of multiple choice questions, matching, problems, and financial statement preparation. The final will include new topics and comprehensive coverage of topics covered in earlier exams. The grade earned on comprehensive portion of final exam may replace your lowest exam grade on an earlier exam.
Course Standards:

Absences: Regular attendance is expected. You are responsible for all materials covered and announcements made during class. To receive an excused absence for university for health reasons, you must provide a signed document excusing you from class that day. Students who miss an exam for a legitimate and documented reason will substitute their final exam score for the missed exam. For students who are participating in university activities, a letter from the sponsoring department must be provided a week prior to the activity.

Grades for all assignments will be posted to the “My Grades” section of WebCT. You have 1 week from the time grades are posted to dispute a grade. After this 1 week period, the grade will be locked and cannot be changed.

Dishonesty: Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will, at a minimum, result in a "0" on the assignment. See your student handbook for a definition and a list of penalties if caught. Cheating on examinations, or other serious forms of academic dishonesty, will result in a final course grade of "F" (and a required report to university officials).

Calculators: Calculators are necessary in order to complete exams quickly and accurately. You will need a silent, battery- or solar powered calculator capable of performing basic arithmetic functions. You will be well served in your efforts as a student if you buy one that also performs basic financial calculations (present values, etc.). You may not share calculators during exams.

Incomplete ("I" grade): The course grade of "I" will be assigned only in circumstances covered in the undergraduate catalog.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have a condition which may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or which may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the instructor and/or Diana Quintana, Director of University Disability Services. Feel free to call Mr. Gerard Nevarez, Director of Institutional Equity and EEO/ADA Office at 646-3635 with any questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All medical information will be treated confidentially.

Student Responsibilities

1. Within a few days of the start of the semester, register with SSD & obtain forms.
2. Within the first 2 weeks of beginning of classes (or within 1 week of the date services are to commence), deliver the completed forms to the instructor(s).
3. Within 5 days of giving the forms to faculty & at least 1 week before any scheduled exam, retrieve the signed forms from faculty & return them to SSD.
4. Contact the SSD Office if services/accommodations requested are not being provided, not meeting your needs, or additional accommodations are needed.

Faculty Responsibilities

1. Within five 5 working days after student gives you the forms, sign them, retain a copy, & return originals to the student.
2. Contact SSD immediately if there are any questions or disputes regarding accommodation(s), disruptive behavior, etc.
3. Refer the student to SSD for any additional accommodations.

Writing: Your writing matters. The quality of your writing will affect your grades on examinations and assignments prepared out of class. Surveys of managers consistently show that they consider the lack of adequate communications skills to be the greatest deficiency of the graduates they hire. Therefore turn-in your homework assignments “professionally” accomplished: e.g., organize and label your work using styles and formats as shown in the text.

Changes: I reserve the right to change classroom policies or assignments if circumstances dictate. Any changes will be announced in class and it is your responsibility to be aware of them.