Syllabus
Mergers, Acquisitions, & Partnerships (ACCT 457)
New Mexico State University
Spring, 2012

Professor: Dr. Kevin. McNeilis, Ph.D., CPA
Guthrie Hall 217
646-2485, kmcnelis@nmsu.edu

Office Hours: Mon & Wed 8:00 – 9:30
Mon & Wed 11:30 – 1:00
Other times by appointment

Class Meetings: MO1 M & W 1:00 to 2:15 BC 204


Also Required: You must have access to Blackboard. Course materials and assignments that will not be distributed in class will be posted to the course website. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the materials required for class and that all assignments are completed by the due date. Blackboard is accessed through WWW.learn.nmsu.edu.

Optional: Accountant's columnar paper for working problems, 8 ½ x 11 size; 8 or 10 column.

Course Overview and Objectives: At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to
(1) describe the valuation of assets, including goodwill, and liabilities acquired in a business combination accounted for by the acquisition method;
(2) prepare entries in the investor's accounting system to account for an investment using the cost method, the partial equity method, and the complete equity method;
(3) prepare the workpaper eliminating entries for the year of acquisition and subsequent years;
(4) calculate and analyze the difference between cost and book value and allocate it properly;
(5) prepare and analyze entries and schedules associated with accounting for partnerships.
Results may vary
**Cautions:** The prerequisite for this course is a “C” or better in Acct 302. This is not negotiable. Enrollees who do not meet this requirement will be administratively dropped. Acct Accounting 457 is a time-consuming course. It requires in-depth study and analysis and should not be undertaken casually. You are spending two and a half hours each week in class, you should be prepared to spend **AT LEAST 2 additional hours every single day outside class** (yes, Saturday and Sunday also) studying the material and working homework problems. Several steps may be taken to avoid the "I understand the material, but I just can't do it on the exam" syndrome:

1. Do not take this course in conjunction with a full class load, full time work and an extensive social life.
2. Avoid too many similarly demanding courses.
3. Stay up to date on all assignments.
4. Consult me BEFORE YOU ARE IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES

**Grading:** There will be a total of 300 points possible, allocated as follows:

Three regular examinations (100 each) 300 points

Grades will be assigned as follows:

% of Points Earned
A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 60-69
F Below 60

The three regular examinations will be equally weighted and comprise ALL of your final grade.

Many of the assigned problems will be worked in class, but it is essential for your success that you have at least attempted the problems prior to our working them in class.

**Wireless Communications:** The use of cellular phones, pagers, etc. during class is distracting and disrespectful to the instructor and your classmates. Remember to turn off all forms of wireless communications before coming to class. If you must be contacted during class for any reason, notify me in advance.

**Disruptions:** Coming to class late, leaving early, reading the newspaper, talking about subjects other than accounting are all disruptive to what we are trying to accomplish in this class, and will not be tolerated. If you can’t be here on time, don’t bother to come at all. Continuous disruptions by an individual will result in an administrative withdrawal of that person.
**Classroom Schedule:** You should have read the assigned material and attempted the homework assigned for a given day BEFORE coming to class. Be prepared to ask and answer questions in class. This class is a quite challenging one and it is essential that you do not fall behind. Be sure to utilize all of the resources available to you, these include your professor, your textbook, supplemental texts, your classmates, and the accounting tutorial lab. Accounting cannot be learned by merely reading the text; you must work, rework, analyze and then perhaps work again the assigned problems before you truly know the material. Try to understand the underlying principles rather than merely memorizing procedural steps.

**Disabilities:** If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the Office for Services for Students with Disabilities, located at Garcia Annex (phone: 646-6840). Appropriate accommodations may then be provided for you. 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 this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of Disabled Student Programs. If you have general questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), call 646-3333.