New Mexico State University  
Department of Accounting and Information Systems  
Course Syllabus  
ACCT 564  
Financial Accounting Research  
Summer 2013

Instructor: Dr. Russell Calk, Ph.D., CPA  
Business Complex 322  
Office Phone: (575) 646-3290  
Email: rcalk@nmsu.edu

Office Hours:  Monday – Thursday 8:30 am – 2:00 pm  
Other times by appointment

Required Materials:  
User ID: AAA53028  
Password: GBUsUxX

Course Description:  
Interpretation and application of accounting principles to financial reporting issues of business and nonbusiness organizations.

Prerequisite: Undergraduate degree in accounting or equivalent.

Course Objectives:  
• To research and propose solutions to financial accounting problems  
• To document and present those solutions in a clear and meaningful way  
• To interpret and clear review notes related to the research and documentation

Course Policies:  
Attendance: You are expected to attend all classes. Failure to do so may have an adverse effect on your course grade.

Academic Dishonesty: As aspiring accounting professionals, your personal integrity is invaluable to you and the profession that you represent. Therefore, I expect you to conduct yourself with the highest level of integrity. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. At a minimum, anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of F for this course.
**Students with Disabilities:** If you have, or think you may have, a disability that interferes with your performance as a student, you are encouraged to discuss this on a confidential basis with me, the Disabled Student Programs Coordinator at 646-1921, and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 646-7795. If you have a condition that may affect your ability to exit these premises in case of an emergency, you should contact any of the above persons immediately.

**Writing:** The quality of your writing matters. Surveys of your future employers consistently show that they consider the lack of communication skills to be the greatest deficiency of the graduates they hire. Therefore, you should strive to ensure that your work is always professionally done (neat, organized, labeled, etc.).

**Course Format:**
Each week a partner from a different accounting firm will present the class with a problem that they have dealt with in their practice. Students will work in teams to research the authoritative financial accounting literature to propose a solution to the problem and then document and present the solution. In general, each week will proceed as follows.

**Monday:** The partner will present a problem. Students will begin their research and identify the relevant authoritative literature and any areas where they need further clarification or information. Students will prepare a memo to the partner documenting their preliminary findings and questions. **Memos must be posted to Blackboard no later than 2:00 p.m. on Monday.**

**Tuesday:** Based on review notes provided by the partner and the instructor, students will complete the research and propose a solution to the problem. Students will respond to any review notes provided by the partner relating to the Monday memo and will, as appropriate, revise and extend the Monday memo or draft another memo to the partner documenting the solution to the problem. **Memos and responses to review notes must be posted to Blackboard no later than 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday.**

**Wednesday:** Students will respond to any review notes provided by the partner and the instructor relating to the Tuesday memo and will prepare the final draft of the memo and a PowerPoint presentation of their solution. Students should limit the presentation to a maximum of 20 minutes. **Memos, responses to review notes, and PowerPoint slides must be posted to Blackboard no later than 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday.**

**Thursday:** The partner will attend the class on Thursday. Students will present their solution to the problem. Students should be prepared to respond to questions from their classmates, the instructor, and the partner. The partner will provide a debriefing after the presentations.

**NOTE:** We will revise the above format to a Tuesday – Friday schedule as necessary.
Assignments:
Memos: Each group will prepare a minimum of three memos per week. The final memo of the
week, along with the related corrections and responses to the review notes, will be graded based
on content and style.

Presentations: Each group will prepare one presentation per week. The presentations, along with
the related PowerPoint slides, will be graded based on content and style.

Peer Evaluations: All of the work for this class will be completed in groups. At the end of each
week, group members will complete peer evaluations. Individual grades will be a function of the
group grades on the assignments for that week and the peer evaluations.

Internships: Students doing internships this summer will have an alternative assignment in lieu of
the case study for the final week.

Grading:
Although the instructor may consider feedback from the accounting professionals when
determining grades, the instructor, and only the instructor, will be responsible for assigning
grades in this course. Course grades will be determined as follows.

Available Points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly memos (100 points each)</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations (100 points each)</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Available Points     | 1,000  |

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900 – 1,000 points</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 – 899</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700 – 799</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 – 699</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 – 599</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The instructor reserves the right to lower the above grading scale.

Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Guest partner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Course overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14 – May 17</td>
<td>Morgan Watson, Ernst &amp; Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20 – May 23</td>
<td>Brandon Fryar, Moss Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 28 – May 31</td>
<td>Brandon Haines, CliftonLarsonAllen (retired)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 3 – June 6</td>
<td>Shelly McGuire, pwc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 10 – June 13</td>
<td>Roxie Samaniego, White + Samaniego + Campbell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The instructor reserves the right to alter the above schedule.