ACC 311 – Fundamentals of Financial Accounting  
Spring, 2018 Syllabus

Instructor: Stephen T. Smith  
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Office: GSB 4.122  
Office Hours: Monday 11 – 12:30 & Wednesday 2 – 3 PM

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Class times and location:  
Unique #01850  T/Th  9:30 - 10:45 pm  UTC 1.130  
Unique #01860  T/Th  11:00 - 12:15 pm  UTC 1.130

What is this class all about and why should you take it?

In this class we will cover accounting from the very basics through the creation and use of financial statements. The goal of the class is to help you understand accounting as a system of representing business and economics so that you can use and apply this knowledge. A cliché is that accounting is the language of business. As much as I hate clichés, this one is useful.

A solid knowledge of accounting will ensure that you are best equipped to understand the way and manner in which businesses make economic transactions, the implications of these transactions, and the various ways in which you can use this information to: understand firms, analyze firms, make decisions, and, ultimately, work through and solve more challenging problems and applications.

This class is extremely important for students who aspire for careers in business. This class will help prepare you for your future and will differ from your past classes and high school. If you put the time in, this class will help you understand accounting, provide you with the ability to better understand various aspects of businesses and help lay the foundation for future success as a student and in your career.
What is the game plan for how to do well?

1. Attend class and be an active learner.
2. Do all of the homework, whether or not it is required. Mastery requires practice.
3. If you struggle, review the class material in the 24 hours that follow class—do this with a small group or on your own and then come talk to me or our TA.
4. Read (and at times reread) the text, especially for the areas that you find more challenging.

Things that may not help you:

1. Not paying attention during class or, worst of all, skipping class. One way to think about it is that you may expect to drop a letter grade for each pair of classes you miss.
2. Relying on the fact that you were an A student in high school.
3. Not preparing for class nor reviewing the material and attempting to cram for the exams.

Objectives of the course:

To learn the following:

A. The nature and purpose of accounting for businesses, with emphasis on corporate business entities.
B. Accounting methods and their use as an orderly means of recording, classifying, and presenting useful information from a mass of data derived from transactions and events affecting businesses.
C. The basic language of business as represented by business and accounting terminology.
D. The concepts and standards underlying the measurements used in accounting to prepare the financial statements of businesses.
E. The use and interpretation of financial reports (i.e., income statements, balance sheets, statements of retained earnings/stockholders’ equity, statements of cash flows) prepared for users external to businesses (i.e., owners, creditors, government and investors).

Required Materials and Equipment:


- **Accounting Cycle Supplement**: *Solid Footing: Building an Accounting Foundation*, 10th edition, by Dan Wiegand, (ISBN: 9780997381221, Micro Solve Inc.). This is a spiral-bound textbook with accompanying software and files. Please keep the blue registration slip at the back of the spiral book as you will need it for the chapter 6 assignment and the Accounting Cycle Project. Advice - *Take a photo of the code to make sure you will have it when you need it.*

- **Calculator**: A financial calculator is required for this course. A financial calculator is one that has dedicated keys for convenience in working problems involving the time-value of money. The keys typically are labeled N (number of periods), I/YR (required interest rate per period), PV (present value), PMT (payment per period), and FV (single future payment amount). If you already have such a calculator, you do not need to buy a new one. However, if you do not already have such a calculator, you should buy an HP 10bII+. This calculator is recommended by both the accounting and finance
faculty of the McCombs School of Business. It will be supported in ACC 311 and ACC 312 classes. If you have another kind of financial calculator, you will have to learn how to use it outside of class.

- **Note:** You may NOT use calculators that have text memory (e.g. for programs) or cell-phone calculators on quizzes or examinations. Examples of PROHIBITED CALCULATORS are the TI-83, 84, 86 and 89. You may use simple 4-function calculators if an exam or quiz does not require TVM calculations.

**Supplements**

- Certain Homework Solutions (will be made available on Canvas)
- Instructor PowerPoint Slides and/or Notes (will be made available on Canvas or optional packet at GSB copy center)
- Sample 311 Midterm Exams (will be made available on Canvas)

**Prerequisite:**

The prerequisite for this course is twenty-four semester hours of (prior) college credit. If you do not satisfy this prerequisite, you should drop ACC 311, or the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Programs will drop you from the course. Instructors may not waive prerequisites to their courses.

**Quantitative Reasoning Flag**

This course carries the Quantitative Reasoning flag. Quantitative Reasoning courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for understanding the types of quantitative arguments you will regularly encounter in your adult and professional life. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your use of quantitative skills to analyze real-world problems.

**Course Routine**

I will conduct the course by giving lectures, facilitating solutions to in-class exercises and conducting discussions in a manner that encourages class participation by students, consistent with the objectives of the course and the time available. Students are expected to study the chapter readings before topics are introduced in class and do assigned homework questions, exercises and problems to reinforce what they learn (you can’t effectively learn accounting without doing exercises and problems). Students are encouraged to ask questions and to request that particular points be explained in more detail if they remain confused or uncertain about items discussed or if concepts remain unclear.

**Homework**

There are two types of homework in the course, **Solid Footing** homework and **Textbook** homework (Libby, Libby, Hodge).

**Solid Footing Homework**

During the first six weeks of the course, you will be learning about the accounting cycle, the process with which companies capture transaction data, record them, summarize them and transform them into financial statements that conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). It is essential that every student develop a solid understanding and ability to do accounting cycle tasks because these accomplishments early in the course are the foundation for learning the remaining content of the course. Accordingly, the faculty adopted **Solid Footing**, a semi-interactive tool for learning the accounting cycle. It is meant to present, reinforce and test progress in the accounting cycle in a way that leads to more consistent and deeper understanding among our students, leading to less attrition and disappointing grades in ACC 311. To be sure that all students keep up with the lessons during this phase of the course,
we require **Solid Footing** homework assignments be completed and uploaded through Canvas to be graded. See the homework column of the attached course schedule for the assignments and due dates. The Solid Footing assignments will be your homework for the exam 1 material.

**Textbook Homework**

Textbook homework is assigned from the chapters we cover. As the name implies, homework is meant to be completed outside of class. Textbook homework is further divided into problems to be submitted for grading and problems that are neither submitted nor graded, but are a key ingredient to you performing well on the examinations.

The textbook homework to be submitted for grading are listed in bold-faced text and labeled as Connect on the Course Schedule and are managed through the Connect system. Graded homework must be completed individually, however you are permitted to collaborate with classmates on figuring out how to structure the solution to assigned questions. Connect changes the numbers in the problem for each student, so the data will differ from the textbook and your solution will not be the same as your classmates’ solutions. Connect will grade these problems, provide solutions (after all sections of ACC 311 have submitted their homework), and indicate areas where you need to do additional study. You are given three attempts for each question, with the highest score recorded for your homework grade.

Graded homework is due by 9 am on the day of class, and late homework will not be accepted.

The homework grade is the percent of all graded problems completed correctly. No homework assignments can be dropped in computing the final homework grade.

If you have difficulty using Connect or encounter a problem with it, please email your question to the Connect helpline. If you have questions about how to solve the exercises or problems, please see your instructor or TA (listed above).

**Instructor Discretion**

Instructor discretion may include (but is not limited to) announced or unannounced quizzes (in or out of class), quizzes on Canvas, participation, extra homework, or group projects. If I choose to make such assignments their scores will be treated as part of the instructor discretion.

**Quizzes**

I plan to utilize in-class quizzes for a majority of the instructor discretion grade weighting. There will be numerous quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will consist of short answer, True/False, and/or multiple-choice questions. You will be able to drop your lowest quiz grade. If you miss a quiz you will receive a zero for that quiz. **There are no make-up quizzes.** Complete solutions for each quiz will be discussed in class.

**Class Protocol**

If for some reason you are running late, do not feel you should skip class. Please come in quietly and take a seat at the side or in the rear of the classroom. If you must leave class early, please tell me before class starts. I would appreciate it. Such comings and goings during class should be rare—do not let them become a habit. If you need to miss a class or other required activity, including an examination, for any reason, please inform me as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that I can approve the absence as excused and arrangements can be made to complete any missed work within a reasonable time after the absence. If you miss a class or other required activity, including an examination, for reasons beyond your control, precluding prior notice, inform me of the circumstances as soon as you are able.
E-mail and Canvas

The use of email and Canvas is required for this course. I will frequently communicate with the class with announcements and guidance and I will answer questions via email. I check my e-mail at frequent intervals during weekdays and somewhat less regularly over weekends. **I will use the email addresses that are supplied to me on Canvas.** They are the email addresses that you have given the University for directory purposes. **If you need to update your email address with the University go to your UT Direct page and, under personal info/all my addresses, change your email address.** Before each class, I will post on Canvas any PowerPoint slides I intend to use. You can print them in handout style to save paper—either six slides to a page or, if you prefer, three slides accompanied by note-taking space. **It is your responsibility to regularly check both your e-mail and the class website on Canvas.**

Grading Questions or Appeals

Do not wait until the end of the semester to question or appeal grade components other than the final examination. If you feel there exists a grading error on any of the grade components, or if you feel you need to bring to the attention of our Teaching Assistant or me other facts or circumstances that might affect the grade for that item, you will have two weeks from the date the grade is posted on Canvas to take such action and have the matter resolved.

**NOTE:** The final, overall grade reported in Canvas (column headed Total) is not your actual final grade for purposes of the class. The final overall grade will be calculated in a separate grading sheet to provide proper weights to the different assignments.

Electronic Class Rosters

A recent opinion from the US Department of Education states that the University must inform students in advance if their name will be appearing on an electronic class roster: Since Fall 2001, web-based, password-protected class sites have been available for all accredited courses taught at The University. Class e-mail rosters are a component of the sites. Students who do not want their names included in these electronic class rosters must restrict their directory information in the Office of the Registrar, Main Building, Room 1.

**Academic Standards**

A high academic level will be maintained with respect to (a) the quality of the course and (b) grading. Semester grades will be determined using the following factors and relative weights:

- **Graded homework (Connect & Solid Footing)**: 15%
- Two (non-cumulative Midterms):
  - Lowest Midterm: 15%
  - Highest Midterm: 25%
- Final Exam (comprehensive): 35%
- Instructor discretion—quizzes, group projects, etc.: 10%

100%
The ACC 311 faculty has adopted the University’s plus/minus grading as the standard for all sections of the course. The faculty believes that plus/minus grading permits us to better distinguish gradations in performance and provides better feedback to students on their performance.

Course grades will be such that the class average will be in the range of 3.0 – 3.2. Grades will be based on the total points earned in the course (as shown above). You may assess your performance based on the traditional grade cutoffs of 90% = A-, 80% = B-, 70% = C-, 60% = D-, and below 60% = F. It is possible, but not guaranteed, that we will curve grades at the end of the course. No grades will be associated with scores on exams or quizzes during the semester. In addition, no individual exam grades will be curved during the semester.

Incompletes will be given only in the RAREST of circumstances and only in accordance with university policy. There will be no opportunity to raise your course grade by doing “extra credit” work during or after the end of the semester—that would violate University policy.

Examinations

There will be two midterm examinations and a comprehensive final examination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exams 1 &amp; 2 will be uniform (all sections at the same time).</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exam 1:</strong> WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st 7-9 PM Rooms TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exam 2:</strong> WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4th 7-9 PM Rooms TBA</td>
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The Final Exam will be uniform (all sections at the same time) and comprehensive (covering the entire course).

It will NOT be given on the dates and times listed in the UT course schedule.

We will announce the date and time once the registrar notifies us.

NO EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN EARLY. IF YOU MUST SCHEDULE AIRFARE BEFORE THE EXACT DATE OF THE FINAL IS KNOWN PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE TRAVEL BEFORE THE LAST DAY OF FINALS.

Only students with conflicts with other classes, medical or other documented emergencies and special needs will be given exams at times other than the uniform exams. If you have a job or extra-curricular activities at the times of the exams, this is notice that you are responsible to be excused, miss or work around those other activities.

Unexcused absence from any examination will result in a score of zero. If you miss an exam due to an illness or other emergency reason, you should notify me as soon as possible and provide me with written documentation (e.g., a note from the attending physician) after you return. I have final authority to determine if your absence should be excused and if I can give you a make-up exam. If you have an excused absence from a mid-term exam and I cannot give you a make-up exam, you will receive extra weight on your final to compensate for the missed examination.

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1 Under the traditional grading system an undergraduate student needs a D or better to receive credit for a course; under the plus/minus system an undergraduate student needs a D- or better to receive credit.
If you need to make early travel reservations for the end of the semester, you should plan to travel after the last day of final exams because we will not know until well into the semester exactly when our examination will be scheduled by the University. If you make non-refundable (or non-cancelable) arrangements for travel before that date it will not be an acceptable reason for taking the final exam early.

Religious Holy Days

You will be given excused absences for observance of religious holy days. By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence. If more than five days lapse between an exam and your return, the missed exam will be dropped as a requirement for you. Missed quizzes will not be made up, but will be dropped in determining your quiz score.

Dropping the Course

Students must go through the official procedures to drop the course. A student who stops attending the class and fails to officially drop will receive a grade of F. Consult the Academic Calendar on the Registrar’s website (http://registrar.utexas.edu/calendars/) for specific deadlines.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

The McCombs School of Business has no tolerance for acts of scholastic dishonesty. The responsibilities of both students and faculty with regard to scholastic dishonesty are described in detail in the BBA Program’s Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty at http://my.mccombs.utexas.edu/BBA/Code-of-Ethics. By teaching this course, I have agreed to observe all faculty responsibilities described in that document. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe all student responsibilities described in that document. If the application of the Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty to this class or its assignments is unclear in any way, it is your responsibility to ask me for clarification. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, the integrity of the University, and the value of our academic brand, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. You should refer to the Student Judicial Services website at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/ to access the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty as well as further elaboration on what constitutes scholastic dishonesty.

Campus Safety

Please note the following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, http://www.utexas.edu/safety
- Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.
- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation should inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.
- Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, the University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- Further information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: [www.utexas.edu/emergency](http://www.utexas.edu/emergency).
ACC311
Libby, Libby, Hodge Financial Accounting, Ninth Edition
Textbook Material Excluded From the Course

EXAM 1

Chapter 1
Chapter Supplement B: Employment in the Accounting Profession (p 23-24)

Chapter 11
Key Ratio Analysis: Dividend Yield (p 563)
Stock Dividends and Stock Splits: (p 566-568)
Preferred Stock: (p. 570-572)
Chapter Supplement: Accounting for Owner's Equity for Sole Proprietorships and Partnerships (p 574-578)

EXAM 2

Chapter 6
Report, control and safeguard cash (p 299-304)

Chapter 7
Inventory Methods and Financial Statement Analysis (p 350-353)
Chapter Supplement A: LIFO Liquidations (p 358-359)
Chapter Supplement B: FIFO and LIFO Cost of Goods (p 359-360)
Chapter Supplement C: Additional Issues in Measuring Purchases (p 360-361)

Chapter 9
Chapter Supplement A: Present Value Computations Using Excel (p 484)
Chapter Supplement B: Deferred Taxes (p 485)

EXAM 3

Chapter 10
Ignore discussion and examples using discount or premium accounts for issuance of bonds and straight-line interest amortization.

APPENDIX A
Accounting for Trading Securities and comparison with Available for Sale (p A 9–10)
Key Ratio Analysis: Economic Return from Investing: (p A-13)
Investments for Significant Influence: (p A14-A18)
Controlling Interests: Mergers and Acquisitions: (p A 19-21)

Chapter 12
Key Ratio Analysis: Quality of Income Ratio (p 615)
Key Ratio Analysis: Capital Acquisitions Ratio and Free Cash Flow (p 618-619)
Chapter Supplement A: Reporting Cash Flows from Operating Activities – Direct Method (p 625-628)

Anticipate slight differences in page number for the online textbook (E-book).