

**Texas A & M University - Commerce**  
**College of Business and Entrepreneurship**  
**Department of Accounting**  
**Accounting 550**  
*Sales, Franchise, and Other Taxes*  
**Fall 2015**

**Professor:** Megan Burke, Ph.D., CPA (VA)

**Office:** This is an online course. The Virtual Office is where normal office hours will be held. In addition, you can stop by my office at the Commerce campus on Tuesdays or the UCD on Wednesdays.

**Email:** [Megan.Burke@tamuc.edu](mailto:Megan.Burke@tamuc.edu)

**Office Hours:** Online chats are scheduled for most Thursdays at noon (Central). You are *not* required to attend, but you should listen to the archived copy when you have time. I will log on and be available for live chat. If no one joins after 10 minutes, I will log off. Questions can be emailed to me or posted to the online forum. Posting is the preferred method so that other students may join in answering questions. The chapter lectures will be pre-recorded and posted to eCollege. Additionally, I have office hours at Commerce on Tuesdays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. central time and at the UCD on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. central time.

***Course Description***

This course explores taxes imposed by state and local governments. Taxes include sales, income, real estate, franchise, use, and other types of taxes. Students are exposed to different taxing bodies that impose taxes and the justification of and amounts subject to taxation. Students will use online tax research services.

***Course Embedded Assessment Objectives***

1. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the sales tax law and its operation.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the franchise tax law and its operation.
3. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of other state tax laws.

***Textbooks and Materials***

**Required Textbook:** *Multistate Corporate Tax Course 2014* by Healy & Schadewald.

*Multistate Corporate Tax Course 2013* by Healy & Schadewald.

*Multistate Corporate Tax Course 2012* by Healy & Schadewald.

All are available through eCollege at no cost.

**Suggested Textbooks:** American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 6e*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5 (softcover). Note that there are multiple formats available with different ISBNs.

**Suggested Resources:** Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>

**Access to Internet, eCollege and the TAMUC Library's database:** Connectivity, hardware and software are your responsibility. Completing the Student Tutorial in eCollege is highly recommended.

### ***Student Responsibilities***

Learning is every student's responsibility. My role as your professor is to facilitate your learning process. Each student is required to:

- Read assigned material on schedule.
- Listen to published lectures, attend or listen to the archived ClassLive sessions, and review other published material each week.
- Complete assignments within the posted time frames.
- Participate in the class online forum (Virtual Office) by posting questions and answering questions posted by classmates and/or myself.
- Prepare diligently for weekly assignments.
- Respect the e-learning environment by being prepared and observing net-etiquette.

### ***Graduate level expectations***

- Writing – Graduate students should be able to demonstrate critical thinking skills. Graduate-level writing must demonstrate an ability to evaluate arguments from various perspectives, be able to formulate well-articulated conclusions based on facts and deductive reasoning, and be able to provide a well-reasoned discussion that reflects comprehension beyond an undergraduate level.
- Responsibility – Graduate students should demonstrate self-motivation, organization, time management skills, and discipline. It is your responsibility to know when assignments, exams, quizzes, etc. are due. Due dates are communicated on the syllabus. If changes are made, the changes are provided via email. I will NOT provide daily or weekly reminders for you. You are responsible for submitting the appropriate files on time and in the required format.
- Learning – Graduate studies are designed for more discipline-specific focused learning. I assume you want to learn. My goal is not to solely teach you information that is covered on my exam, but to teach you accounting concepts and the application of accounting concepts. If you only want to know what is on the exam, you are robbing yourself of the value of learning.
- Late work – Due dates are posted on our syllabus and in our eCollege course. Assignments, exams, quizzes, etc. must be submitted no later than the date outlined in our course. Absent extenuating circumstances, late work is not accepted. Extenuating circumstances do NOT include forgetting, technical difficulties or running out of time. The evaluation of an extenuating circumstance is judged on a case-by-case basis. Documentation MUST be provided in a timely manner. A 30% late penalty may apply even if an extenuating circumstance exists.
- Exams/ quizzes – The content and format of the exam/quiz will vary, but may include any of the following: multiple choice questions, problems, matching, or essays. The exam/quiz will be administered on the date outlined in our course. You must plan to take the exam/quiz on or before its due date. Make-up exams/quizzes are given ONLY under extenuating conditions. The following are considered extenuating conditions: hospitalization, medical emergency, physical injury, or death of an immediate family member. You MUST bring proof of the extenuating circumstance in order to facilitate an exam/quiz make-up. Proof of the extenuating circumstance must be received in a timely manner. For extenuating conditions make-up exams/quizzes must be taken within three days of release or recovery. A 30% late penalty may apply even if an extenuating circumstance exists. Students attending university sponsored events must provide necessary documentation in order to accommodate any make-up exam/quiz.

- Cheating, plagiarism, academic dishonesty – Academic integrity is a serious issue. If any portion of your work (exam, quiz, research assignment, homework, etc.) is copied, plagiarized, purchased, stolen or lacks authenticity, the ENTIRE body of work will receive a zero. The Dean will be notified of any breach in academic integrity. Additional academic sanctions may include failure of the course, dismissal from the program and/or dismissal from the university.
- Graded work – There are several issues regarding grading/scoring: 1) I do NOT re-grade work. Once an assignment is returned with a grade/score it cannot be resubmitted. 2) If you disagree with the posted grade/score on an assignment, you must email me with the specific discrepancy no more than three (3) days after the grade/score is posted. 3) You are NOT permitted to submit an assignment used in a previous course.

### *Evaluation*

Grades are based upon total points received.

Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
State Tax Paper	100
Quizzes (lowest 3 dropped)	<u>100</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>

The levels of mastery are:

90 – 100%	A
80 – 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
60 – 69%	D
<60%	F

### **Course Grading Rubric**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>3 (Exceeds Expectations)</b>	<b>2 (Meets Expectations)</b>	<b>1 (Does Not Meet Expectations)</b>
Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the sales tax law and its operation.	Student demonstrates excellent understanding of the basic principles of sales tax law.	Student demonstrates an understanding of the basic principles of principles of sales tax law.	Student cannot demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of sales tax law.
Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the franchise tax law and its operation.	Student demonstrates excellent understanding of the basic principles of franchise tax law.	Student demonstrates an understanding of the basic principles of principles of franchise tax law.	Student cannot demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of franchise tax law.
Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of other state tax laws.	Student demonstrates excellent understanding of the basic principles of other state tax laws.	Student demonstrates an understanding of the basic principles of principles of other state tax laws.	Student cannot demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of other state tax laws.

**Quizzes:** A series of 13 short quizzes will be administered online. These quizzes will cover material from the assigned chapters, online lectures, and/or other assigned materials (e.g. videos, articles, etc.). The three lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

**State Tax Paper:** Students must select a state tax topic to discuss. You must approve your topic in advance with the professor. Suggested topics include state taxation of computer cloud resources, click-through nexus, affiliate nexus, or the sales of digital goods. This list is not all-inclusive, but merely provides some potential paper topics. Your paper should include citations to quality sources outside of the assigned texts. Wikipedia, Investopedia, etc. are not quality sources. Your paper should be 10-15 pages in length and follow APA formatting guidelines. Your paper must be submitted via the Dropbox in eCollege.

#### RUBRIC FOR REPORT

**0 – 30** = Difficult to read, unorganized, weak, lacks references, or not well developed.

**31 – 60** = Paper contains material grammatical errors or gross mistakes and not well developed.

**61 – 70** = Paper organized, not fully developed, insufficient evidence or other flaws to undermine paper.

**71 – 80** = Paper organized, followed most APA guidelines, few grammatical errors, mostly easy to read, and identified relevant metrics and applied them in order to support a well-reasoned analysis and/or decision.

**81 - 90** = Paper organized, significantly followed APA guidelines, few grammatical errors, mostly easy to read, and identified relevant metrics and applied them in order to support a well-reasoned analysis and/or decision.

**91 – 100** = Paper was well-written, organized, informative, easy to read, and followed APA format, including proper references. Identified relevant metrics and applied them in order to support a well-reasoned analysis and/or decision.

**Exams:** There will be two exams during the semester. You will be expected to apply the concepts from class and in the reading (even if not covered in class). The exact coverage of each test will be discussed in class prior to the test. Exams will be taken in the eCollege system. Once you begin your exam, you will have a two hour window to complete it – NO EXCEPTIONS. Exams must be completed by 11:59 pm on the date indicated. Make sure you have a two hour window available to take the exams.

#### *Email*

Emails are typically the best way to contact me. I will try to respond to all emails within 24 hours during the week. Emails received Friday evening or during the weekend may not receive a response until Monday. If you do not receive a response in that timeframe, please re-send the email.

#### *Attendance/Participation*

One advantage of an online course is that you do not have to be in a certain place at a certain time. You can study when convenient and log into the course and review course content when convenient. I will have an online class each Thursday at noon (Central) at which time you may log in and join in the class questions and discussions. You are not required to attend the weekly chat, but you should listen to the archived copy if you are unable to attend. These sessions will be recorded and you can log on anytime to review the chat session. Be sure to post your answers to questions posed by me or your peers. Also, use of the forum to ask questions will benefit all of the class. We have a lot of smart students who can often answer questions quicker than I may be able to. I will review discussions on the forum and offer corrections and additional explanations when needed.

## *Technology Requirements*

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Headset/microphone
- Computer Camera
- Word Processor (e.g. MS Word or Word Perfect)

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (8.0 or higher).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to eCollege, click on the “myCourses” tab and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

## *Communication and Support*

Texas A&M University – Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Chat Support: Click on “Live Support” on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
- Phone: 1-866-656-5511 to speak with an eCollege Technical Support Representative
- Help: Click on the “Help” button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege.

## *Ethics*

Integrity is the hallmark of the accounting profession and will be stressed throughout the course. Any type of student breach of ethics, including, but not limited to: illegal activity, dishonest conduct, cheating, plagiarism, or collusion will result in failure on the assignment and/or further academic sanctions (i.e. failure of the course, dismissal from class and/or referral to the Dean of the College of Business). You will be required to sign the Academic Honesty Policy and submit it within the first week of class. **Failure to submit a signed Academic Honesty Policy will cause a 50 point deduction from your overall score for the class.**

## *Academic Honesty Policy*

The College of Business at Texas A & M University-Commerce will strive to be recognized as a community with legal, ethical, and moral principles and to practice professionalism in all that we do. Failure to abide by these principles will result in sanctions up to and including dismissal. Five different types of activities that will bring sanctions are as follows:

- **Illegal activity** – Violation of any local, state, or federal laws that prohibit the offender from performance of his or her duty.
- **Dishonest Conduct:** Seeking or obtaining unfair advantage by stealing or receiving copies of tests or intentionally preventing others from completing their work. In addition, falsifying of records to enter or complete a program will also be considered dishonest conduct.
- **Cheating:** The unauthorized use of another's work and reporting it as your own.
- **Plagiarism:** Using someone else's ideas and not giving proper credit.
- **Collusion:** Acting with others to perpetrate any of the above actions regardless of personal gain.

## *Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## *Students with Disabilities*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
**Texas A&M University – Commerce**  
**Gee Library**  
**Room 132**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**  
**Fax (903) 468-8148**  
**[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)**

## *Other*

University policy will be followed in regards to withdrawals during the semester. *It is the student's responsibility to conform with the university rules relating to dropping or withdrawing from the course.*

***NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change as needed to meet the objectives or administration of the course at the discretion of the professor. It is not anticipated that there will be any substantive changes.***

*Class Schedule & Assignments:*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
8/31/15 – 9/6/15	Multistate Corporate Taxation Overview	Quiz 1 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 9/6.
9/7/15 – 9/13/15	Module 1 – Corporate Income Tax: Part 1	<i>Reading: MCTC 2013 – Chapters 1&amp;2</i> <b>Academic Honesty Policy and Student Info sheet due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 9/13.</b> Quiz 2 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 9/13.
9/14/15 – 9/20/15	Module 1 – Corporate Income Tax: Part 2	<i>Reading: MCTC 2012 – Chapter 4</i> Quiz 3 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 9/20.
9/21/15 – 9/27/15	Module 1 – Corporate Income Tax: Part 3	<i>Reading: MCTC 2013 – Chapter 3 &amp; MCTC 2014 Chapter 1</i> Quiz 4 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 9/27.
9/28/15 – 10/4/15	Module 1 – Corporate Income Tax: Part 4	<i>Reading: MCTC 2014 – Chapters 2 &amp; 3</i> Quiz 5 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 10/4.
10/5/15 – 10/11/15	Module 1 – Corporate Income Tax: Part 5	<i>Reading: MCTC 2013 – Chapter 4</i> Quiz 6 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 10/11.
10/12/15 – 10/18/15	Module 1 – Corporate Income Tax: Part 6	<i>Reading: MCTC 2013 – Chapters 5 &amp; 6 and MCTC 2014 – Chapter 4</i> Quiz 7 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 10/18.
10/19/15 – 10/25/15		<b>Exam 1 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 10/25.</b>
10/26/15 – 11/1/15	Module 2 – Sales and Use Taxes: Part 1	<i>Reading: MCTC 2012 – Chapter 5 &amp; MCTC 2013 – Chapter 7</i> Quiz 8 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 11/1.
11/2/15 – 11/8/15	Module 2 – Sales and Use Taxes: Part 2	<i>Reading: MCTC 2013 – Chapter 8 &amp; MCTC 2012 – Chapter 7</i> Quiz 9 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 11/8.
11/9/15 – 11/15/15	Module 2 – Sales and Use Taxes: Part 3	<i>Reading: MCTC 2012 – Chapter 6 &amp; MCTC 2013 – Chapter 10</i> Quiz 10 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 11/15.
11/16/15 – 11/22/15	Module 2 – Sales and Use Taxes: Part 4	<i>Reading: MCTC 2012 – Chapter 8 &amp; MCTC 2014 – Chapter 10</i> Quiz 11 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 11/22.
11/23/15 – 11/29/15	Thanksgiving	<b>Tax paper due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 11/29.</b>
11/30/15 – 12/6/15	Module 2 – Sales and Use Taxes: Part 5	<i>Reading: MCTC 2013 – Chapter 9 &amp; MCTC 2014 – Chapter 7</i>

		Quiz 12 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 12/6.
12/7/15 – 12/13/15	Module 2 – Sales and Use Taxes: Part 6	<i>Reading: MCTC 2014 – Chapters 8&amp;9</i> Quiz 13 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 12/13.
12/11/15 – 12/15/15		<b>Exam 2 due no later than 11:59 p.m. central time on 12/15.</b>