

ACCT 538

Advanced Income Tax Accounting

Fall Semester 2018

Thursday, 6:15 p.m. to 8:55 p.m.

Location: ELCOP 226

Instructor: Jim Hamill, CPA, Ph.D.
E mail: James.Hamill@tamuc.edu

TAMUC Office:

Office Hours: 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and after class. **Office hours will be at the downtown campus, either in our classroom or in a shared faculty office. I will arrive at 3 p.m. on class days. If something comes up that prevents me from doing that I will e-mail the class by 9 a.m. the day of class, so please check your TAMUC e-mail the morning of class before planning to arrive early for office hours.**

Textbook: McGraw Hill's *Taxation of Individuals and Business Entities*, 2019 Edition.

As you may know, a significant tax bill was enacted in December 2017, effective generally as of January 1, 2018. The details of this bill are in the 2019 edition of the textbook but not in the 2018 version. You will not be purchase a used copy of the textbook. You can get the online version with Connect. I will provide supplemental materials throughout the semester.

Course Description

This course is an overview to the taxation of individuals, including tax issues associated with employees, independent contractors, and other forms of business income. It also addresses sales and exchanges of property, including investment property, business property, and personal-use property.

This course has been designated by the accounting department as a writing-intensive course. One-third of the course grade will be based on written assignments. This includes short assignments as well as two research papers. The course covers tax research techniques and professional responsibilities in tax practice. We address issues and approaches that are similar to what a tax practitioner would encounter and do. In many cases, there are no certain answers. This course is not specifically designed to prepare for the CPA exam, but the course coverage will be very helpful in this regard.

Significant tax law changes create opportunities, particularly for new or recent entrants into the profession. Changes to laws create a more equal footing for young professionals and more experienced ones.

Grading

(3) exams	300 points
Research Assignments (2)	90 points
Short writing assignments (3)	<u>60 points</u>
TOTAL	<u>450 points</u>

Exams are not cumulative. All exams are open notes, open book. However, this is merely to avoid unnecessary study time memorizing facts, and you should not rely on access to the book and notes as a substitute for study for the exam. If you expect that you will be able to answer questions by reliance on the notes and book, you will very likely run out of time to finish the exam. Study in the same way that you would for any exam, with the knowledge that if you forget a specific fact that you will be able to check your source materials. The research assignments will be done outside of class and the details will be announced later.

The research assignments must be turned in on time. **You must submit a hard copy.** Failure to submit it on this date will result in a loss of possible points. If turned in one day late, the maximum point total drops to 40 (out of 45). If 2 days late 35 points maximum, 3 days late 30 points maximum, and for each day that the assignment is late more than 3 days 5 points will be subtracted from the maximum point total. This means that if the assignment is 6 days late the maximum points to be assigned is 15 and after 9 days the grade will be zero.

There may be extra credit assignments throughout the semester. If so, each one will be worth 3 points. To receive any points for extra credit the assignment must be turned in at the start of the class for which it is due. Assigning extra credit is at my discretion. Because it is extra credit no points may be earned if the assignment is not turned in at the start of the class for which it is due, without regard to why you could not meet this deadline. Extra credit cannot be submitted electronically. You must be in class the day it is due to receive any credit.

Students with Disabilities and Title IX Compliance

If you have any disability that could affect your experience in this class, please let me know the first week of classes. I rely entirely on those specialists designated by the university to determine whether an accommodation is appropriate and, if so, what accommodation is appropriate.

In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, faculty are considered “responsible employees” by the Department of Education. This requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity.

COURSE SCHEDULE: 16-WEEKS

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment(s)
T 9-28	Tax Research/Practice	Chapter 2 PowerPoint deck	
T 9-04	Tax deferral, conversion, income shifting	Chapter 3 My chapter notes Read Supreme Court case, Lucas v. Earl (google it)	Discuss first writing assignment
T 9-11	Dependents, filing status, Basic individual tax return organization	Chapter 4 My chapter notes	Writing assignment 1 is due
T 9-18	Gross income Exclusions from income	Chapter 5 (through p. 25) My chapter notes Exam review	
T 9-25	Business deductions	Chapter 6	
T 10-02	Qualified business income Deduction	My PowerPoint slides	Exam 1 (first half of class)
T 10-09	Qualified business income Deduction	Continuation	Assign QBID Writing Assignment
T 10-16	Taxation of individual Investments	Chapter 7 (pp. 7-27) My chapter notes	Writing assignment 2 is due
T 10-23	Tax Computation/Credits	Chapter 8 My chapter notes	
T 10-30	Business Income Business Deductions Accounting Methods	Chapter 9 My chapter notes	Writing assignment 3 is due Exam 2 (first half of class)
T 11-06	Work on Research		
T 11-13	Property Acquisition Cost Recovery	Chapter 10 My chapter notes	Research paper 1 is due
T 11-20	Work on Research		
T 11-27	Property Dispositions	Chapter 11 My Section 1031 outline My Section 1031 PowerPoint	
T 12-04	Home Ownership	Chapter 14 My outline of Sec. 121	Research paper 2 is due
T 12-11			Exam 3