



**Accounting
and Finance**

A&M-COMMERCE

ACCOUNTING 550 – 01W
State and Local Taxation
Spring 2025 (January 13 – May 9, 2025)

Instructor: Dr. Michael Opara DBA, CPA **Office:** 343 McDowell Building
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Office Hours:

Mondays: 1-6pm, & By Appointment (Tues-Frid: 9-am-9pm)

<https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/98693726502>

Course Number: ACCT 550 – 01W

Course Title: State and Local Taxation (Sales, Franchise & Other Taxation)

Required Textbook:

State and Local Taxation: Principles and Planning, 3rd Ed. By Swenson, Karayan, Gupta, Neff
J. Ross Publishing (2020)

Access to Internet, D2L and the ETAMU Library's database is mandatory.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) at

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores taxes imposed by state and local governments, predominantly focused on business taxation. Taxes covered include income, sales, use, franchise, and other types of taxes. Students are exposed to different taxing bodies that impose taxes and the justification of and amounts subject to taxation.

State Taxation is a frequently changing environment with wide variation in application and interpretation. While every State must adhere to Federal Constitutional authority, each State has its own interpretations, laws and procedures for administering taxes. The result is an immensely complicated and often contradictory set of rules that govern these matters. Students will learn about

the Constitutional framework for state taxation and about the key elements that make up these systems. Students will be able to compile information related to a specific State and explain the state-specific application of these concepts.

Tax authorities have incentive to increase tax revenues while taxpayers have incentive to reduce tax obligations. Students will discuss the tension between these competing priorities and objectives and formulate opinions about related legislative and policy decisions. Tax practitioners are not in full agreement on these issues. Students will learn how to consider both sides of an issue, including pros and cons, and to formulate opinions about preferred stances on various matters.

College of Business Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate proficiency in spoken communications by creating clear and well-structured business documents.
2. Students will demonstrate proficiency in written communications by creating clear and well-structured business documents.
3. Students will identify and evaluate ethical business issues.
4. Students will identify and evaluate global business challenges.
5. Students will be analytical problem solvers in business environments.

COB Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)	Course Outcomes - After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:	Measurement Methods (Outcome Assessments)
1,2,5	• Successfully argue a position on issues that are open to interpretation • Demonstrate when a client needs to collect or to pay sales taxes on a state-by-state basis • Compute multi-state corporate taxes • Calculate tax exposure in mergers and acquisitions • Conduct a valuation of property taxes • Identify key issues in local taxes • Recognize components of employment taxes	• Presentation • Exams • Case

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Student success is most effective when you take responsibility for your own learning. What you end up getting out of this course is based upon your commitment to mastering the material and completing assignments and readings on-time. It is important to set high expectations for yourself. Each student is required to:

1. Login to the D2L course page several times each week. Read postings and assignment instructions frequently.
2. Frequently check your leomail email.
3. Complete assignments on or before the due date.
4. Respect the learning environment.

EXAMS, COURSEWORK, AND ASSESMENT

The course grade is composed of the following:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Points</u>
Exam 1	50
Exam 2	50
Exam 3	50
Exam 4	50
Total Points	<u>200</u>

Late work – Assignments, exams, quizzes, etc. must be submitted no later than the date outlined in our course. **Unless extenuating circumstances exist, 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.**

GRADE CONVERSION

There is no grade curve and no extra credit assignments.

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

TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

D2L Support

If you experience technical problems please contact the HelpDesk:

<http://enduser.desire2learn.com/user/support.asp> or 1-877-325-7778.

myLeo Support

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at myleo: <https://leo.tamuc.edu>

Learner Support

The [One Stop Shop](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/) was created to serve you by providing as many resources as possible in one location. <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/>

The [Academic Success Center](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/) provides academic resources to help you achieve academic success. <http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Email: I will be communicating updates to the class via email or by posting an announcement in D2L. You will be required to check your student email frequently. Email me if you have any questions. **Please include the course number and section in the subject line of your email.**

Class etiquette: Respect and collegiality must be maintained at all times. Interactions (whether online or face-to-face) should not use profane language, include sexist or racist comments, or contain other dialogue that is objectionable. Always be respectful to everyone. Please note that we are not peers; I maintain a professor-student relationship.

Chapter reading: Chapter readings should be completed each week. Lectures will not be confined to teaching the textbook; therefore, it will benefit you to be familiar with the chapter material.

D2L: The TAMUC D2L website will be used for this class. All assignments will be turned in electronically. It is the responsibility of the student to submit all assignments electronically through the D2L system, no later than the date they are due.

Cases: The case assignments and instructions will be posted in D2L later on in the semester, and each assignment will be submitted by the student to the D2L Dropbox on or before the due date.

Tax Topic Presentation: When assigned, find a state or local tax or revenue issue that interests you. Gather related news articles and any relevant tax information. Prepare a 10 to 15-minute presentation that summarizes the issue, with special focus on the revenue implications. Evaluate the tax or other revenue generation related to the issue using the following tenets of taxation: sufficiency, equity, certainty, convenience, and economy. Explain the arguments both in favor of, and against, the activity.

Changes to the syllabus: A syllabus is a tool to help you plan your time. Every effort is made to make the syllabus as complete as possible, but there may be occasions when changes are required. I will announce any deviations from this syllabus using the announcement feature on the D2L course page.

*Computer-related issues and internet connectivity issues are **NOT** acceptable excuses for not completing and submitting assignments on time.*

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

All students must follow and conform to the University policy on Academic Honesty. A copy of this will be available in D2L. All students are required to sign and return the form to the instructor.

“All that is required for dishonesty to flourish is that good men and women do nothing.”

NOTE: THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS NEEDED TO MEET THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE OR TO AID IN COURSE ADMINISTRATION AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.

AI USE IN COURSE:

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided, the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

University Policies and Procedures:

- *Disability* – Students with Disabilities information: 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 Services, Gee Library, Room 162; (903) 886-5930; email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

- *Nondiscrimination notice:* 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.

- *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 Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

- *Dropping or Withdrawal from the course* – “Students who wish to drop a course or withdraw from the university are responsible for initiating this action”. I will NOT drop you from the course; it is your responsibility to complete the paperwork required to drop or withdraw.

- Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to ((<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmpl oyeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

- A& M-Commerce Supports Students’ Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center’s crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

CPA Exam Candidates - State of Texas

Candidates who desire to sit for the CPA in Texas must meet the following educational criteria:

1) Have a bachelor's degree; 2) Completed 120 semester hours of courses; 3) Included in the 120 semester hours, 21 of upper level accounting courses. Complete 24 hours of upper level business courses; 3-semester credit hours of approved ethics; 2-semester credit hours of approved communication and 2-semester credit hours of approved accounting research. For more information visit Exam/Qualification on the State Board's website: <https://www.tsbpa.texas.gov/exam-qualification/examination-requirements.html>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

To fully participate in this courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled internet browser. For PC and Mac users the suggested browser is Chrome or Firefox.

You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection and speakers or headphones.

In addition, ensure that you have the following software:

- **Adobe Reader** <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
- Microsoft Office 2021, 2019, 2016 or 365

Schedule of Instructional Activities

Weeks	Chapters/Activities
January 13	Chapter 1: Introduction to State and Local Taxation – A Framework <i>Further Reading:</i>
January 20	Chapter 2: Constitutional Law Limitations to SALT <i>Further Reading:</i>
January 27	Chapter 3: Corporate Income/Franchise Taxes <i>Further Reading:</i>
February 3	Chapter 4: Sales and Use Taxes <i>Further Reading:</i>
Exam 1: Feb 16	Available: February 16 @ 11.59 pm (50 points). Due in D2L @11.59pm. (50 points). Late submissions will NOT be accepted.
February 17	Chapter 5: Property Taxes <i>Further Reading:</i>
February 24	Chapter 6: Unemployment Taxes <i>Further Reading:</i>
March 3	Chapter 7: Mergers, Acquisitions and Restructuring <i>Further Reading:</i>
March 10-15	Spring Break
Exam 2: March 17	Available: March 24 @ 11.59 pm (50 points). Due in D2L @11.59pm. (50 points). Late submissions will NOT be accepted.
March 24	Chapter 8: Credits and Incentives <i>Further Reading:</i>
March 31	Chapter 9: Taxation of E-Commerce <i>Further Reading:</i>
April 7	Chapter 10: Taxation of Employees and Sole Proprietorships <i>Further Reading:</i>
Exam 3: April 14	Available: April 20 @ 11.59 pm (50 points). Due in D2L @11.59pm. (50 points). Late submissions will NOT be accepted.
April 21	Final Exam Review Week
Exam 4: May 1	Exam 4: Due – May 1 @ 11.59 pm (50 points). Late submissions are NOT accepted.