Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
College of Business  
Course Syllabus – Spring 2015  
This document is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Number: ACCT 5381.001

Course Name: Accounting Theory

Time/Location: Thu 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. / OCNR-132

Instructor: Arpita Shroff, PhD CPA

Email: arpita.shroff@tamucc.edu

Office: O’Conner Building Room 349

Phone: (361) 825-3729

Office Hours: Tue/Thu 12:15pm – 1:45pm & 3:15pm – 4:45pm
Any other time by appointment


Prerequisites: Prerequisites: accounting foundation courses or the equivalent.
Course Description:

A study of diverse accounting theories and concepts. Includes an intensive study of the underlying framework of financial accounting. Contemporary accounting issues are emphasized focusing on proper financial statement presentation and disclosure. The course includes the study of similarities and differences between U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards and the related convergence projects.

Relationship to Other Coursework:

This course is designed as an in-depth study of financial accounting theory as an elective for the Master of Accountancy degree.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand competing approaches to the development of accounting theory including equity theories.
- Identify attempts by authoritative bodies to develop accounting theory and critique their impact on accounting thought.
- Analyze the conceptual framework and its influence on current standards.
- Understand how academic research and the application of the scientific method contribute to accounting thought.
- Apply research and problem solving skills to current financial reporting problems.
- Understand the similarities and differences between U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards and the related convergence projects.
- Understand the impact of competing standards (GAAP vs IFRS) on companies with globally based operations.

Instructional Methodology:

Lecture, problems, and cases. Extensive class discussion.

Achieving Success in this Course:

This course requires a significant time commitment outside of regular class-time. You must take the role of an active learner. It is critical that you participate fully during in-class discussions, which will only be possible if you are prepared. Proper preparation will require a substantial amount of time for assigned readings and written analysis. If you encounter problems with attendance, preparation or participation, it is imperative that you discuss these with me BEFORE it impacts your grade.
Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Participation (Including class discussions and Homework items)</th>
<th>25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper / Case Discussant</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Project</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Quizzes</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester Project (Final Exam)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades will only be assigned as whole letter grades. Please do not ask the instructor for “extra credit” assignments.

Courses may require the use of exam-proctoring involving third party charges. Exam-proctoring charges may range from $1 - $50.00 per exam. Students may be required to schedule exams at least 24 hours in advance or incur late scheduling charges. All costs for exams are the responsibility of the student. Students may also be responsible for providing webcams to be used in test proctoring.
Class Participation:

Your involvement in class discussions is expected. The majority of the learning in this course will result from good preparation and active participation in class discussion. You are also expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner in class, including regular attendance, alertness and interest in the class. Unprofessional behavior includes being late for class and any other behavior that is disruptive or disrespectful to the professor or the other students in the class.

Homework:

Students are to read assigned chapters, readings and complete assigned exercises and cases before each class. **Assigned items are to be submitted electronically to my regular email (Arpita.Shroff@tamucc.edu) no later than noon on the day of class.** Paper copies should be brought to class to use for discussion. Paper copies are not to be turned in. Homework will consist of the following:

**Paper Summaries:** For each reading assigned, you will find the article, read it and turn in a **one page summary** of each article. In addition, you should prepare **three questions** that relate the reading to the chapter materials.

**Chapter Cases:** In most chapters two cases are selected for presentation. You will do a **one page write up** of each case. If you can solve it, then do so. If not, please demonstrate that you have knowledge of the case.

**Other Items:** For some chapters, I will assign readings to be summarized for class discussion. I will provide information on length of summary at the time of assignment. There may be other homework assigned.

**FORMAT:** Please use a header on your digital document that includes your name and the chapter. Begin each separate item on a new page. Make sure to save the document in a file that INCLUDES YOUR OWN NAME. The subject line of your email should include the class identity.

Late Assignments:

All assignments are due in digital format to my regular email no later than NOON on the day of class. Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted. You should submit the homework timely even if you are going to miss class.

Paper or Case Discussant:

Students will be responsible for acting as discussant for one or more reading and/or case over the course of the semester. Teams of two students will share the discussant responsibility. The responsibilities of the discussants are to lead the class discussion of the paper/case and to pose questions relating the paper/case to the chapter materials for the class to consider and discuss. The discussions will last 10-20 minutes for each item, depending on time available and class interest in the item. Student pairings and discussion items will be randomly assigned.
Chapter Quizzes:

Timed quizzes will be given for most chapters. NO make-ups are allowed. The quizzes will be answered on an INDIVIDUAL basis. The quizzes will substitute for exams and will cover the chapter materials, cases and readings.

Team Project:

A project will be assigned using small teams. The details of this assignment will be provided in class. The assignment will be related to a current topic in the accounting environment.

Semester Project:

A semester project, to be done on an individual basis, will be assigned. Typically the project is a research paper on a current topic in the financial accounting theory environment. This project will be discussed further in class.

Oral and Written Communication Content:

Oral and written communication will be practiced by way of class discussion and written answers to homework during the course of the semester. In addition each student will be part of a group presentation of a case during the semester.

Technology Applications:

Case write-ups will be word-processed. Spreadsheet applications should be utilized when possible to enhance the analysis. Group presentations will utilize PowerPoint and other appropriate presentation technology.

Ethical Perspectives:

The behavioral aspect of accounting information will be highlighted in this course. Accounting information impacts strategic decisions that may have ethical content. Accountants frequently must use their professional judgment to make difficult decisions. The importance of ethical decision-making will be stressed in all of the course material. Furthermore, class discussion will periodically focus explicitly on problems or cases that involve ethical dilemmas.

Global Perspectives:

The focus of this course is the United States; however, formal coverage of international topics is included where relevant.
Demographic Diversity Perspectives:

This course will not specifically address the issue of demographic diversity.

Political, Social, Legal, Regulatory, and Environmental Perspectives:

The impact of these perspectives will be examined in terms of the financial accounting standard setting process.

Attendance Policy:

Students are held responsible for class attendance and are advised that excessive absences may adversely affect their grades.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism:

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a ‘zero’ for the item and potentially more severe penalty commensurate with the act of academic dishonesty. **I HAVE ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CHEATING OF ANY KIND. IF I DISCOVER YOU ARE CHEATING YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY BE ASSIGNED THE GRADE OF ‘F’ FOR THE COURSE. ALL WORK SUBMITTED WILL BE PROCESSED THROUGH TURNITIN.COM FOR PLAGIARISM EVALUATION. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHAT ‘PLAGIARISM’ ENCOMPASSES, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.**

Classroom/Professional Behavior:

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.
Disability Statement

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 believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in CCH 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Dropping Class:

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **Friday, April 11, 2014 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of "W" for this term.**

Grade Appeals:

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
## Summary of Topical Coverage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting Theory and Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Structures</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics of Regulation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postulates, Principles, Objectives</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FASB’s Conceptual Framework</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usefulness of Accounting Information</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparison of U.S. GAAP to IFRS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance Sheet</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Statement</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Flow Statement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes, Pensions, Leases</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE as of January 5, 2015 (an updated syllabus will be provided on the first day of the class):

1/22/15
Review Syllabus, Assignment Schedule and Blackboard site
Discuss class writings and other information
FASB Accounting Standards Codification Demonstration
In-class writing assignment, read aloud
Assign discussant pairs
Assign Teams and discuss Team Projects
Discuss Individual Semester Project

1/29/15
Chapter 1: An Introduction to Accounting Theory
Cases: Critical Thinking and Analysis #2

2/5/15
Chapter 2: Accounting Theory and Accounting Research
Cases: Cases, Problems and Writing Assignments #1

2/12/15
Chapter 3: Development of the Institutional Structure of Financial Accounting
Cases: Critical Thinking and Analysis #1 and #2

2/19/15
Chapter 4: The Economics of Financial Reporting Regulation
Cases: Cases, Problems and Writing Assignments #1
Critical Thinking and Analysis #1
READINGS AND CASES FOR THE FOLLOWING CHAPTERS TO BE ANNOUNCED

2/26/15
Chapter 5: Postulates, Principles and Concepts
Readings:
Cases:

3/5/15
Chapter 6: The Search for Objectives
Readings:
Cases:

3/12/15
Chapter 7: The FASB’s Conceptual Framework
Readings:
Cases:

3/19/15
SPRING BREAK

3/26/15
Chapter 10: International Accounting
Readings:
Cases:

4/2/15
Chapter 8: Usefulness of Accounting Information to Investors and Creditors
Chapter 9: Uniformity and Disclosure: Some Policy-Making Directions
Readings:
Cases:

4/9/15
Chapter 11: The Balance Sheet
Readings:
Cases:
4/16/15
Chapter 12: The Income Statement
Readings:
Cases:

4/23/15
Chapter 13 Statement of Cash Flows
Readings:
Cases:

4/30/15
Chapter 15 Income Taxes and Financial Accounting
Readings:
Cases:

4/30/15
Chapter 16 Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits
Readings:
Cases:

4/30/15
Chapter 17 Leases
Readings:
Cases:

5/7/14
FINAL EXAM - Individual Semester Project due no later than 7:00 pm