Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi  
College of Business  
Department of Accounting, Business Law, and Finance  
Course Syllabus – Spring 2017

Course Number and Time: ACCT 5381 (meets Thursdays 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in OCNR 115)  
Course Name: Accounting Theory  
Professor: Dr. Lelkes  
Office: OCNR 356  
Phone: 361-825-2385  
Email: Anne-Marie.Lelkes@tamucc.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Thursdays 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.


Blackboard 9.1: See Blackboard 9.1 for grades.

Prerequisites: Accounting Foundation courses or 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.

Course 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.

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.

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.
Performance Evaluation and Grading: Student performance evaluation may be based on exams, attendance, group work, participation, presentations, etc. A sample of the relative weights of each of these components is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale:
A = At least 90% of available points  
B = At least 80% but less than 90%  
C = At least 70% but less than 80%  
D = At least 60% but less than 70%  
F = Less than 60%

Grades will only be assigned as whole letter grades.

1) Class Participation (Required):
- 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 attendance, alertness and interest in the class. Unprofessional behavior includes being late for class or leaving early and any other behavior that is disruptive or disrespectful to the professor or the other students in the class.
  - Attendance is mandatory. Attendance is recorded at the BEGINNING of class.
    - If you are counted absent, you must come by during office hours to make up the absence by discussing with the professor 3 main points that you learned from the chapter/articles/cases that you missed (from memory, no book, no notes).
    - It is disruptive to the class to arrive late and leave early. If you are late, you could be counted absent. If you leave early, you could also be counted absent.

2) Homework & Article/Case Presentations (Required):
- Each student is to read the assigned chapters, readings, and complete assigned exercises and cases before each class. Assigned items are to be emailed to the professor no later than the day BEFORE 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:
  - Article Summaries: For each reading assigned, each of you will find the article(s), read them and turn in a one page summary of each article and how they relate to the chapter.
  - Cases: Each of you will do a one page write-up of each case summarizing it and solving it.
  - 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.
  - You cannot directly copy word-for-word (verbatim) any information within the articles. It must be in your own words. Anything that is copied verbatim will cause the grade for the article/case presentations to be reduced by 50%. Any plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for those articles/cases assigned for that day.
- Article/Case Presentations: Three students will be randomly selected and assigned to present the article or case each class period. You will present the article/case to the class with a formal PowerPoint presentation that should be at least 5 minutes in length.
- Late work will not be accepted and will result in zero points.

3) Team Project (Required):
- The class will be divided into teams.
  - If you have a problem with a team member not participating or not contributing, let the professor know immediately. The group member will receive zeros for project.
- The details of this assignment will be provided in class. The assignment will be related to a current topic in the accounting environment. You will need to research the answers and properly cite your sources using APA guidelines. You cannot directly copy word-for-word (verbatim) any information within the sources. It must be in your own words. Anything that is copied verbatim will cause the grade for the team project to be reduced by 50%. Any plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for that project. All of you should oversee your team member's
work.
- You will professionally present your work in class on the due date. You must use PowerPoint and the presentation must be at least 10 minutes in length. Both the professor and your classmates will grade your presentation.
- The team project must be emailed to the professor the DAY BEFORE the presentation. The project must be typed in Microsoft Word.
- Late work will not be accepted and will result in zero points.
- Points will be taken off for lack of neatness, improper grammar/spelling, and lack of effort.

4) Comprehensive Final Exam (Required):
- This is an in-class exam.
- This is NOT a group exam. It is to be completed individually with no outside help.
- The exam contains multiple choice/essays/short-answer based on everything covered in class (e.g. articles/cases) and in the textbook.
- No notes, no textbooks, no phones, and no computers are allowed during the exam.
- If you have a verifiable reason to not make it to class on an exam day, your makeup will be different from the regular exam and will be more difficult given the extra time you would have in comparison to everyone else (makeups won't be given earlier than the exam date). Makeups must be done during office hours and within one week after the normally scheduled exam.

Oral and Written Communication Content: Students are expected to communicate in both oral and written form with the instructor as well as other students.

Technology Applications: Computer assignments will be completed using Excel spreadsheet and Word applications. Assignments will be turned in via email as an attached file.

Ethical Perspectives: The ethical aspects of accounting in the international arena will form part of the course. One issue will involve bribery and another will be the right of one nation or one multinational firm to impose its values upon another country and culture.

Global Perspectives: The entire subject of the course will be international in scope, comparing accounting methods and cultures in a large number of countries.

Demographic Diversity Perspectives: Diversity in the international cultural environment will be an important feature of the course. The inter-cultural approach used in this course will require comparisons and understanding of diverse cultures within and among a large number of countries.

Political, Social, Legal, Regulatory, and Environmental Perspectives: The effects and relevance of political, social, legal, regulatory and environmental systems upon accounting in the international field will be reviewed and discussed in some depth.

Attendance Policy: Students are held responsible for class attendance and are advised that excessive absences will adversely affect their grades.

Code of Ethics: This course, and all other courses offered by the College of Business (COB), requires all of its students to abide by the COB Student Code of Ethics (available online at www.cob.tamucc.edu). Provisions and stipulations in the code are applicable to all students taking College of Business courses regardless of whether or not they are pursuing a degree awarded by the COB.

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, falsification, forgery, complicity 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 assignment.

Dropping a 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 process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. April 7, 2016 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

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.
Grade Appeals: As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 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. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

Disabilities Accommodations: 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 Corpus Christi Hall 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.

Statement of Academic Continuity: In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

Summary of Topical Coverage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<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>Total</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This syllabus and schedule is tentative. Any changes will be announced in class.

1/19
Introduction and Discussion of Class Policies and Procedures

1/26
Chapter 1: An Introduction to Accounting Theory
Readings:
Cases: Cases, Problems and Writing Assignments #6 p. 25
Critical Thinking and Analysis #1 p. 25

Chapter 2: Accounting Theory and Accounting Research
Readings:
Cases: Cases, Problems and Writing Assignments #1 p. 47

2/2
Chapter 3: Development of the Institutional Structure of Financial Accounting
Readings:
Cases: Critical Thinking and Analysis #1 and #2 p. 80

Chapter 4: The Economics of Financial Reporting Regulation
Readings:
Cases: Cases, Problems and Writing Assignments #1 p. 101 & Critical Thinking and Analysis #1 p. 102

READINGS AND CASES FOR THE FOLLOWING CHAPTERS TO BE ANNOUNCED

2/9
Chapter 5: Postulates, Principles and Concepts
Readings:
Cases:

Chapter 6: The Search for Objectives
Readings:
Cases:

2/16
Chapter 7: The FASB’s Conceptual Framework
Readings:
Cases:

Chapter 10: International Accounting
Readings:
Cases:

2/23
Chapter 8: Usefulness of Accounting Information to Investors and Creditors
Readings: 
Cases: 

Chapter 9: Uniformity and Disclosure: Some Policy-Making Directions
Readings: 
Cases: 

3/2
Chapter 11: The Balance Sheet
Readings: 
Cases: 

3/9
Chapter 12: The Income Statement
Readings: 
Cases: 

3/16
Spring Break

3/23
Chapter 13: Statement of Cash Flows
Readings: 
Cases: 

3/30
Chapter 14: Income Taxes and Financial Accounting
Readings: 
Cases: 

Chapter 15: Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits
Readings: 
Cases: 

4/6
Chapter 16 Leases
Readings: 
Cases: 

Chapter 17 Intercorporate Equity Investments
Readings: 
Cases: 

4/13
No class

4/20
Team Project Presentations (report and PowerPoint slides due the day before by email)

4/27
Team Project Presentations (report and PowerPoint slides due the day before by email)

5/4
Comprehensive Final Exam from 7:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.