Course Number: ACCT 5381
Course Name: Accounting Theory
Instructor: Dr. Qiuhong Zhao
Office: Dr. Qiuhong Zhao – O’Connor 352
Phone: Dr. Qiuhong Zhao – (361) 825-3619
Office Hours: Six hours per week as posted.
Prerequisites: Prerequisites: accounting foundation courses or their equivalent.
Course Description:

Relationship to Other Coursework:
This course is designed as an in-depth study of financial accounting theory as a requirement 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. Level—Medium. Skills—Analytical
• identify attempts by authoritative bodies to develop accounting theory and critique their impact on accounting thought. Level—Medium. Skills—Analytical, Integrative
• analyze the conceptual framework and its influence on current standards. Level—High. Skills—Analytical, Integrative
• understand how academic research and the application of the scientific method contribute to accounting thought. Level—Medium. Skills—Analytical
• apply research and problem solving skills to current financial reporting problems. Level—High. Skills—Analytical, Communication, Integrative, Technology
• 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.

Performance Evaluation and Grading:
Student performance evaluation may be based on case write-ups, group presentations, final exam, and research paper. A sample of the relative weights of each of these components is as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case Write-ups</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A letter grade will be determined based on the percentage earned of total points possible, as follows: A: 90-100%; B: 80-89%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69%; F: 0-59%. In some instances, a curve may be applied in determining letter grades.

Oral and Written Communication Content:
Oral and written communication will be practiced by way or 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.

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.

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 ( ).

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. ( ) 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 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. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

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 Driftwood 101.

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.

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>Total</td>
<td>45</td>
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</tbody>
</table>