

DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY
ACCT 503
FOUNDATIONS IN ACCOUNTING
SYLLABUS – Summer I, 2017

Course Prerequisites: None

Meeting times: Monday, 6:30-9:30 pm, May 8 – June 12

Location: Lewis Hall, Room 310

Instructor: Richard Walstra, DBA, MBA, CPA
Assistant Professor of Accounting

Office: Fine Arts 220B

Office Hours: Mondays 2-5:30 p.m.; available upon appointment (including early evenings)

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Course Materials

In this course we will use materials from the following web site: <http://www.accountingcoach.com/> including the Pro Features (\$49 for lifetime access, though keep alert for a \$39 pop-up offer).

Weekly course overviews, other support materials and links, assignment postings, and grade tracking will be available through the Canvas site.

Course Description

The objective of financial reporting is to provide useful information to external parties such as investors, lenders, and other creditors. Internally, managers use financial statements as well as other financial information to assess operating effectiveness. This course presents the stages of an accounting information system and explores how the accounting cycle is used to develop financial reports. Students will build an understanding of the elements within the financial reports, recognize the connections between the statements, and develop an ability to interpret and analyze statements.

Course Learning Goals

At the completion of this class, students will

1. Appreciate the significance of accounting systems in generating useful financial information.
2. Understand both the manual and electronic mechanics of compiling accounting transactions and how they are used to generate financial statements.
3. Recognize the impact of accounting principles and computational challenges on the record keeping process.
4. Be familiar with the five elements contained within financial statements – the permanent accounts on the balance sheet (assets, liabilities, and equity) and the temporary accounts on the income statement (revenues and expenses) - and understand the nature of the accounts contained in each element.
5. Build skills in interpreting financial results and using tools for financial analysis and informed decision making.

Broader academic goals and outcomes of the Brennan School of Business incorporated throughout the course include:

- Appreciate the ethical foundation of effective long-run business decisions and promote social responsibility and ethical leadership in managerial decision-making.
- Ability to communicate effectively in written and verbal formats.
- Utilize technology and electronic learning to address business applications.
- Utilize quantitative and analytical methods as well as critical thinking skills in business applications.
- Utilize a global perspective in the evaluation of contemporary business issues.

Assessment of Student Learning

Assessment will include the following components:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Pre-class preparation (4 @ 5 points) | 20 |
| In-class activities (5 @ 5 points) | 25 |
| Assignments (4 @ 20 points) | 80 |
| Final project | <u>75</u> |
| Total | 200 |

Course grading:

A=90%+ B=78-89% C=65-77%

Course Evaluations

All students are expected to complete the formal, on-line course evaluation at the completion of the course.

Other Course Notes

Attendance. Attendance is important due to the fast pace of the course, the nature of material covered, and the fact that we will regularly work in groups. Unexcused absences and tardiness will affect your grade. Cell phones, etc. should be turned off during class - blatant and/or continual abuse will also affect the grade component and could result in dismissal from class.

Preparation. Come prepared to class! A significant amount of material will be available in advance of class, and the intent of pre-work is to ensure you have reviewed the material. Much of the focus in class will be on *applying* concepts, not merely learning it. The pre-class preparation work should be completed before the start of class (beginning after the first class session).

Class Involvement. Active involvement will make class time more stimulating for everyone, and it provides a way to demonstrate comprehension of the material. As we discuss concepts, conduct group work, explore current events, and practice various applications, your involvement makes the course a better experience.

Homework. Assignments will due throughout the course. Due dates for the homework are firm, and class absences are *not* an excuse for missing the due dates.

Company Selection/Final Project. At the start of the course, each of you will select a publicly traded company from a Russell 3000 listing. Throughout the course, we will look to those companies to see how the accounting concepts are being applied. The final project will be based on a company review and analysis of your company.

Communication. We will make regular use of the Canvas site for the course.

Accommodation Policy. I am very willing to make accommodations for any special learning needs. Please contact me at the start of the semester to discuss any needs.

Plagiarism. Plagiarism from other sources is unacceptable and will result in a zero score on the first occurrence (and a report to the Dean) and failing the course for a subsequent occurrence. Finding author solutions on-line and quoting the material (even with slight rewrites) constitutes plagiarism.

Schedule

Week 1 Coverage

- 1) Operating types and legal forms of organizations
- 2) Overview of financial statements and elements of the statements
- 3) Accounting information systems - inputs, processing, outputs
- 4) Balance sheet equation and basic transaction processing
- 5) Accounting principles
- 6) Accrual vs. cash method of accounting

Week 2 Coverage

- 1) Current assets
 - a. Cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments
 - b. Accounts receivable and the allowance for bad debts
 - c. Inventory, including introduction to inventory cost components
- 2) Overview of integrated framework for internal control

Week 3 Coverage

- 1) Long-term assets
 - a. Tangible (property, plant, and equipment)
 - b. Intangible
 - c. Depreciation and amortization
- 2) Current liabilities
 - a. Payables
 - b. Accruals

Week 4 Coverage

- 1) Long-term liabilities (debt)
- 2) Equity
- 3) Revenues and expenses
- 4) Financial statement formats
- 5) Other accounting topics and financial statement notes

Week 5 Coverage

- 1) Statement of cash flows
- 2) Form 10-K, including the management discussion and analysis
- 3) Financial statement analysis using ratios