Syllabus
Financial Accounting – MGP 200A
Fall Quarter, 2005

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Course Objectives:

Corporate financial reporting is concerned with the form and content of the financial information
disclosed by firms to external parties (e.g. shareholders, financial analysts). In the United States,
financial reporting practices must follow “Generally Accepted Accounting Principles” (GAAP)
which are set by the Financial Accounting Standard Board (FASB), a private-sector regulatory
authority. GAAP define the set of accounting method and disclosure practices from which firms
select when providing information to external parties. The primary emphasis of this course is to
assist you in developing the basic skills required to interpret, analyze and evaluate information
contained in published financial statements. The course will introduce a variety of financial
reporting topics. Later elective courses in the program cover many of the same topics at a deeper
level.

Class Materials:

Textbook Bundle: Financial Accounting 2nd Edition by Antle and Garstka bundled with the
Masters Edition Questions, Exercises, Problems, and Cases (QEPC) (ISBN for the bundle is 0-
324-27044-5). You should have received these books in the mail.

Additional Materials: Weekly assignments, solutions, and class notes will be available on
MyUCDavis about two weeks before class. Note that electronic copies of the class notes are not
a substitute for the material covered in class. They are a base set of notes to assist you in note
taking during class. Other additional readings have been provided to you at orientation.

Class Format:

You are expected to have read the textbook material and assigned articles and attempted the
assigned QEPC from the textbook prior to coming to class. Although you are responsible for all
QEPC assigned, I will cover only the more challenging ones in class. The class format is a brief
lecture that highlights key conceptual issues followed by working select problems and cases
from the textbook. I do not collect homework.

Attending class is valuable in helping you understanding the material; therefore I suggest you
attend class. However, if you do need to miss class, please see the course website for any missed
class announcements and for the solutions to the problems. You will need to rely on a classmate
for any additional notes taken in class. If you have to miss a class, I am happy to answer
questions about the material, but only after you attempt to work through it yourself.
**Classroom Etiquette:**

Class will begin on time. Please do your best to arrive in time. I realize that circumstances may occur where you may be late to class. Please feel free to join the class late, but enter quietly and sit close to the door so as to minimize disruption to the class. Similarly, if you *must* have your cell phone on during class then please turn it on vibrate and sit in an area of the class room where you can minimize disturbance should you need to leave the room to take a call. Finally, be respectful to all of your classmates and do not talk to your neighbors during class.

**Performing well in the course:**

This course does not require a prerequisite and will be taught assuming no prior knowledge of accounting. Therefore, students who have completed previous courses in financial accounting are strongly advised to test out before or during the first week of the quarter. If you have not already tested out and wish to, please contact the professor.

This course can prove challenging. Because this is a master’s course we move through the material quickly. This gives you little time to digest the material before we move on. Not understanding the material in early chapters will prevent the understanding of material in later chapters since the accounting concepts build on each other. Thus, many students will be inclined to get lost quickly unless they keep up and invest in understanding each concept as it is covered. If you find yourself getting behind, I strongly suggest that you find time to study. If you are confused, you need to see me for help (but only after you attempt to understand the material on your own).

**Assessment:**

Your final grade will be determined by a case assignment (10%), quizzes (40%), and a final exam (50%). There will be 1 collected comprehensive case, accounting for 10% of your final grade. If your final exam score exceeds your case score then your final exam score replaces your case score. The case may be done on a computer (e.g., word or excel) or handwritten (as long as it is legible). The case may be done in groups or individually. Please make a copy of your assignment for yourself before turning it in. No late work will be accepted. More details will be provided towards the end of the quarter.

There will be 4 quizzes, worth 40% of your grade (weighted equally). If your final exam score exceeds any quiz score then your final exam score replaces that quiz score. There will be no makeup quizzes. If you miss a quiz, your final exam will replace that quiz score. The final exam is comprehensive and comprises 50% of the final grade. The content of the quizzes and final exam will be derived from the textbook and article readings, assigned QEPCs, and class notes. You are responsible for understanding all of the assignments regardless of whether we covered them in class (detailed solutions of all of the assignments will be posted on the MyUCDavis website).
Requests for regrading must be made in writing within two weeks from the return of the graded item. I will regrade the entire item and, therefore regrading may result in a higher or lower score.

If you know in advance that you will miss the final exam, you should contact me in advance to arrange an alternate time. With the exception of emergencies, failure to contact me before the exam will result in a score of 0 on the final.
**Schedule:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 9/30 and Sat 10/1</td>
<td>1, 2, 3 *</td>
<td>Introduction to Financial Accounting and Balance Sheet Concepts: Assets, Liabilities, and Equities and Income Statement Concepts: Income, Revenues, and Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 10/14 and Sat 10/15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Statement of Cash Flows: Operating, Investing, and Financing Activities</td>
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<td>Fri 10/28</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Using the fundamental Accounting Framework</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 10/28</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Economic Concepts: Behind the Accounting Numbers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 10/28</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Financial Statement Analysis: Connecting Economic Concepts to Accounting Reports</td>
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<td>Sat 10/29</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Fri 11/11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Inventories</td>
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<td>Sat 11/12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Long-Lived Assets</td>
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<td>Sat 11/12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Marketable Securities</td>
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<td>Fri 12/2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Long-Term Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12/2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Income Taxes</td>
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<td>Sat 12/3</td>
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<td>Case and Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 12/10</td>
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<td>Final (9 am – noon)</td>
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* We will also cover some more of the basic concepts in Chapter 13 “Equities”. Consider reading this chapter after the lecture, focusing only on the concepts covered in the lecture.