MGP 200A (Sacramento) - Financial Accounting
Winter Quarter, 2013
Syllabus

Contact Information:
Professor: Chelle Yetman
Office: Gallagher Hall, room 3408
Office phone: 530-754-7808
Email: mhyetman@ucdavis.edu (Please indicate “200A” in the subject line when emailing me)
Office Hours: by appointment – email to schedule

Teaching Assistant: Tiffany Tan (your first source for answering questions on the course material)
Email: jttan@ucdavis.edu (Please indicate “200A” in the subject line when emailing me)

**Please contact Professor Yetman for assignment clarification questions or for administrative issues. Please contact Tiffany for questions on the course material; if she is unable to answer then she will direct your question to Professor Yetman.

Course Objective:
To make you informed users of financial information prepared under United States “Generally Accepted Accounting Principles” (GAAP). GAAP define the set of accounting method and disclosure practices from which firms select when providing information to external parties, such as investors, financial analysts, lenders, and regulators. The Financial Accounting Standard Board (FASB), a private-sector regulatory authority, sets GAAP. The primary emphasis of this course is to assist you in developing the basic skills required to interpret, analyze and evaluate information reported in GAAP financial statements. The course will introduce a variety of financial reporting topics. Later elective courses in the program cover many of the same topics, as well as additional topics, in more depth.

Waiving Out of the Course:
Students who earned a bachelor or master degree in accounting are/or who are certified public accountants will be automatically waived from taking the core Financial Accounting Course (200A). The student should email me (mhyetman@ucdavis.edu) and summarize the relevant education or certification that qualifies them for the exemption. I will send an email to you and student services confirming your exemption.

Other students who feel they have a very good understanding of basic accounting principles may request to take the waiver exam. Students who minored in accounting or have already taken a few financial accounting courses may attempt the waiver exam. I do not recommend waiving the course for students who have had only one previous undergraduate financial accounting course, as beginning undergraduate accounting courses are typically taught with an emphasis towards bookkeeping, whereas this course is taught with an emphasis towards analysis of financial information and managerial decision-making.
**Course Materials:**

- **Textbook.** I have selected a basic textbook that gives you the background material for our class. It is a starting point for learning accounting, but not the ending point. We will go beyond the book in class in developing critical analysis of financial statements.


- **Solutions** to the textbook problems are posted on SmartSite under Resources, Text Solutions.

- **Diagnostic Reviews (DRs) and Class Notes** will be provided on SmartSite under Resources, Course Materials a week before each class. You should look at the DR before class. We will portions of the DRs as part of the class discussion, but I do not collect the solutions. There is no need for you to review the Class Notes before class, but you may want to either print them or download them onto your computer to assist in note taking during class. Note that electronic copies of the class notes are not a substitute for the material covered in class. They are intended to assist you in note taking during class.

- **Cases** will be provided on Study.net and as part of the DRs. We will use cases as part of the class discussion, but I do not collect the solutions.

**Class Format:**

Following is an outline of the typical class format so you can predict a routine each week:

1) Class assignment is provided on this syllabus. There are two parts:

   a) **Background Assignment from Textbook:** You are expected to have read the textbook material and attempted the background assignment prior to coming to class. The textbook is straightforward and explains the basic concepts well. I do *not* collect the assignment. Solutions are posted on SmartSite. Generally, I do expect you to understand most of the Background Assignment before class.

   b) **Class Discussion Assignments:** A Diagnostic Review (DR) and a Case will be posted on SmartSite a week before class. I do *not* collect the assignments, but urge you to attempt them before class. I do *not* expect you to fully understand the Class Discussion Assignment before class, as I will be going over them in class.

2) The class lecture will usually consist of three parts.

   a) **First,** I will clarify important topics from the Chapter in a lecture format (e.g., power point).

   b) **Second,** we will work problems in the DR, which reviews and extends the concepts from the chapter. As part of this, we will extend the basic concepts from the textbook to analyzing cases and/or financial statements of companies to understand how companies report the accounting choices just studied and to assess companies’ financial performance in light of what we have learned. It is easy in accounting (as in other analytical classes) to become seduced into thinking that we understand a concept that we read or apply in a written assignment, only to find that we don’t when it is presented in a different way. To understand the basics of accounting, we literally need to understand it backward and forward, upside down and right side up.

   c) **Finally,** I’ll provide an overview on the material for the following session.
**Attendance:**
Although I do not take attendance, I strongly suggest that you attend class, as it is valuable in helping you understand the material. Because the textbook covers the basic concepts, I will be building on these concepts in class. Thus, much of the material I cover in class will not be in the textbook. If you do need to miss class, you will need to rely on a classmate for any notes taken in class. I am happy to answer questions about the material, but only after you attempt to work through it yourself.

**Classroom Etiquette (including cell phone and laptop policies):**
Please do your best to arrive on 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 try to minimize disruption to the class. Also, please turn your cell phone off during class. 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. Laptops are allowed to be used in class, but only for tasks relating to the course, such as taking notes or using excel worksheets for problems. Using laptops for tasks unrelated to the course during class time, such as watching YouTube or checking email, is not allowed, as it is distracting to other students sitting around you. Finally, please 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. 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 basic framework presented in the first three chapters of the book will prevent the understanding of material in later chapters since the accounting concepts build on this framework. Financial accounting takes a lot of effort to get the basic idea. Once you have the basic idea, it is relatively easy. With this in mind, before the first class I strongly encourage you to read chapters 1-3 and work through the assignment (on the last page of this syllabus).

**Assessment and Exam Policy:**
Your final grade will be determined as follows:

- Quizzes (4 open book, take home @ 10% each)  40%
- Final Exam (in class, closed book)  60%
- **Total**  100%

You are expected to take the quizzes and exams at the scheduled time. If circumstances arise such that you will miss one, please contact me regarding the situation. Requests for regrading must be made in writing within one week from the return of the graded item.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Quiz and Exams&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Text Reading</th>
<th>Background Assignment from Textbook (Solutions on SmartSite)</th>
<th>Class Discussion Assignment&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapters 1-3 Continued</td>
<td>SE3-1A, E3-25A, E3-28A, E3-29A, E3-30A attempt P3-63A, P3-66A, FSA3-2, FSA3-3</td>
<td>DR1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>Take Home Quiz #1 Due</td>
<td>Chapter 4&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>E4-30A, P4-49A, P4-50A</td>
<td>DR4 and Case (MGM Mirage - Accounts Receivable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 5 Appendix 5A</td>
<td>P5-49 P5A-5A</td>
<td>DR5 and Case (Merrimack Tractors and Mowers, Inc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Take Home Quiz #2 Due</td>
<td>Chapter 6 Appendix 6</td>
<td>SE6-26B, SE6-27B, E6-30A, E6-35A, E6-37A, E6-44A, P6-73A</td>
<td>DR6 and Case (Lewis Driscoll and Delta Cargo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>Take Home Quiz #3 Due</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>P8-56A, P8-57A</td>
<td>DR8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>Take Home Quiz #4 Due</td>
<td>Chapters 10-11</td>
<td>No Assignment for Chapter 10</td>
<td>To Be Announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>In Class Final Exam Comprehensive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup> The in class assessment is closed book and the take home assessments are open book.
<sup>2</sup> Diagnostic Reviews (DR) and Cases will be provided on SmartSite a week before class. I do not collect the solutions, but urge you to attempt them and bring your solutions to class, as I will be going over them in class. I do not expect you to fully understand the Class Discussion Assignment before class.
<sup>3</sup> I don’t assign problems on bank reconciliations, nor will I test you on bank reconciliations. However, you will find this material useful for your own personal use.