Business Environment, Governance, & Accountability
ACCT 6240
Spring 2016

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. David Kerr
E-mail: dskerr@uncc.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday, 3:30–5:20pm, Center City bldg., room 713
Thursday, 3:30–5:20pm, Center City bldg., room 713
Class Hours: Section U90: Thursday, 5:30pm–8:15pm, Center City bldg., room 604.

Required Materials


Recommended Materials

You are strongly encouraged to read *The Wall Street Journal* (and/or similar business publications) to increase your awareness and knowledge of current developments in the business environment.

Prerequisites

Must be enrolled as a graduate student.

Accessibility for Students with Disabilities

UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please provide me with a letter of accommodation from Disability Services early in the semester. For more information on accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040 or visit their office at Fretwell 230 on main campus.

Moodle2 (UNC Charlotte Learning Management System)

Class Notes: Class notes for each topic we will cover in this course are available on Moodle2. We will work through those notes during class. The notes are in PDF format; I recommend you print the notes and bring them with you to class.

Exam Scores: You can use Moodle2 to check your exam scores. Click the GRADES button in the ADMINISTRATION area on the left side of your screen.

You can access Moodle2 at [https://moodle2.uncc.edu](https://moodle2.uncc.edu).
Grades

Your grade in the course will be based on five team quizzes and four individual exams. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped. Your best three exam scores will be doubled as follows:

**Points Available**

- Team quizzes (best 4 of 5 @ 15 points each) .............................. 60
- Lowest exam score (100 points possible) ................................. 100
- Other exam score 100 x 2 ..................................................... 200
- Other exam score 100 x 2 ..................................................... 200
- Other exam score 100 x 2 ..................................................... 200
- Total points ........................................................................ 760

**Preliminary Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points Earned</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>684 – 760</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>570 – 683.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>456 – 569.9</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 456</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Teams and Team Quizzes**

During the second day of class, you will form a team with two or three other members of the class. In subsequent class sessions, you will interact with your team members, with other members of the class, and with me as we work through questions and problems and take quizzes. A significant portion of the learning process will occur during these interactions as you work closely with one another and with me discussing and clarifying issues that you find difficult to understand.

Five team quizzes will be given in class during the semester. Each quiz is worth 15 points and will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, or fill-in-the-blank questions. The primary purpose of the quizzes is to encourage you to keep on schedule with your reading and studying.

Quizzes are closed-book, but each member of your team may use one 3"x5" note card with notes on both the front and the back.

**You must be present to receive credit for team quizzes.** There will be no make-up quizzes, nor will any quizzes be given early. Your **lowest quiz score will be dropped** when determining your grade for the course. Dropping one quiz score allows for the possibility that you may have to miss a quiz due to unavoidable circumstances such as illness, car problems, interviews, weddings, funerals, or other conflicts.
Examinations

You will be given four exams during the semester, including the final exam. Exam scores are not “curved.” You may use one 3”x5” note card with notes on both the front and the back when taking each exam.

You should make every effort to take each exam on the scheduled date. Make-up exams will be given only in situations involving an excused absence with appropriate documentation. Make-up exams are typically a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, short answer (fill-in-the-blank), and/or problems. If you miss the final exam due to an excused absence with appropriate documentation, you will be given a make-up final exam during the second week of the following semester.

There will be no “do-over” exams. In other words, if you perform poorly on an exam, you will not have an opportunity to replace your score on the original exam with a makeup exam.

On exam days, bring with you the following items:
  - #2 pencil(s)
  - Calculator (must not be a calculator app on a cellphone)

Cell Phones and Computers

The use of cell phones, beepers, or other communication devices is disruptive, and is therefore prohibited during class.

You may use computers or tablets during class for note-taking and other class-related work only. Their use during class for activities not related to class is prohibited.

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance is important as it gives you an opportunity to clarify and test your understanding of the material covered. You will be responsible for all material covered in class as well as in the homework assignments and readings.

Promptness is important and is an expected quality of successful individuals in the accounting profession. Students arriving late to class tend to disrupt other students, so please be prompt.

Unless it’s an emergency, please do not leave class before it’s over. Leaving class early is distracting and discourteous to other students and to me. If you know you’re going to have to leave early, please let me know before class starts.
Policies Regarding Grading

Portions of the following paragraph are from the University’s Policies and Procedures for Appeals of Final Course Grades; for more information, see http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/GradeAppeal.html:

Determination of final course grades and policies and procedures regarding grades is the responsibility of faculty, not students. Thus, the grading policies, procedures, and scales in your courses at UNC Charlotte are not open to debate, negotiation, or appeal. It is inappropriate for a student to contact a faculty member at the end of the semester in an attempt to influence the faculty member’s determination of final course grades. This includes, but is not limited to, asking the faculty member to raise the student’s grade for any reason. However, if you believe your final course grade assigned by the instructor was the result of a clear and material mistake in calculating or recording grades, you should contact the instructor, who will explain how the grade was determined. Your inquiry to the instructor should occur as soon as possible after the formal grade report is received. If you are unable to resolve the grievance through consultation with the instructor, a written request for review of the course grade may be submitted to the Chair of the Department in which the course was taught. Requests for review must be submitted within the first four weeks of the next regular academic semester.

For this course, your semester grade will be determined by the total number of points you earn on exams and quizzes — period. Factors and circumstances other than your total points will not be considered. This includes, but is not limited to, factors such as need (e.g., if you need a “B” or better to keep a scholarship or to graduate, then you must earn at least enough points to receive a B; plan accordingly), effort (while effort and exam scores tend to be highly correlated, your grade in this course will be based on your exam scores, not on the number of hours you spend studying), the number of hours per week you work, number of courses you’re taking this semester, prior coursework or work experience related to accounting, etc. (i.e., all students will be graded similarly, regardless of current employment status, course load, and prior accounting-related employment or coursework). In addition, students with disabilities will be graded in the same manner as all other students; however, students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodation of their disabilities as discussed on page 1 of this syllabus. Finally, please note that there will be no “extra credit” work available, and midterm exams are not curved. Do not ask me to grade you differently than other students or to raise your end-of-semester grade.

Policies Regarding Academic Honesty

A high level of ethical conduct is a critically important attribute of members of the accounting profession. The importance of ethical conduct extends into the academic arena where the profession’s future leaders are being prepared. Thus, accounting students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is above reproach in their academic work.

Academic misconduct includes cheating, fabrication, falsification, multiple submissions, plagiarism, and complicity. Each of these types of misconduct is discussed in the Code of Student Academic Integrity on the UNC Charlotte website at www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html, along with related penalties and procedures. You are expected to be familiar with, and to follow, this Code.

In addition, the following specific requirements are expected in this class:

1. Strict individual performance on exams, i.e., not copying from or looking at another student’s exam or opscan;
2. Not allowing another student to copy from or look at your exam or opscan;
(3) Not passing or receiving information about an exam or quiz to students in your section or in other sections of the course;

(4) Not consulting notes or books during exams or quizzes unless specifically permitted to do so;

Plagiarism consists of passing off as one’s own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have that person’s permission.

Cheating on exams is wrong and will not be tolerated. If I determine or suspect you have cheated on an exam, I will follow University procedures for handling cases of academic misconduct (see www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps105.html).

In addition to risking a U in the course and expulsion from the university, there are several other practical reasons not to cheat:

- No grade is worth sacrificing your character.
- You do not have to live with the knowledge that you behaved dishonestly while under pressure.
- You will know that your work is your own.
- Accountants must agree to a code of ethics before they can be licensed. Practicing ethical behavior becomes easier the more it’s practiced. A person does not suddenly become ethical when he or she enters a profession after a lifetime of unethical behavior.

If any of these requirements are unclear to you, please consult with me before you complete any quizzes or exams in the course. I expect every student in my classes to share responsibility for preventing dishonesty of any kind. Academic integrity is considered a prerequisite for admission into the accounting profession.

Description and Objectives of the Course

Course Description

This course examines a wide variety of topics related to the general business environment and business concepts. Topics to be addressed include corporate governance and control, information technology, managerial and cost accounting, economic concepts and analysis, and financial management.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is for you to learn important concepts related to the internal and external environments in which businesses operate. Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- describe the elements of corporate governance, including the rights, duties, responsibilities, and authority of the Board of Directors, officers, and other employees within a business;
- describe the COSO frameworks of internal control and enterprise risk management;
- calculate and explain economic measures and indicators;
- discuss concepts of financial risk management;
- explain techniques of asset and investment management;
- discuss information technology control objectives and procedures;
- explain the impacts of electronic commerce on businesses;
- explain budgeting and variance analysis;
• calculate financial and nonfinancial measures of business performance;
• explain and calculate cost measurement methods and techniques.

Note: I reserve the right to modify the course schedule, deadlines, reading and homework assignments, classroom procedures, and course policies if circumstances warrant.

If I am late in arriving to class, please wait 10 minutes after the scheduled start of class before leaving.

The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.
# Course Schedule (subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>In-class Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignments in Gleim</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Jan 14</td>
<td>Note: Download class notes from Moodle2. We will discuss and fill in the</td>
<td>Read Units 18.1 thru 18.6. Study the following questions beginning on page 474: 1-30.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>notes in class, so bring them with you. Introduction to the Course</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Topic 1: Costing Fundamentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Jan 21</td>
<td>Continued: Costing Fundamentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Jan 28</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 1 (Topic 1: Costing Fundamentals)</strong></td>
<td>Read Units 19.1 thru 19.5. Study the following questions beginning on page 497: 2-5, 7-13, 15, 17, 19-21, 23-26, 28, 30.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continued: Costing Fundamentals</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Topic 2: Costing Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Feb 4</td>
<td>Continued: Costing Methods</td>
<td>Read Units 16.1 thru 16.5. Study the following questions beginning on page 424: 1-10, 13-20, 22-28.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Topic 3: Budget Components (will be tested on Exam 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Feb 11</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1 (Topics 1 &amp; 2)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Feb 18</td>
<td>Continued: Budget Components</td>
<td>Read Units 20.1 thru 20.6. Study the following questions beginning on page 527: 1, 4-13, 15-20, 22, 23, 27-30.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Topic 4: Costing Systems and Variance Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review Exam 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Feb 25</td>
<td>Continued: Costing Systems and Variance Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Mar 3</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2 (Topics 3 &amp; 4)</strong></td>
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<td>Thursday Mar 10</td>
<td>Spring Recess – No Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Mar 17</td>
<td>Topic 5: Corporate Capital Structure</td>
<td>Read Units 7.1, 7.2, 7.4, 7.5. Study the following questions beginning on page 192: 1, 2, 4, 7, 11, 21, 22, 24-28, 30.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Topic 6: Working Capital</td>
<td>Read Units 8.1 thru 8.4, 8.6 thru 8.8. Study the following questions beginning on page 221: 3, 5-12, 14, 15, 18, 20-22, 24-27, 30.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review Exam 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Quiz/Exam (Topics)</td>
<td>Read Units/Study Questions</td>
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</tbody>
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| Thursday     | **Quiz 2 (Topics 5 & 6)**                      | READ Units 11.1 thru 11.5.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 292:  
1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 12, 15-17, 19, 22, 24-26, 28.  
Read Units 12.1 thru 12.6.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 322:  
3, 4, 7-11, 13, 15, 19, 20, 24-26, 28-30.          |
| Mar 24       | Topic 7: IT Roles, Systems, Processing, Software, Data, and Contingency Planning |                                             |
| Thursday     | **Quiz 3 (Topic 7)**                           | READ Units 13.1 thru 13.4.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 344:  
1-5, 7-9, 11, 13, 14, 16-19, 22-29.  
Read Units 14.1, 14.3 thru 14.5.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 371:  
1, 5-7, 9-12, 15-20, 24, 29.                      |
| Mar 31       | Topic 8: IT Networks, Electronic Commerce, Security, and Controls |                                             |
| Thursday     | **Exam 3 (Topics 5 thru 8)**                   |                                             |
| April 7      | Topic 9: Corporate Governance                  | READ Units 1.1 thru 1.4.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 32:  
1, 4-6, 8-10, 12-19, 25.  
Read Units 9.1 thru 9.6.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 246:  
1-4, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18-24, 26, 28, 29.  
Read Unit 10.1.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 266:  
1, 3-10.                                           |
| April 14     | Topic 10: Capital Budgeting                    |                                             |
|              | Review Exam 3                                  |                                             |
| Thursday     | **Quiz 4 (Topics 9 & 10)**                     | READ Units 2.1 thru 2.10.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 69:  
1-12, 17, 19-22, 26-30.                           |
| April 21     | Topic 11: Microeconomics                       |                                             |
| Thursday     | **Quiz 5 (Topic 11)**                          | READ Units 3.1, 3.3 thru 3.9, 4.1.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 102:  
1-3, 8-13, 15-30.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 126:  
1-3.                                               |
| April 28     | Continued: Microeconomics                      |                                             |
| LAST CLASS   | Topic 12: Macroeconomics and Globalization    |                                             |
| Final Exam   | (Topics 9 thru 12): Thursday, May 12, 5:30 – 8:00 |                                             |
Please print, fill out, and bring with you to class on Thursday, January 14, 2016

Student Information Form
ACCT 6240, Spring 2016

1. Name ____________________________  Phone _______________________
   Name by which you would like to be called in class (if different from above) ____________________________
   (Circle one)  Male  Female
   Hometown (where did you grow up?) ____________________________

2. Experience:
   A. Previous accounting-related employment (circle one)  None  Part-time  Internship  Full-time
   B. Briefly describe any work experience related to accounting:

3. Have you taken a managerial accounting or cost accounting class?  Yes  No  (circle one)

4. Have you taken an economics class?  Yes  No  (circle one)

5. If you currently have a job, where do you work?  ____________________________

6. If you have a job, how many hours per week do you work?  ____________________________

7. Career Interests:
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

8. Comments and/or other information:
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________