

# **Business Environment, Governance, & Accountability**

ACCT 6240 – Sections U01 and U90

Spring 2020

## Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. David Kerr

E-mail: dskerr@uncc.edu

Class Hours: Section U01: Thursday, 2:00pm–4:45pm, Center City bldg., room 601.  
Section U90: Thursday, 5:30pm–8:15pm, Center City bldg., room 601.

Office Hours: Feel free to stop by anytime.  
You can also contact me 24/7 via e-mail.

Regular office hours in the **Center City Building room 713**:

Thursday before class (1:15 – 1:50), between classes (4:50 – 5:20), and after the evening class as needed.

Regular office hours in the **Friday Building 253-E**:

Monday & Wednesday 1:30 – 2:25.

## Required Materials

**CPA Review: Business** (Book & Test Prep); 2020 Edition; by Irvin N. Gleim; Gleim Publications; ISBN: 978-1-61854-303-5.

## Recommended Materials

You are 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.

## Grades

Your grade in the course will be based on four exams. Your best three exam scores will be doubled as follows:

	<b><i>Points Available</i></b>
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 .....	<u>200</u>
Total points .....	<u>700</u>

## Preliminary Grading Scale

<u>Total Points Earned</u>	<u>Course Grade</u>
630 – 700	A
525 – 629	B
420 – 524	C
Less than 420	U

## Examinations

You will be given four exams during the semester, including the final exam. Exam scores are not “curved.” You may use **one 4"x6" note card** with notes on the front and the back when taking each exam. **Your note card must be hand-written** (not typed or photocopied).

On exam days, bring with you the following items:

- #2 pencil(s)
- Calculator (must not be a calculator app on a cellphone)

**Conduct during exams:** Keep your eyes on your own exam and opscan. All cellphones and wearable technology (e.g., smart watches, headphones) must be turned off and placed in your backpacks – NOT on your person and NOT in your pockets – during exams. If you choose to wear a hat with a brim during an exam, the brim must be facing backwards.

**Policies on reviewing and retaining exams:** We will review each midterm exam during class the week following the exam. When reviewing exams, you may not copy any of the questions. This includes, but is not limited to, writing down, taking pictures of, or verbal dictation of the questions. Accordingly, no cell phones, smart watches, computers, etc. should be visible during the review of the exams. You may also review your exam in my office during office hours. ACCT 6240 exams are not retained by students.

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.

## Canvas (UNC Charlotte Learning Management System)

Class Notes: Class notes for each topic we will cover in this course are available on *Canvas*. 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.

Online Videos: You will need a computer and reliable Internet access to view video lectures outside of class during the semester. These videos are available on *Canvas*. The dates on which you should view each video are indicated in the course schedule near the end of this syllabus.

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

To access *Canvas*, open your browser and go to **canvas.uncc.edu**.

## Cell Phones and Computers

The use of cell phones, beepers, or other communication devices is disruptive, and is therefore prohibited during class. Please **turn your cell phone off** before entering the classroom.

You are permitted to use computers or tablets during class for note-taking and other class-related work. The use of computers or tablets during class for activities not related to the class is distracting to other students (and to you) and is not allowed.

## Attendance and Participation

**Class attendance is important** as it gives you an opportunity to clarify and test your understanding of the material covered. Please arrange your schedule to be at class on time each day we meet. Being present for the full class, from the start to the end, is important. You will be responsible for all material covered in class as well as in the homework assignments and readings. If you are unable to attend a class, please let me know in advance if possible. Multiple unexcused absences from class will result in a downward adjustment of your course grade.

**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.

## Religious Accommodations

UNC Charlotte provides reasonable accommodations, including a minimum of two excused absences each academic year, for religious observances required by a student's religious practice or belief. Such reasonable accommodations must be requested in accordance with University procedures and include the opportunity for the student to make up any tests or other work missed due to an excused absence for a religious observance. Students wishing to request a religious accommodation may refer to the information found at <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-134.html>. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a Request for Religious Accommodation Form to their instructor prior to the census date for enrollment for a given semester (typically the 10th day of enrollment).

## 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—**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. **I will not grade you differently than other students or raise your end-of-semester grade – please don't ask.**

## 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](http://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 to students in your section or in other sections of the course;

- (4) Not consulting notes or books during exams unless specifically permitted to do so;
- (5) The questions used on exams are copyrighted. Therefore, you are not permitted to write down or take pictures of any of the questions. This applies not only during exams but also when reviewing exams.

Academic integrity is considered a prerequisite for admission into the accounting profession. If any of these requirements are unclear to you, please consult with me before you complete any exams in the course.

## 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.

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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.

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## Course Schedule (subject to change)

Date	In-class Discussion Topic	After-class Assignment
[1] Thursday Jan 9	<p><b>Note:</b> Download class notes from <i>Canvas</i>. We will discuss and fill in the notes in class, so bring them with you.</p> <p>Introduction to the Course</p> <p>Topic 1: Cost Accounting Concepts</p> <p>Topic 2: Cost of Goods Manufactured</p> <p>Topic 3: Cost Characteristics</p> <p>Topic 4: Differential Analysis</p>	<p>In Gleim, read Units (SU) 18.1, 18.2, 18.3, 7.2.</p> <p>In Gleim, study the following questions beginning on page 522: 1 through 12.</p> <p>Also study these questions beginning on page 218: 4, 5, 6.</p>
[2] Thursday Jan 16	<p>(continued) Topic 4: Differential Analysis</p> <p>Topic 5: CVP Analysis</p> <p>Topic 6: Absorption Costing</p>	<p>Read Units (SU) 18.4, 18.5, 18.6.</p> <p>Study the following questions beginning on page 528: 13 through 17, 19 through 25.</p>
[3] Thursday Jan 23	<p>(continued) Topic 6: Absorption Costing</p> <p>Topic 7: Joint Products</p>	<p>Read Units (SU) 19.1 through 19.4.</p> <p>Study the following questions beginning on page 545: 2 through 9, 11, 13 through 18.</p>
[4] Thursday Jan 30	<p><b>Exam 1 - Topics 1 through 7</b></p>	
[5] Thursday Feb 6	<p><b>We will not meet for class on February 6.</b></p> <p>This week, at your convenience, watch the videos on Canvas for:</p> <p>Topic 8: Job Costing</p> <p>Topic 9: Budgets</p>	<p>Read Unit 19.5</p> <p>Study the following questions beginning on page 553: 19 through 23.</p> <p>Read Units 17.1 through 17.5.</p> <p>Study the following questions beginning on page 499: 1, 3 through 7, 10 through 14, 16 through 21.</p>
[6] Thursday Feb 13	<p>Topic 10: Variance Analysis</p> <p>Review Exam 1</p>	<p>Read Units 20.4 through 20.6.</p> <p>Study the following questions beginning on page 581: 13 through 16, 19 through 22.</p>
[7] Thursday Feb 20	<p><b>We will not meet for class on Feb. 20.</b></p> <p>This week, at your convenience, watch the videos on Canvas for:</p> <p>Topic 11: Process Costing</p> <p>Topic 12: Activity-Based Costing</p>	<p>Read Units 20.1, 20.2, 20.3.</p> <p>Study the following questions beginning on page 575: 1, 3 through 12.</p>
[8] Thursday Feb 27	<p><b>Exam 2 – Topics 8 through 12</b></p>	

Thursday Mar 5	<b>Spring Recess – No Class</b>	
[9] Thursday Mar 12	<b>We will not meet for class on March 12.</b> Sometime this week, watch the videos on Canvas for: Topic 13: Corp Capital Structure Topic 14: Working Capital	Read Units 8.1 through 8.5.  Study the following questions beginning on page 250: 1 through 3, 5, 7, 11, 12, 15 through 18.  Read Units 9.1 through 9.5.  Study the following questions beginning on page 274: 3, 5 through 12, 14, 16 through 18, 20.  Read Units 10.1, 10.2, 10.5.  Study the following questions beginning on page 297: 2 through 5, 8, 9, 17 through 21.
[10] Thursday Mar 19	Topic 15: Capital Budgeting Topic 16: Corp Governance  Review Exam 2	Read Units 11.1 through 11.7.  Study the following questions beginning on page 328: 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13 through 16, 18, 20, 21.  Read Units 1.1 through 1.3.  Study the following questions beginning on page 22: 1, 4 through 6, 8, 10 through 15, 18 through 20.  Read Units 2.1 and 2.2.  Study the following questions beginning on page 58: 1 through 4, 6 through 10, 13, 15, 16, 20.
[11] Thursday Mar 26	<b>Exam 3 - Topics 13 thru 16</b>	
[12] Thursday April 2	Topic 17: IT Fundamentals  Review Exam 3	Read Units 12.1, 12.3 through 12.6.  Study the following questions beginning on page 356: 1, 4, 5, 9, 11, 14 through 17.  Read Units 13.1 through 13.6.  Study the following questions beginning on page 389: 3 through 8, 10, 13, 16, 18 through 20.
[13] Thursday April 9	Topic 18: IT Security	Read Units 14.1 through 14.5.  Study the following questions beginning on page 417: 1 through 6, 8 through 10, 12 through 15, 17 through 20.  Read Units 15.1, 15.3 through 15.6.  Study the following questions beginning on page 446: 2, 3, 5 through 12, 15, 19, 20.
[14] Thursday April 16	Topic 19: Microeconomics	Read Units 3.1 through 3.10.  Study the following questions beginning on page 100: 1 through 10, 14, 16 through 18, 22 through 26.

[15] Thursday April 23	Topic 20: Macroeconomics	Read Units 4.1, 4.3 through 4.9, 5.1.  Study the following questions beginning on page 141: 1, 2, 6 through 20.  Study the following questions beginning on page 165: 1 through 4.
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**Final Exam - Topics 17 through 20**

Section U01: Thursday, May 7, 2:00 – 4:30

Section U90: Thursday, May 7, 5:30 – 8:00



Please print, fill out, and bring with you to class on Thursday, January 9, 2020

### Student Information Form

ACCT 6240, Spring 2020

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

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. MAcc program track (circle one): Professional Auditing Tax Individualized

3. Experience:

A. Previous accounting-related employment (circle one) None Part-time Internship Full-time

B. Briefly describe any work experience related to accounting:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. If you currently have a job, where do you work? \_\_\_\_\_

5. If you have a job, how many hours per week do you work? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Career Interests:

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7. Comments and/or other information:

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