Business Environment, Governance, & Accountability
ACCT 6240 – U01 and U90
Spring 2018

Instructor Information
Instructor: Dr. David Kerr
E-mail: dskerr@uncc.edu
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 (4:45 – 5:20), and after class as needed.
Regular office hours in the Friday Building 253-E:
Monday & Wednesday 12:45 – 1:55.
Class Hours: Section U01: Thursday, 2:00pm–4:45pm, Center City bldg., room 606.
Section U90: Thursday, 5:30pm–8:15pm, Center City bldg., room 606.

Required Materials


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.
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 and Word format; I recommend you print the notes and bring them with you to class.

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.

Grades

Your grade in the course will be based on six 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Available</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Team quizzes (best 5 of 6 @ 8 points each)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest exam score (100 points possible)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other exam score 100 x 2</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other exam score 100 x 2</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other exam score 100 x 2</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total points</td>
<td>740</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preliminary Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points Earned</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>666 – 740.0</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>555 – 665.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>444 – 554.9</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 444</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teams and Team Quizzes

On the first 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.

Six team quizzes will be given in class during the semester. Each quiz is worth 8 points and will consist of four 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 4"x6" note card with notes on both the front and the back. Note cards can be either hand-written or typed.
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 might have to miss a quiz due to unavoidable circumstances such as illness, car problems, work, 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 4"x6" note card with notes on 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. 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. 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.

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. 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, 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;

(5) The questions used on exams and quizzes are copyrighted. Therefore, you are not permitted to write down on take pictures of any of the questions. This applies not only during exams but also when reviewing exams.

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/ps-105.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>After-class Assignments in Gleim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Jan 11</td>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> Download class notes from <em>Canvas</em> We will discuss and fill in the notes in class, so bring them with you. Introduction to the Course Topic 1: Costing Fundamentals</td>
<td>Read Units 18.1 through 18.6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Jan 18</td>
<td>Continued: Costing Fundamentals</td>
<td>Study the following questions beginning on page 405: 1 through 25.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Jan 25</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 1 - Topic 1: Costing Fundamentals</strong> Continued: Costing Fundamentals Topic 2: Costing Methods</td>
<td>Read Units 19.1 thru 19.5. Study the following questions beginning on page 425: 2-9, 12-15, 17-20, 22.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Feb 1</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 2 - Topic 2: Costing Methods</strong> Continued: Costing Methods Topic 3: Budget Components</td>
<td>Read Units 17.1 thru 17.5. Study the following questions beginning on page 386: 1, 3-7, 10-14, 16-21.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Feb 8</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1 - Topics 1, 2, &amp; 3</strong></td>
<td>Read Units 20.1 thru 20.6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Feb 15</td>
<td>Topic 4: Costing Systems and Variance Analysis</td>
<td>Study the following questions beginning on page 449: 1, 3-16, 19-22.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Feb 22</td>
<td>Continued: Costing Systems and Variance Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Mar 1</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2 - Topic 4</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Mar 8</td>
<td><strong>Spring Recess – No Classes</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Mar 15</td>
<td>Topic 5: Corporate Capital Structure Topic 6: Working Capital</td>
<td>Read Units 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5. Study the following questions beginning on page 197: 1-3, 5, 7, 11, 12, 15-18. Read Units 9.1 through 9.5. Study the following questions beginning on page 215: 3, 5-12, 15-18, 20. Read Units 10.1, 10.2. Study the following questions beginning on page 234: 2-5, 8, 9.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Thursday Mar 22 | **Quiz 3 - Topic 5**  
Continued: Working Capital  
Topic 7: IT Roles, Systems, Processing, Software, Data, and Contingency Planning | Read Units 12.1, 12.3 through 12.6.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 278: 1, 4, 5, 9-11, 13, 15-17.  
Read Units 13.1 through 13.6.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 304: 3-8, 10, 13, 16, 18-20. |
| Thursday Mar 29 | **Quiz 4 - Topic 6**  
Continued: IT Roles, Systems, Processing, Software, Data, and Contingency Planning  
Study the following questions beginning on page 324: 1-6, 8-12, 14, 15, 17-20.  
Read Units 15.1, 15.3 through 15.6.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 345: 3, 7-12, 15, 19, 20. |
| Thursday April 5 | **Exam 3 - Topics 5 thru 8** |  |
| Thursday April 12 | **Quiz 5 - Topic 10**  
Topic 9: Corporate Governance and COSO  
Topic 10: Short-term Financing and Capital Budgeting | Read Units 1.1 through 1.3.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 18: 1, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16, 19, 20.  
Read Units 2.1 and 2.2.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 41: 1-9, 14, 16, 17.  
Read Units 10.5 and 11.1 through 11.7.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 239: 17-20.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 255: 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13-16, 18, 20, 21. |
| Thursday April 19 | **Quiz 6 - Topic 11**  
Topic 11: Microeconomics | Read Units 3.1 through 3.10.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 79: 1-10, 14, 16-18, 22-26. |
| Thursday April 26 | Continued: Microeconomics  
**Quiz 6 - Topic 11**  
Topic 12: Macroeconomics and Protectionism | Read Units 4.1, 4.3 through 4.9, 5.1.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 113: 1, 2, 6-9, 11-20.  
Study the following questions beginning on page 130: 1-4. |
| **Final Exam - Topics 9 thru 12** | **Section U01: Thursday, May 10, 2:00 – 4:30**  
**Section U90: Thursday, May 10, 5:30 – 8:00** |  |
Please print, fill out, and bring with you to class on Thursday, January 11, 2018

Student Information Form
ACCT 6240, Spring 2018

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:

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________