FIN 4.5315 Sec. 70
Contemporary Issues in Tax Planning and Finance
Dr. Darlene Pulliam

Class Days/Times/Location or Other Format: Online
Office Location: CC 215C
Office Hours: M and W 3- 6
Office Phone: 806 651-2521
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Social Media: Keep up with the latest happenings of your COB on Facebook and Twitter, connect with us on LinkedIn, and check out COB videos on YouTube.
Other: Prerequisites – ACCT 2301 or ACCT 6300.

Terms of Use
A student's continued enrollment in this course signifies acknowledgment of and agreement with the statements, disclaimers, policies, and procedures outlined within this syllabus and elsewhere in the WTClass environment. This Syllabus is a dynamic document. Elements of the course structure (e.g., dates and topics covered, but not policies) may be changed at the discretion of the professor.

WTAMU College of Business Mission Statement
The mission of the College of Business is to provide high quality undergraduate and graduate business education with a global perspective and ethical awareness. We accomplish this through emphasis on excellence in teaching, which is strengthened by faculty scholarship and supported by professional service.

Learning Objectives of the WTAMU College of Business Programs
The College of Business (COB) at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) seeks to prepare students in the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Professional Accounting (MPA), and the Master of Science, Finance and Economics (MSFE) degree programs for careers in business and to foster their professional growth and advancement via key learning goals and objectives.

The learning objectives of the College of Business are as follows:
- Leadership
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Business Integration
- Core Business Knowledge
- Global Business Environment
- Business Ethics and Corporate Governance
Course Description
This course, FIN 4/5315 - Contemporary Issues in Tax Planning and Finance, will not make you a tax expert. Our primary objective is to learn enough about the federal tax structure to allow you to include the tax effects in your analysis of any business transaction. Hard work can result in your introduction to the basic framework of federal income taxation in the United States.

As you will find, tax law is extremely complex, there is a lot of it, and it is always changing. The challenge in this course is to provide a broad introduction to the income tax laws and to cover each subject in enough detail to allow for an understanding of the problems involved. Even though you are not accountants, all business people need to have a basic understanding of the tax law. Taxes are always a major factor in any business decision.

Course Objectives
- To demonstrate the ability to explain basic concepts related to tax determination, gross income, deductions, credits, and alternative minimum tax for sole proprietorships, partnerships and corporations
- To demonstrate the ability to explain basic tax planning concepts
- To complete application problems online

Course Materials (Text, calculator, etc.)

You acquire these materials by registering - by going to "Lessons" in Blackboard and clicking on the “McGraw-Hill Higher Education: eBook and Class Materials”.

Map from COB Learning Objectives to Specific Course Objectives
All of the course objectives meet the following learning objectives of the College of Business:
- Critical Thinking
- Business Integration
- Core Business Knowledge

The College of Business Learning Goals are related to the course objectives for FIN 4/5314, as follows:
1. Students will demonstrate competencies in writing, speaking, and technology communication via individual exams and on-line exercises.
2. Students will demonstrate their competencies in critical thinking via individual exams and on-line exercises.
3. Students will demonstrate their competencies in ethical decisions via individual exams and on-line exercises.
4. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the global and domestic environment and their relevance.
to the business contexts via individual exams and on-line exercises.

5. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of diversity for effective problem-solving via individual exams and on-line exercises.

6. Students will illustrate and explain theories and concepts related to U.S. income taxes via individual exams and on-line exercises.

Course Grading Policies

Chapter 1 (application problems 30 points and test 50 points) 80 points
Chapter 2 (application problems 30 points and test 50 points) 80 points
Chapter 3 (application problems 30 points and test 50 points) 80 points
Chapter 4 (application problems 30 points and test 50 points) 80 points
Chapter 5 (application problems 30 points and test 50 points) 80 points
Chapter 6 (application problems 30 points and test 50 points) 80 points
Chapter 7 (application problems 30 points and test 50 points) 80 points
Chapter 8 (application problems 30 points and test 50 points) 80 points
Chapter 9 (application problems 30 points and test 50 points) 80 points
Chapter 10 (application problems 30 points and test 50 points) 80 points
Chapter 11 (application problems 30 points and test 50 points) 80 points
Chapter 12 (application problems 30 points and test 50 points) 80 points

Total 960 points

A 90% (864 points), B 80% (768 points), C 70% (672 points)

Course Assignment, Examination, and or Project Policies

Classes will be conducted as follows:

1. Read the chapters for that unit during the first 5 days for that unit assignment.
2. The application problems on McGraw Hill’s Connect must be completed before the exam date for that Part. You will have unlimited attempts to complete the problems.
3. The tests will be available from 12 AM to 11:55 PM on the test dates. You will have one attempt to complete the exam.

Resources available on McGraw Hill’s Connect:

2. Afterward you can access your eBook from this link by clicking on the ebook link on the right side of the McGraw-Hill page.
3. For additional resources, access the McGraw-Hill link and click on the LS: LearnSmart link just below the eBook.
4. All of your assignments can be found under “Lessons” in “Part” folders in Blackboard. DO NOT go directly to McGraw-Hill to complete assignments
5. Your chapter tests will appear on the test dates under “Lessons” in “Part” folders in Blackboard.
Course Topics - Tentative Calendar of Readings, Topics, and Due Dates

Reading and problem assignments are outlined below. As with any accounting course, it is vital that you complete your reading assignments in order to complete your problems. There is then an application problem assignment after you finish the reading assignment. You will not be prepared for the exams if you do not complete the reading and problem assignments. Most parts will include 2 chapters. Parts 2 and 4 will be the hardest – with 3 chapters each.

If you are having difficulty understanding the material, there are a lot of resources on the LS: LearnSmart link just below the eBook on Connect.

**ACCT 4/5315 – Summer 1 2017**

**Tentative Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Chapter</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Application problems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part 1 - Mon Jun 5</td>
<td>Part 1- Exploring the Tax Environment</td>
<td>Application problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Taxes and Taxing Jurisdictions</td>
<td>Application problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Policy Standards for a Good Tax</td>
<td>Application problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat and Sun, June 10 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Part 1 Tests – Chap 1 and Chap 2</td>
<td>2 tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2 - Mon Jun 12</td>
<td>Part 2 – Fundamentals of Tax Planning</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Taxes as Transaction Costs</td>
<td>Application problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Maxims of Income Tax Planning</td>
<td>Application problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tax Research</td>
<td>Application problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat and Sun, June 17 &amp; 18</td>
<td>Part 2 Tests - Chap 3, Chap 4 and Chap 5</td>
<td>3 tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Taxable Income from Business Operations</td>
<td>Application problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Property Acquisitions and Cost Recovery Deductions</td>
<td>Application problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat and Sun, June 24 &amp; 25</td>
<td>Part 3A Tests - Chap 6 and Chap 7</td>
<td>2 tests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part 3B - Mon Jun 26</td>
<td>Part 3B - The Measurement of Taxable Income</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Property Dispositions</td>
<td>Application problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nontaxable Exchanges</td>
<td>Application problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat and Sun, Jul 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Part 3B Tests - Chap 8 and Chap 9</td>
<td>2 tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 4 - Mon Jul 3</td>
<td>Part 4 – The Taxation of Business Income</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sole Proprietorships, Partnerships, LLC and S Corporations</td>
<td>Application problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The Corporate Taxpayer</td>
<td>Application problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The Choice of Business Entity</td>
<td>Application problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Sun, and Mon Jul 8, 9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Part 4 Tests - Chap 10, Chap 11 and Chap 12</td>
<td>3 tests</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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WTAMU COB Student Code of Ethics
Each student enrolled in COB courses accepts personal responsibility to uphold and defend academic integrity and to promote an atmosphere in which all individuals may flourish. The COB Student Code of Ethics strives to set a standard of honest behavior that reflects well on students, the COB and West Texas A&M University. All students enrolled in business courses are expected to follow the explicit behaviors detailed in the Student Code of Ethics.

Code of Ethics
• Do not use notes, texts, solution manuals, or other aids for a quiz or exam without instructor authorization.
• Do not copy the work of others and/or allow others to view your answers or copy your work during a quiz, exam, or on homework assignments.
• Do not allow other parties to assist in the completion of your quiz, exam, homework, paper, or project when not permitted.
• Do not work with other students on projects or assignments without authorization from the course instructor.
• Properly cite and specifically credit the source of text, graphic, and web materials in papers, projects, or other assignments.
• Do not forge the signature of an instructor, advisor, dean, or another student.
• Provide truthful information for class absences when asking faculty for excused absences or for a make-up for a quiz, exam, or homework.
• Provide truthful information on your resume including work history, academic performance, leadership activities, and membership in student organizations.
• Respect the property, personal rights, and learning environment of all members of the academic community.
• Live up to the highest ethical standards in all academic and professional endeavors.

Students violating the Student Code of Ethics will be reported to the Dean’s office and are subject to penalties described in the West Texas A&M University Code of Student Life, which may include suspension from the University. In addition, a violator of the Student Code of Ethics may become ineligible for participation in student organizations sponsored by the COB and for recognition for College academic honors, awards, and scholarships.

COB Student Resources Link
The COB has developed a Student Resources repository (e.g., APA writing style information, business core reviews, facilities, and other helpful supplements), which can be found on the COB Website. Additionally, WTAMU has developed an Academic Study Skills information site to assist students (e.g., study habits,
supplemental instruction, tutoring, writing and math skills), which can be found on the WTAMU Website. For WTAMU Writing Center information (for students needing writing assistance, guidance, and feedback), please visit their website.

**COB Communications Component**

Students earning a BBA degree must complete at least one course with a communications component as part of the business core requirements. The COB communications component is a requirement in the following courses: **ACCT 4373** (Accounting Communications), **BUSI 4333** (Cross-Cultural Issues in Business Communications), **BUSI 4350** (Current Issues in Management Communications), **BUSI 4380** (Conflict Resolution and Negotiation), **BUSI 4382** (Emerging Media Law), **CIDM 3320** (Digital Collaboration and Communication), **ECON 4370** (Economics of Health Care), **FIN 3350** (Personal Financial Planning), **FIN 4320** (Investments), **FIN 4321** (Portfolio Theory), **MGT 3335** (Organizational Behavior), **MGT 4380** (Conflict Resolution and Negotiation), and **MKT 3342** (Consumer Behavior).

Students in a communications component course are explicitly required to demonstrate knowledge of communication skills. Specific objectives may include but are not limited to the following concepts put forth by the National Business Education Association: (1) ability to organize a written and an oral message coherently and effectively, (2) ability to use technology for communication, (3) ability to research a topic, prepare a report, and present the findings to all organizational levels, and (4) ability to demonstrate critical-thinking skills. Specific course requirements and the role of the communications component with respect to student grading policy are at the discretion of the course instructor of record.

**Student Travel Opportunities**

In multiple business courses, there may be opportunities for student travel supplemented by student fees. If you have an interest in such opportunities as they become available, please notify a faculty member.

**Dropping/Repeating the Course**

Should a student decide to drop the course, it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the final drop dates and adhere to the WTAMU Add/Drop policy. Any student participating in the course after the WTAMU posted drop date will be considered active and a grade will be administered at the end of the course for that student. Students are charged a fee for any course attempted for a third or subsequent time at WTAMU other than a non-degree credit developmental course or exempted courses.

**Scholastic Dishonesty**

It is the responsibility of students and instructors to help maintain scholastic integrity at the University by refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonesty. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty. This listing is not exclusive of any other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute scholastic dishonesty: acquiring or providing information for any assigned work or examination
from any unauthorized source; informing any person or persons of the contents of any examination prior to the time the examination is given in subsequent sections of the course or as a makeup; plagiarism; submission of a paper or project that is substantially the same for two courses unless expressly authorized by the instructor to do so; submission of a paper or project prepared by another student as your own. You are responsible for being familiar with the University’s Academic Integrity Code, as well as the COB Student Code of Ethics listed in this document.

Academic Integrity

All work must be completed individually unless otherwise stated. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty: acquiring or providing information for any assigned work or examination from any unauthorized source; informing any person or persons of the contents of any examination prior to the time the exam is given in any subsequent sections of the course or as a makeup; plagiarism; submission of a paper or project that is substantially the same for two courses unless expressly authorized by the instructor to do so. For more information, see the Code of Student Life.

Viewpoints/External Websites Disclaimer

The views expressed in this document, web-based course materials, and/or classroom presentations and discussions are those of the professor and do not necessarily represent the views of West Texas A&M University, its faculty and staff, or its students. Views expressed by students are likewise those of the person making such statements. It is understood and expected that each individual within this course will respect and allow individual difference of opinion.

Neither the professor, the COB, nor WTAMU are responsible for the content of external websites discussed in the classroom and/or linked to via online course materials, emails, message boards, or other means. Referred websites are for illustrative purposes only, and are neither warranted nor endorsed by the professor, COB, or WTAMU. Web pages change frequently, as does domain name ownership. While every effort is made to ensure proper referencing, it is possible that students may on occasion find materials to be objectionable for reasons beyond our control.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (Code of Student Life). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. Inappropriate behavior may result in disciplinary action or referral to the University’s Behavioral Intervention Team. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.
Technology Requirements
All technological requirements for the successful completion of this course are the responsibility of the student, including access to a working computer and or to a device with secure broadband Internet connection, data storage and retrieval, and state-of-the-art security. The student is responsible for all technological problems not related to WTAMU, including but not limited to equipment failures, power outages, and Internet breakdowns. Furthermore, students are responsible for all necessary technical and operational skills for completing this course, and for being familiar with WTC (the Blackboard Learning System) both in a general sense and in a specific sense as pertaining to this course and any materials stored within. The professor is not responsible for any technical matters related to WTC. Students must contact WTC if they have problems accessing and/or using the WTC environment.

Physical or Educational Access - ADA Statement
West Texas A&M University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) and to contact faculty members in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations. Contact Information: Student Success Center, CC 106; phone 806-651-2335.

Title IX Statement
West Texas A&M University is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of sexual misconduct and discrimination. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. Harassment is not acceptable. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here:
- WTAMU Title IX Coordinator Becky Lopez – Kilgore Research Center 147, or call 806.651.3199
- WTAMU Counseling Services – Classroom Center 116, or call 806.651.2340
- WTAMU Police Department – 806.651.2300, or dial 911
- 24-hour Crisis Hotline – 800.273.8255, or 806.359.6699, or 800.692.4039
- Visit the Notalone website
For more information, see the Code of Student Life.

WT Attendance Policy for Core Curriculum Classes
For the purposes of learning assessment and strategic planning, all students enrolled in Core Curriculum or developmental courses at West Texas A&M University must swipe their Buff Gold cards through the card
reader installed in the classroom/lab for each class/lab meeting.

Evacuation Statement
If you receive notice to evacuate the building, please evacuate promptly but in an orderly manner. Evacuation routes are posted in various locations indicating all exits, outside assemble area, location of fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations and emergency telephone numbers (651.5000 or 911). In the event an evacuation is necessary; evacuate immediately do not use elevators; take all personal belongings with you; report to outside assembly area and wait for further information; students needing assistance in the evacuation process should bring this to the attention of the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

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