The Cameron School of Business at University of St. Thomas

1. Course Information
Credit hours: 3
Course Section: N (1602)
Prerequisites: Int. Acct.: Assets and Equities
Room #: Malloy 019
Days & hours: Th 7-10pm
BlackBoard site: Yes

2. Instructor Information
Name: John E. Simms, Ph.D., CMA
Office location: Welder 223
Emergency phone: 713-775-3023
Cell phone: 713-775-3023
Where to leave assignments: Welder 223
Office phone: 713-942-3446
E-mail: simmsj@stthom.edu
Fax number: 713-525-2110
Office hours: MW 4:30 – 7:00, Th 4:00 – 7:00

3. Course Catalog Description
An examination of the history and development of accounting concepts and theories with
an emphasis on the current status of generally accepted accounting principles. This is the
capstone class for the MSA program

4. Texts, Readings, Materials

Required text citation:
Cases in Financial Reporting – Cambridge Publishers

Required readings: Please check Blackboard under “Course Documents”
Class Notes
Articles to be read
Practice Problems
Practice Exams

Supplementary readings: Wall Street Journal, BusinessWeek, Barron’s, Financial Times
Please check Blackboard under “Course Documents” for a detailed list of reading

Suggestions for further study: Intermediate Accounting by Kieso and Weygandt is a
valuable resource. If you need extra problems for practice, I will be happy to provide
them.
5. Program Goals

The Bachelors of Business Administration program has five goals. When students complete the BBA degree at the University of St. Thomas:

Goal 1. They will be able to communicate effectively.
- Objective 1: Graduates will deliver a compelling oral presentation.
- Objective 2: Graduates will write professional quality documents.
- Objective 3: Graduates will demonstrate mastery of communication technology.

Goal 2. They will be adept at critical thinking.
- Objective 1: Graduates will analyze problems in-depth.
- Objective 2: Graduates will evaluate data thoroughly.
- Objective 3: Graduates will present feasible solutions for problems.

Goal 3. They will be able to work effectively in teams.
- Objective 1: Graduates will work collectively towards team objectives.
- Objective 2: Graduates will demonstrate professional interpersonal relations with other team members.

Goal 4. They will be ethical decision makers.
- Objective 1: Graduates will recognize the ethical issues implicit in a business situation.
- Objective 2: Graduates will describe and use ethical frameworks applicable to business situations.

Goal 5: They will be knowledgeable about fundamental business issues and processes.

6. Course Learning Objectives (and relationship to program goals and objectives)

This course is an overview of the history of accounting and the development of accounting concepts. We will study the FASB’s conceptual framework, their current projects, limitations of the standard setting process and current research on different issues.

The aim of this class is to encourage the following:

- **Technical knowledge and skills**: an in-depth understanding of the rules and regulations that GAAP is comprised of (Goal 5, Objective 4)

- **Practical application**: to know when and under what circumstances these rules should be applied, and to recognize instances when these rules have not been followed (Goal 5, Objective 4)

- **Critical thinking**: the ability to analyze information and ideas from multiple perspectives in a logical manner, and to think creatively. Specifically, we will be making links to the conceptual framework to see why the current accounting rules were promulgated and the economic consequences of these rules to the various stakeholders. (Goal 1, Objectives 1 and 2)

- **Inquiry and information literacy**: the ability to locate, evaluate, and use the methods, resources and technologies available in the fields of accounting and finance. (Goal 4, Objective 3)
• **Communication**: the ability to work both individually and as a team, and to communicate the results of such work orally, and in a written format. (Goal 4, Objectives 1 and 2))

7. **Instructional methods**: (lecture, group discussion, class problem solving, case methods, team projects, etc.)
   - Class problem solving
   - Lecture
   - Group discussions
   - Team Projects
   - Case studies
   - Presentations

8. **Technology**

*Please identify IT assignments that utilize any of the following five types:*

1) **Online data retrieval and/or research**: Term paper, case studies, group work

2) **Online communication or collaboration**: Homework, group projects

3) **Use of general productivity software (e.g., Microsoft Office) to complete assignment**: Homework, Term paper, class projects, group projects

4) **Use of specialized software to complete assignment**: FARS

5) **Use of BlackBoard learning platform**: Notes, Assignments, Practice Exams, Solutions Manual

6) **IT itself is the subject matter of assignment (in contrast to #1-4 above where IT is used as a tool in learning about non-IT subject matter)**: None
### Course Tentative Schedule:

The major class topics are listed below. Please check Blackboard for detailed information about each class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 – 1/19</td>
<td>Products of the Financial Reporting Process 1</td>
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<td>Critical Skills Assessment Exam</td>
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<td>2 – 1/26</td>
<td>International Financial Reporting Standards</td>
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<td>HW1 Due</td>
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<td>3 – 2/2</td>
<td>Environment of Accounting</td>
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<td>HW2 Due</td>
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<td>4 – 2/9</td>
<td>The Conceptual Framework</td>
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<td>HW3 Due</td>
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<td>5 – 2/16</td>
<td>Exit Exam 1: Financial/Global</td>
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<td>Exploring the ASC Database</td>
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<td>6 – 2/23</td>
<td>Products of the Financial Reporting Process 2</td>
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<td>HW4 Due</td>
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<td>7 – 3/2</td>
<td>Income Concepts</td>
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<td>Capstone 1 Due – Financial / Global</td>
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<td>8 – 3/9</td>
<td>Measurement Concepts</td>
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<td>HW5 Due</td>
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<td>X – 3/16</td>
<td>Spring Break <strong><strong>NO CLASS</strong></strong></td>
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<td>9 – 3/23</td>
<td>Exit Exam 2: Auditing/Managerial Sustainability</td>
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<td>10 – 3/30</td>
<td>Capital Markets</td>
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<td>HW6 Due</td>
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<td>11 – 4/6</td>
<td>Corporate Governance/Ethics</td>
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<td>Capstone 2 Due – Auditing / Managerial</td>
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<td>X – 4/13</td>
<td>Easter <strong><strong>NO CLASS</strong></strong></td>
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<td>12 – 4/20</td>
<td>Theories in Accounting</td>
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<td>Ethics Case Analysis Due</td>
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<td>13 – 4/27</td>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
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<td>Written Draft Due</td>
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<td>14 – 5/4</td>
<td>Final Exit Exam</td>
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The final Exit Exam covers Tax and GNP Accounting. The final written paper is due at the time of the final.

The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change based on the progress we make in class, opportunities for guest speakers or attendance at topical events, and in the event of circumstances beyond the instructor's control. The most up-to-date schedule is the one on Blackboard.
10. Course Policies

- **Attendance/lateness**: Regular attendance is highly encouraged for a proper learning experience. A university-excused, documented absence will not reduce points for attendance. If you are unable to attend class, you will be required to individually make up the group projects assigned in class that day. *You will lose half the points for the group project because you were not present to contribute to the group.*

- **Class Participation**: Questions and discussion on the lectures and problems are encouraged. Participation will be taken into account while assigning grades for the Group Projects, attendance and case studies.

- **Make-up Exams**: If you miss a class, you can make it up, but will get only 90% of the grade.

- **Missed Assignments**: Late homework will NOT be accepted.

- **Requirements for the class**:
  - Exit exams (3)
  - Research paper
  - Capstone Project
  - Critical thinking cases
  - Ethics cases
  - Oral Communication

- **Extra credit opportunities**: None.

- **Cell phones, electronic media**
  - During lectures: No cell phones. If there is an emergency that requires you to be on call, please inform me before class. Laptops will be allowed for taking notes during class. Web surfing while class is in session will result in negative marking on examinations.
  - During exams: Only calculators are permitted

11. Student Grading Processes: *(including weighting of factors)*

- Critical Skills Exam 10%
- Exit Exams 10%
- Capstone Project (VITA) 20% (critical reasoning)
- Oral Communication 15% (presentation)
- Written Communication 25% (draft and final)
- Ethical Reasoning 10%
- Homework 10%

VITA training sessions will be held in late January 2017 and volunteer work in the program will begin Saturday, January 28, 2017. The schedule for volunteers will be:

**Saturdays – January 28-April 8, 2017**  
9am – 2pm

If you have classes on Saturday, speak with the instructor. For other questions, please contact csbevents@stthom.edu.
12. Available Support Services:

Library resources, learning center, computer center, tutoring services. I will be available during office hours to help you with any questions you may have. You may also contact me by email and I will respond as quickly as I can.

1. Resources available on Blackboard sites. (For Math, Written Communications, and Presentations, etc.) For graduate students: CSB Resource Site for Graduate Students.

2. Tutorial Services: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors at the Tutorial Services Center when completing assignments for this course. Based on the instructor’s assessment of the student’s work, the student may be required to work with the tutors at the Center to improve the student’s skills.
The Cameron School of Business at the
University of St. Thomas

MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by the Basilian Fathers’ motto of Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge, the Cameron School of Business provides a comprehensive, high quality, ethically oriented business education to a diverse student body enabling graduates to serve as leaders of faith and character in a global economy.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Ethical conduct is essential to a community of scholars and students searching for truth. Anything less than total commitment to honesty and honorable conduct undermines the efforts of the entire community. Academic integrity lies at the very heart of any institution of higher learning. In the Cameron School of Business, students and faculty are expected to commit to a code that exemplifies each individual's honor and integrity. Any conduct that violates this standard and betrays the respect of others is a matter of grave concern and, accordingly, is deemed unacceptable.

The tests/exams will be individual efforts. Student may work together on homework assignments, but must submit their own assignments.

The penalty for an incident of academic dishonesty is, at the discretion of the professor, either a mark of zero for the work in question or the grade of F for the course.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The University of St. Thomas abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education "solely by reason of a handicap." If you have a documented disability that may impact your performance in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you must be registered with and provide documentation of your disability to Counseling and Disability Services which is located on the second floor of Crooker Center. Contact Debby Jones or Rose Signorello at 713-525-6953 or 713-525-3162.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential.