The Cameron School of Business at University of St. Thomas

1. Course Information
   Credit hours: 3
   Course Section: N - Hybrid
   Prerequisites: Int. Acct.: Assets and Equities
   Room #: Welder 220
   Days & hours: Thursday 7 – 9:45
   BlackBoard site: Yes

2. Instructor Information
   Name: Vinita Ramaswamy Ph.D
   Office location: Welder 22
   Where to leave assignments: Welder 222
   Office phone: 713-525-6913
   Office hours: T 2 – 5; W 3 – 6; Th 11 - 1

   E-mail: vinitar@stthom.edu
   Fax number: 713-525-2110

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

**MSA Learning Goals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals: What will our students be?</th>
<th>Objectives: What will our students do?</th>
<th>Traits: How will we know/measure?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Succeed as accounting practitioners | Demonstrate knowledge of required areas of accounting | • Financial Accounting  
• Auditing  
• Taxation  
• Managerial Accounting  
• Govt. and Not for profit |
|  | Demonstrate ability to identify issues and solve problems in required areas of accounting | • Financial Accounting  
• Auditing  
• Taxation  
• Managerial Accounting  
• Govt. and Not for profit |
| 2. Professional Communicators | Conduct professional research in accounting issues | • Identification of issues  
• Identification and appropriateness of relevant authority and methodology |
|  | Deliver compelling oral presentations | • Quality of opening statement  
• Organization  
• Relevant content with supporting evidence  
• Well supported conclusion  
• Time management |
|  | Create professional documents | • Quality of introduction  
• Organization  
• Relevant content with supporting evidence  
• Well supported conclusion  
• Grammar  
• Spelling |
| 3. Effective when working in teams | Work collectively towards team objectives | • Team cohesion  
• Communication  
• Goal orientation  
• Planning and task co-ordination  
• Conflict resolution  
• Shared responsibility |
|  | Effectively lead a team in a group project | • Motivation  
• Delegation  
• Conflict resolution |
| 4. Ethical Leaders | Identify accounting dilemmas citing relevant authority | • Recognition of ethical issues  
• Description of ethical frameworks |
|  | Applying accounting ethical standards to business situations | • Practical plan of action  
• Plan is effective in meeting objectives |
| 5. Technological Awareness | Demonstrate knowledge of the accounting systems environment | • Database concepts  
• Knowledge of accounting software  
• System documentation  
• Internal controls  
• Information systems control |
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
9. 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>In- class Environmental of Accounting Chapters 4 and 5 Critical Thinking and Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>Off site Assignments available on Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>In class Products of the Financial Reporting Process Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>Off site Assignments available on Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>In class IFRS/Balance Sheet and Measurement Concepts Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Off site Assignments available on Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>In class Exam 1 – Financial/Global Introduction to ASC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Off site Assignments available on Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>In class Income Concepts/Revenue Recognition Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>In class Exam 2 – Auditing/Managerial Theoretical Foundations of Accounting Chapters 6/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Off site Assignments available on Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>In class Ethics and Accounting Chapters 8, 9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Off site Assignments available on Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>In class Oral Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>In class Final Exam – Government/Non Profit and Taxation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 (Presentation)

- **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)*

- Exit Exams 30% (10% each)
- Off-site projects 20%
- Oral Communication 15% (presentation)
- Research Paper 15%
- Ethical Reasoning 10%
- Ethics 10%
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 Crookler 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.