

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
Haas School of Business

UGBA W102A: Financial Accounting
Summer 2018

Instructor: Xiao-Jun Zhang
F481, 642-4789
xzhang@haas.berkeley.edu

GSI: TBD

COURSE OVERVIEW

This required core course in Financial Accounting covers the accounting principles and methods (GAAP) used in preparing financial statements. It emphasizes the rationale for, and implications of the fundamental accounting concepts. The objective is to help you understand the financial aspect of business operations. The course provides a foundation to critically analyze and interpret accounting data, and to use the data in various decision situations.

The course requires no prior academic knowledge of accounting, and it is designed accordingly.

Although it is unavoidable that we devote time and effort on learning “accounting rules”, the course will concentrate on general concepts and their applications. A combination of lectures, case studies, assignments, and practice problems will be used to enhance the learning of key accounting concepts and to illustrate the uses and misuses of financial reports.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Record, classify, and summarize financial information according to GAAP
- Prepare financial statements
- Understand how operating activities affect key accounts such as revenues, cost of goods sold, receivable, inventories, and fixed assets
- Understand how financing activities affect key accounts such as interest expenses, liabilities, and shareholders’ equity

COURSE MATERIALS

Financial Accounting, 10th edition, by Weygandt, Kimmel, and Kieso, Wiley, ISBN: 978-1119298229.

Video Lectures

There are video lectures developed by the instructor provided in the course website on bCourses.

You are required to watch all of the video lectures and should consider them part of the course's required materials.

GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTORS (GSIs)

While the instructor will interact with the whole class and will oversee all activities and grading, as well as being available to resolve any issues that may arise, the GSIs will be your main point of contact. Your GSIs are responsible for assisting you directly with your questions about assignments and course requirements. The GSIs will also facilitate ongoing discussion and interaction with you on major topics.

OFFICE HOURS AND COMMUNICATION

The course instructor and GSIs will offer synchronous virtual office hours via Zoom, a video conferencing program. Links to the appropriate Zoom room are available in the course website on bCourses.

The are at the following days and times:

- TBD

You can also contact your GSIs and the instructor via email. Emails will be responded to within 24-hours of receiving during the weekdays. Emails received on Friday will receive a response the following Monday.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

This course is built on a Learning Management system (LMS) called Canvas and you will need to meet these [computer specifications to participate within this online platform](#).

If you would like to participate in office hours or GSI review sessions, you will need to at least have audio capabilities on your computer, and will also benefit from video by having a webcam. Instructions on how to access office hours and GSI review sessions are available via the course website on bCourses.

If you are having technical difficulties please alert one of the GSIs immediately. However, understand that neither the GSIs, nor the professor can assist you with technical problems. You must call or email tech support and make sure you resolve any issues immediately. Be sure to document (save emails and transaction numbers) for all interactions with tech support.

Extensions and late submissions will not be accepted due to “technical difficulties.”
24/7 technical support contact via email, phone, and ticket submissions are located in the bCourses site under “Help.”

GRADING POLICY

Your grade will be determined in the following way:

Problem sets	20%
Progress Evaluations	30%
Final exam	50%

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is divided into three topics where you will have assigned reading from the textbook, video lectures, and the assignments and activities described below. Be sure to note the course outline for the general time period of each topic and refer to the course website in bCourses for exact due dates.

ASSIGNMENTS

Problem Sets

There will be five problem sets assigned in the course. You will receive the problem sets for each topic in the course website on bCourses. While you may discuss the problem sets with anyone, you are expected to solve the problems and write up the solutions on an individual basis. You are required to complete and submit each problem set regardless of your own pacing in the course.

Progress Evaluations

At the end of each week there is a progress evaluation, for a total of five progress evaluations in the course. Everyone is required to take all five progress evaluations. However, the progress evaluations are open for you to take at any time and you are welcome to take the progress evaluation for the week when you feel ready to move on to the next week's materials, even if it is ahead of the course schedule. In order to move ahead to the next week in advance of the rest of the class, you must score 70% or above. This process allows you to skip topics where you already have proficiency and move ahead to the topics where you may need additional time. However, please note that even if you are able to skip a week, you are still required to submit the assigned problem sets.

Final Exam

You will take a closed-book final exam on paper, comprised mostly of numerical questions. There will be no make-up exam. Students must take the final examination in person or possibly arrange to have the examination proctored if you cannot come to campus. Review the Proctor Info on the left navigation menu. Off-site proctor applications must be submitted prior to June 8, 2018. You can submit your proctor application via the following link: [Proctor Application Two – 2018](#).

This year's final exam will be held on TBD on campus. *If you miss taking the final or try to take it in a manner for which you have not received permission, you will fail this class automatically.*

ACTIVITIES

Self-check Quizzes

Along with the video lectures and exercises there are ungraded, multiple choice quizzes that will allow you to review the content covered in the lecture and receive immediate feedback. You are encouraged to take these quizzes as an opportunity to practice and confirm your understanding of the lecture content, though they will not impact your final grade.

GSI Virtual Review Sessions

Every week the GSIs will host virtual review sessions via Zoom covering information within the week's topic and offering an opportunity to ask questions. These sessions will be recorded for later review. Check the course website in bCourses for exact dates and times.

Textbook Exercises

For each week, you will also be given questions in the textbook that you can complete for additional practice. These textbook exercises are optional and you will not receive a grade, though you will receive the answers in order to check your work. These are separate from the required problem sets you will complete and submit for a grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND ETHICS

The student community at UC Berkeley has adopted the following Honor Code: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." The expectation is that you will adhere to this code.

This includes taking exams independently without referencing the textbook, notes, or other materials and submitting your own work on problem sets. You are welcome and encouraged to review the course materials with others and may discuss problem sets with others, but the work you submit must be your own.

Honesty and integrity are of great importance in all facets of life. They help to build a sense of self-confidence, and are key to building trust within relationships, whether personal or professional. There is no tolerance for dishonesty in the academic world, for it undermines what we are dedicated to doing - furthering knowledge for the benefit of humanity. Anyone caught cheating on an exam or problem sets in this course will receive a failing grade in the course and will also be reported to the University Center for Student Conduct.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any students requiring course accommodations due to a physical, emotional, or learning disability must contact the [Disabled Students' Program \(DSP\)](#). They will review all requests on an individual basis.

- Request your Disabled Student Program Specialist to send the instructor a formal request before the official course start date by email
- In addition, notify the instructor and your Online Learning Support Specialist, which accommodations you would like to use.
- Your Online Learning Support Specialist is Tracie Allen and her email is summer_online_support@berkeley.edu

COURSE OUTLINE

Topic 1: Fundamentals of Financial Reporting

Week 1

Readings: Textbook Chapters 1-2

Lectures: 1, 2, and 3

Problem Set: 1

Textbook Exercises (optional): BE1-2, P1-3, E1-11, 1-13, 1-15, E1-17, BE2-5, 2-6,2-7, E2-2, E2-7, P2-2A

Progress Evaluation: *Must take in bCourses no later than the end of Week 1*

Week 2

Readings: Textbook Chapters 3-5

Lectures: 4 and 5

Problem Set: 3

Textbook Exercises (optional): BE3-2, P3-2A, E3-3, P4-4A, E4-12

Progress Evaluation: *Must take in bCourses no later than the end of Week 2*

Week 3

Readings: Textbook Chapters 11-12

Lectures: 6 and 7

Problem Set: 3

Textbook Exercises (optional): E12-10

Progress Evaluation: *Must take in bCourses no later than the end of Week 3*

Topic 2: Operating Activities

Week 4

Readings: Textbook Chapters 6, 8, 9

Lectures: 8 and 9

Problem Set: 4

Textbook Exercises (optional): E6-7, E6-8, P6-6A, E8-8, E8-10, P8-4A, P8-7A, E9-10, P3-A

Progress Evaluation: *Must take in bCourses no later than the end of Week 4*

Topic 3: Financing Activities

Week 5

Readings: Textbook Chapters 10, Appendix G

Lectures: 10 and 11

Problem Set: 5

Textbook Exercises (optional): BE10-12, E10-13, E10-16, E10-17E10-20, P10-2A, P11-9A, E11-13, CT 11-3

Progress Evaluation: *Must take in bCourses no later than the end of Week 5*

Final Exam Preparation

Week 6

There are no new readings, lectures, or assignments this week. Use this week to review the

course material to prepare for the final exam. The exam will be on **TBD**.

*Subject to Change