A colleague on my journal is a JD/MBA and he recommended I take accounting in the B school. I attended the first class of Accounting for Lawyers before deciding to take the B school version.

I was initially interested in the B school class because my goal is to be able to communicate with P/E clients and read financials in an M&A context. I thought the B school class would be more rigorous and better prepare me to deal with MBAs. The other incoming first year associate at XYZ has an MBA and I also wanted to be able to keep up with him. Also, a few lawyers, including XYZ’s hiring chair, and professors have told me that they regretted not taking an accounting class before practicing.

When I went to Accounting for Lawyers, I saw cases on the syllabus and case law is beyond the scope of what I am interested in taking away from the class.

I don’t think the course should be offered in the law school when there are already B school profs. teaching it next door every semester.  Plus, as a 3L, it doesn’t hurt that the B school class doesn’t affect my law GPA. The course is worth 3 credits in the B school but only 2 in the law school.

The process looked like this and took about 24 hours:

1. I went to the registrar’s office and asked to speak to someone about enrolling in the B school class. I was directed to Vanessa Garcia.

2. Vanessa instructed me to contact Prof. Squire and Ilze Frierson in the B school to get their permission.

3. Because I started the process after classes began, Ilze Frierson asked me to get Prof. Segal’s permission.

4. Once I got Prof. Segal’s permission, I emailed Prof. Squire and cc’d Vanessa.

5. Prof. Squire responded a few hours later then Vanessa emailed Ilze Frierson who enrolled me.

Perhaps a PDF Vanessa Garcia could email students who are interested in enrolling in the B school would be useful to save her time. If the committee is concerned about students using the B school to minimize their GPA-impacted course load then a cross-listing would be useful. I took some classes like that at [a very horrible school], and usually there were a certain number of seats reserved for students from one school and a certain number reserved from another school. The course was listed separately under each school/department. This could prove difficult with the B school as-is because the schedule differs from the law school.

I hope these disjointed thoughts are helpful. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

I’ve attached the syllabus for your reference.

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Here are my thoughts on Accounting at the Business School:  
  
I took it because you mentioned in class last year that it'd be  
helpful, and then when I asked 2 lawyers at the law firm where I  
summered about it they also said that it would be really useful.  
  
Firstly, classes that law students take at the business school are  
pass/fail. Your transcript will still show a grade, but the grade  
isn't computed into your GPA.  
  
To register for a business school course you have to see Prof. David  
Schmudde [Now Squire]. (No one tells you this. The people at the Registrar's office  
didn't know. I had to do detective work to figure it out.)  
  
The business school has trimesters, not semesters. No one told us this  
either. The business school classes started a week before the law  
school semester started. So when I showed up for what I thought was  
our first day of accounting class, they had already started a week  
earlier. It didn't really make any difference at all, but I am still  
bitter. :-) Someone should've at least told us that business school  
classes start earlier than law school classes. Not that I would've  
come back from winter break any earlier, but that's besides the  
point... (Also, whenever the law school follows a Monday schedule  
after a holiday weekend, the business school follows a normal  
schedule. So you might end up missing a class or two because of  
overlapping classes. It's not a problem, but it's a little annoying.)  
  
Prof. Schmudde recommended taking Accounting from either Prof. Allen  
Schiff or Paul Kushel. They only offered one day class for accounting,  
and it was with Schiff so I registered for his class.  
  
Prof. Schiff is a very nice man, and he's certainly smart, but he  
isn't the greatest teacher. He kind of mumbles a little bit too, which  
makes it kind of difficult to pay attention to what he says during  
class.  The class just ended and I completed the teacher evaluation  
and I gave him pretty bad marks. We had homework due before we  
actually went over the homework topic in class. I guess you're  
supposed to learn things by reading from the book, and class is just a  
review of your readings. That never really worked for me. Also, I  
think it would've been helpful to have more problems to do, and have  
answers with explanations. We had problems and answers, but there was  
never any written explanation as to why it was the correct answer.  
  
That said, it was a pretty easy class. We only went over 4 topics:  
the balance sheet, income statement, statement of cash flows, and  
FIFO/LIFO. The Spring 2010 syllabus is attached. Also, all the  
business school students seemed to really like Schiff.  
  
The class was small -- only about 15 people. About 3 of the 15 were  
law students. Get to know other students in the class, even those  
weird business school students. They understand how the business  
school runs, and can help you out when you're lost. And they're  
actually quite friendly -- way friendlier than law students.  
  
There's an assigned tutor for the class. Definitely go to her during  
her office hours. She was really helpful and gave "hints" about what  
to expect on the upcoming exam.  
  
Pay attention to what the prof posts on the Blackboard website. He  
doesn't tell you that he's going to post things online, but he  
actually posts the homework answers there and doesn't tell anyone.  
  
Overall -- I would take the class again. I just wish I had paid more  
attention during class and had known to see the tutor before I took  
the midterm. I feel more comfortable with basic accounting concepts  
now, after having taken the course. I know a couple people who took  
"Accounting for Lawyers" in the law school. They said it was a bad  
class and that I was smart to take accounting in the business school.  
  
I asked another person in my class what she thought and this is what she said:  
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He's a nice person but I actually don't think that he's that great at teaching.  
Often it was frustrating because we had assignments that we did not  
know how to complete...  
He is really nice though.  And it's pass/fail.  
I didn't have any accounting background so I thought it was helpful.  
If your friend has some accounting background they might think it's too basic?  
I'd still recommend it (although I also gave bad marks)  hahaha...  
I'd still take it again...  :)

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I took Principles of Accounting with Prof. Susan Young. I really liked the class a lot, and I thought the Prof was very clear and helpful. I was [not] such a big fan of the textbook though (a sentiment shared by the people I sat next to in class): <http://www.amazon.com/Financial-Accounting-MBAs-Peter-Easton/dp/161853100X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1456420920&sr=8-1&keywords=financial+accounting+for+mbas>

The book seemed to be geared towards students with at least a little of an accounting background (that being said, I looked at a standard undergrad principles of accounting book and it seemed super basic), but I mainly didn't like that it seemed too reliant on a companion website with videos and quizzes.

It was the first semester (Fall 2014) the Prof. used that particular book, and she implied that she adapted her lectures to the new book. I think the class would have been even better if the Prof. stuck with her old teaching method. The Profs lectures and examples she did on the board were explained much more clearly and effectively than the book/website.

I also think that we/the book wasted time using tables to learn about PV/FV/Annuities/Perpituities. I think it would be much more practical to learn about that material with excel or at least using a financial calculator.