



**Accounting 215**  
**—Section A & D—**  
**Introduction to Accounting and Financial Reporting**  
**Spring Quarter 2016**

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|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
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Office Hours: TuTh 1:00 – 3:00 and by appointment

Classroom: Paccar Hall 192 (Shansby Auditorium)

Meeting Time: TuTh 10:30 – 11:50 (Section D)  
TuTh 3:30 – 4:50 (Section A)

Website: canvas.uw.edu

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### **Course Overview**

This course is designed to provide an overview of financial reporting. Financial reporting, defined broadly, is the transmission of information from companies to external users. “Companies” include small businesses, partnerships, corporations, and not-for-profits; “users” include investors, creditors, analysts, auditors, the government, and more. The overarching objective of A215 is to provide students with familiarity of financial accounting, including the mechanics of accounting, how accounting information can be used in decision making, and the role of accounting in business and more generally, in society as a whole.

### **Who should take this course?**

A215 is a prerequisite course for applying to the University of Washington Foster School of Business. Students who plan to apply to the Business School must take A215. Additionally, A215 will appeal to students who want to familiarize themselves with accounting, even if the end objective is not admission to the Foster School. Accounting is often termed “the language of business”, in that accounting information is the primary means by which companies communicate their financial condition and operating results to outside parties. As such, financial accounting information forms the foundation for a vast range of important business decisions. What is the correct price to offer to acquire a competitor? Is a marketing campaign generating sufficient returns to justify its continuation? How valuable is an employee? These questions, and many more, can be answered using financial accounting. In our increasingly quantitative world, understanding “the numbers” is more important than ever.

### **How is the course organized?**

A215 consists of two components: an interactive lecture component and a quiz section component. I teach the interactive lecture component. I divide the interactive lecture component into two broad themes. The first theme focuses on accounting's role in society and the fundamentals of accounting and takes us from today to EXAM I. The second theme more narrowly focuses on individual accounts and how they are represented on a firm's financial statements and are covered in EXAM II and EXAM III. I will post the slides I plan to use in class on Canvas the day prior to class. I encourage downloading them to assist in note taking if you are so inclined.

You will receive a separate syllabus from your quiz section instructor detailing how he/she plans to administer his/her quiz section.

### **How much work is required?**

A215 is designed to help students with little or no experience gain a basic understanding of accounting. We cover a relatively large amount of information, and we do so in a relatively short amount of time. As this course is a prerequisite for admission into the Foster School, it is demanding. Those students who are actively engaged in the learning the class material typically spend 15 hours per week on A215 materials.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- ◆ *Financial Accounting* 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, Libby, Libby, Short
- ◆ *Connect Online Homework System*
  - You can access *Connect* through the Canvas website listed on page 1.

Please note the following:

- You need the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the text. All homework, quizzes, and tests are based on content in the 8<sup>th</sup> edition. The 7<sup>th</sup> edition and international edition will not work.
- You can sign up for a free trial of *Connect* if you are not sure you are going to continue with the class. The free trial is for 21 days. You will find additional information about the free trial on the *Connect* website.

### **Why are we using the required textbook and not another textbook?**

There are many introductory accounting textbooks on the market, some are very good and some leave a lot to be desired. The A215 instructors have chosen the required textbook because it falls into the "very good" category. Why? Because it is clear and concise when it comes to tackling what can be somewhat tricky accounting concepts and practices. It also provides good real-world examples of what we will discuss during the quarter, and includes relevant discussions of international issues where appropriate.

Here are your options for purchasing the textbook and *Connect*:

1. Purchase a NEW hardcover textbook with a *Connect* access code.
  - The "standard" hardcover text will cost you approximately \$280 from Amazon or elsewhere (it has icons of companies on the cover). I do not recommend purchasing a hardcover text since lower cost options are available (see below). If you do purchase a hardcover text be sure that it includes a *Connect* access code.

2. Purchase a NEW custom softcover textbook.
  - This is the version of the text sold at the UW Bookstore and across the street at the Book Kennel. It has a picture of Paccar Hall on the cover and costs \$170.50. It includes a *Connect* access code and access to the eBook version of the text.
3. Purchase a USED textbook and then:
  - Purchase *Connect Plus* separately for \$98 from the *Connect* website listed on the next page.
4. Purchase the e-Book version of the text.
  - When you purchase *Connect Plus* for \$125 from the *Connect* website you will get online access to the full textbook. If you do not mind reading online, this is the most cost efficient option.

### **How will the course be taught?**

I have structured A215 and each specific class session around three principles.

- ◆ **Relevance.** I will demonstrate the relevance of the topics we will cover by linking them to current events and your daily lives. By doing so, I hope to help you realize the impact accounting has on society.
- ◆ **Interaction.** I believe that active participation facilitates learning; passive listening does not. I expect you to actively participate in your education by reading, thinking and working with the material we will cover.
- ◆ **Organization.** I believe that well organized content facilitates your ability to link new information with your existing knowledge. I will organize each class session around one or two specific topics and periodically step back to show you how the topics in A215 relate to each other.

### **What is the purpose of the homework, exercises, quizzes and exams?**

- ◆ The purpose of the **homework** is three-fold. First, to repeatedly expose you to the accounting concepts and practices discussed in class. Second, to facilitate your understanding of how to apply these concepts to specific transactions. Third, to provide you with an incentive to work with each topic soon after I introduce the topic in class rather than waiting until just before the exams. Please note that the homework, by design, is less difficult than the exams--it is designed to simply introduce you to topic.
- ◆ The **exercises** are to provide application and extension of the material from the lecture. They are not graded (you will be provided solutions to self-check). The exercises are by design more challenging than the homework questions; whereas the homework questions cover basic foundations of the material, the exercises go in greater depth. Those students who can successfully complete the exercises have sufficient mastery over the material to do well on quizzes and exams.
- ◆ **Quizzes** test knowledge of specific questions and problems from the material covered in lecture and the textbook. These can be definitions, transactions, or calculations. Quizzes test the basics of the material.
- ◆ **Exams** test the class material, but more in depth than the quizzes. In exams, students may be required to provide detailed entries for transactions that we have covered in class, or calculations based on formulas covered in the class material. Exams may also apply concepts to new settings or synthesize multiple concepts, testing higher level understanding of the material.

### How is A215 graded?

Below are the weights used to compute your final grade in A215:

|                              | Weight      |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Overall exam average         | 70%         |
| Overall quiz section average | 20%         |
| Writing assignment           | 5%          |
| Overall homework average     | 5%          |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>100%</b> |

- ◆ **Exams:** There are three exams in A215. They are not cumulative. That is, each exam focuses on the material covered since the previous exam, not the beginning of the course. In computing your overall exam score, I will weight your highest exam score 30% and your other two exam scores 20% each.
  - ◆ **Quizzes:** You will take three quizzes during the quarter. Your final quiz section grade is simply the average of your quiz scores.
  - ◆ **Writing assignment:** The writing assignment will test your understanding of an accounting topic and your ability to communicate clearly and concisely. Details of the assignment will be provided during the quarter.
  - ◆ **Homework:** Listed in the course outline are a limited number of **required** homework problems for each chapter with their respective due dates. Your overall homework score is a simple average of your individual homework scores. I will use an online homework manager called *Connect* to assign and grade homework. To begin using *Connect*, follow these steps:
    1. Go to [canvas.uw.edu](http://canvas.uw.edu) and log in. Click on the ACCTG 215 link, then click on the *Pages* link in the menu bar to the left. Follow the link for *Connect*
    2. Select "Register Now" and enter your email address
    3. Either (a) submit the *Connect* code that came with your textbook or (b) purchase an access code online
    4. If purchasing online, select either (a) *Connect* (no eBook) or (b) *Connect Plus* (with eBook)
    5. Fill out the registration form
    6. Select "Go To Connect Now"
- If you have any problems using *Connect*, visit [www.mcgrawhillconnect.com/support](http://www.mcgrawhillconnect.com/support) or call 1-800-331-5094.

This course uses the UW standard grade point scale:<sup>1</sup>

| <b>Percent</b> | <b>4.0 scale</b> |
|----------------|------------------|
| 94 – 100       | 3.9 – 4.0        |
| 90 – 93        | 3.5 – 3.8        |
| 87 – 89        | 3.2 – 3.4        |
| 84 – 86        | 2.9 – 3.1        |
| 80 – 83        | 2.5 – 2.8        |
| 77 – 79        | 2.2 – 2.4        |
| 74 – 76        | 1.9 – 2.1        |
| 70 – 73        | 1.5 – 1.8        |
| 67 – 69        | 1.2 – 1.4        |
| 64 – 66        | 0.9 – 1.1        |
| 50 – 63        | 0.7 – 0.8        |
| <50            | 0.0              |

Business School guidelines dictate that the median grade in A215 be between a 2.9 – 3.1. I will not curve grades down to meet this guideline, but reserve the right to curve them up.

All grade appeals must be typed and turned in within one week of getting your graded material back. Appeals should clearly explain why your answer is correct. Please submit your original graded material when turning in an appeal.

### **Code of Conduct**

As a student in A215 you acknowledge that you are a member of a learning community in the Foster School of Business that is committed to the highest academic standards. As a member of this community, you agree to uphold the fundamental standards of honesty, respect, and integrity, and accept the responsibility to encourage others to adhere to these standards.

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<sup>1</sup> This is the “official” UW scale and can be found at: [www.washington.edu/students/gencat/front/Grading\\_Sys.html](http://www.washington.edu/students/gencat/front/Grading_Sys.html)

# COURSE OUTLINE

| Meeting                  | Topic                                      | To Read Prior to Class | Required Homework   | Exercise |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------|---|----------|
| Week 1                   |  |                        |   |          |
| March 29<br>Class 1      | Ch 1: Introduction                         | Pages 1 – 25           | E1-2, E1-9, E1-11<br>P1-1<br>* Due by midnight on April 8               |          |
| March 31<br>Class 2      | Ch 2: Investing and financing transactions | Pages 40 – 75          |   | Yoga I   |
| Week 2                   |  |                        |   |          |
| April 5<br>Class 3       | Ch 2: Investing and financing transactions |                        | E2-4, E2-5, E2-12, E2-15<br>P2-2<br>* Due by midnight on April 8        | Yoga II  |
| April 7<br>Class 4       | Ch 3: Operating transactions               | Pages 98 – 131         |   | Yoga III |
| Week 3                   |  |                        |   |          |
| April 12<br>Class 5      | Ch 3: Operating transactions               |                        | E3-2, E3-3, E3-4, E3-6<br>P3-2<br>* Due by midnight on April 15         | Yoga IV  |
| April 13<br>Quiz Section | Quiz 1: Chapters 1 – 3                     |                        |   |          |
| April 14<br>Class 6      | Ch 4: Adjustments                          | Pages 160 – 191        | E4-7, E4-9, E4-11, E4-13<br>P4-3, P4-5<br>* Due by midnight on April 22 | Yoga V   |
| Week 4                   |  |                        |   |          |
| April 19<br>Class 7      | Ch 5: Communicating accounting information | Pages 224 – 252        | E5-5, E5-10, E5-13<br>P5-3, P5-4<br>* Due by midnight on April 29       | Yoga VI  |
| April 21<br>Class 8      | Exam I: Chapters 1 – 5                     |                        |   |          |
| Week 5                   |  |                        |   |          |
| April 26<br>Class 9      | Ch 6: Sales and accounts receivable        | Pages 276 - 303        | E6-2, E6-7, E6-8, E6-11<br>P6-3<br>* Due by midnight on May 6           | Pupco    |
| April 28<br>Class 10     | Ch 7: Inventory                            | Pages 326 – 357        |   |          |

# COURSE OUTLINE

| Week 6                 |  |                 |   |                    |
|------------------------|--|-----------------|---|--------------------|
| May 3<br>Class 11      | Ch 7: Inventory  | Pages 326 – 357 | E7-5, E7-9, E7-11, E7-21<br>P7-10<br>* Due by midnight on May 13        | M&T                |
| May 4<br>Quiz Section  | Quiz 2: Chapters 6 & 7   |                 |   |                    |
| May 5<br>Class 12      | Ch 8: Fixed assets   | Pages 380 – 418 |   |                    |
| Week 7                 |  |                 |   |                    |
| May 10<br>Class 13     | Ch 8: Fixed assets   |                 | E8-3, E8-5, E8-7, E8-13<br>P8-3<br>* Due by midnight on May 20          | Northern Ltd.      |
| May 12<br>Class 14     | Exam II: Chapters 6 – 8 (excluding present value calculations) |                 |   |                    |
| Week 8                 |  |                 |   |                    |
| May 17<br>Class 15     | Ch 9: Liabilities<br>(excluding present value calculations)    | Pages 450 – 475 | E9-14, E9-18, E9-21<br>P9-1, P9-12<br>* Due by midnight on May 27       | Present Value      |
| May 19<br>Class 16     | Ch 10: Long-term liabilities                                   | Pages 498 – 523 |   |                    |
| Week 9                 |  |                 |   |                    |
| May 24<br>Class 17     | Ch 10: Long-term liabilities                                   |                 | E10-4, E10-8, E10-20<br>P10-10<br>* Due by midnight on May 27           | Bonds              |
| May 25<br>Quiz Section | Quiz 3: Chapters 9 & 10  |                 |   |                    |
| May 26<br>Class 18     | Ch 11: Owners' equity  | Pages 544- 564  | E11-3, E11-5, E11-16,<br>E11-23<br>P11-5<br>* Due by midnight on June 3 | Prospero & Caliban |
| Week 10                |  |                 |   |                    |
| May 31<br>Class 19     | Ch 12: Statement of cash flows                                 | Pages 588 – 620 |   |                    |
| June 2<br>Class 20     | Ch 12: Statement of cash flows                                 |                 | E12-4<br>P12-1, P12-5<br>* Due by midnight on June 3                    | Yoga VII           |
| Final Exam Week        |  |                 |   |                    |
| Final exam block       | Exam III: Chapters 9 – 12                                      |                 | Section A: TBD<br>Section D: TBD  |                    |