**SYLLABUS** (If you are viewing this prior to the official start of class, it is a tentative syllabus.)  
**SCH-MGMT 604A: Financial Accounting and Reporting I**  
**Summer 2025, SPIRE# 57901 (May 19-August 15, 2025)**

Course Overview

This course starts with the very basics of the financial accounting model and process. It also includes detailed coverage of financial statements, revenue recognition, receivables, inventory, property-plant and equipment and intangibles. Students with little or no previous accounting training that successfully complete both SCH-MGMT 604A and 604B are prepared to study financial accounting at the graduate level.

**The coursework is delivered via Canvas. Preview week starts one week ahead of the official start of classes.** **Access the course directly, rather than through SPIRE:** [**https://umamherst.instructure.com**](https://umamherst.instructure.com/)

You will complete all graded items online and/or upload them to me using course software. These items include homework, quizzes, projects/cases, and on-line discussions. *You do not need to be present in Amherst at any point in the course and there are no set times when you are* ***required*** *to be online.*

**The course design provides flexibility, but the course is NOT self-paced.** Everyone needs to be in approximately the same place at the same time. You can do your work whenever you like, within the window for that work, but you must complete your work according to the course due dates. Plan to spend at least 8-10 hours a week on the course. (Time requirements will vary widely- but for most students this course requires more time than they have spent to date on other 3-credit college courses.)

Success will require hard work and planning for that work. For most students, accounting is best learned in small doses with a LOT of practice on homework and class lecture problems. So-- please be honest about your schedule and realize that you cannot do your best work if you try to cram a whole week’s study into one day (the due date). If you start early, you can ask questions and get help before the homework or assessments are due.

If possible, use the week before class begins (Preview week) to get comfortable with the structure and/or get a head start on the work. Note that my emails and announcements will be sent to your UMASS email.

Learning Outcomes

* Understand the theoretical and technical aspects of financial statement preparation and related disclosures.
* Appreciate the role of financial accounting and reporting in the economy.

Instructor/ Contact Information

The best way to reach me is email. I am happy to arrange a follow-up phone call or Zoom call.

A person wearing glasses

Description automatically generated with low confidence**Pamela S. Trafford, MBA, CPA**  
**Preferred name/title:** Prof. Trafford or Pam (I am fine with either!)  
**Email:** [ptrafford@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:ptrafford@isenberg.umass.edu)  
**Office Phone and voicemail:** 413-545-5633

**Zoom Office Hours /Appointments:** Information and access directions are posted on Canvas.   
In addition, please use the Student Lounge and Q&A forums to ask questions and offer answers!

This course does not have a teaching assistant.

**For technical help, Canvas has a 24/7 help desk at 1-855-219-3080.  
For Connect help, call 1-800-331-5094.**

Required Materials   
Graphical user interface, application, website

Description automatically generated*Intermediate Accounting,* 11th edition, by J. David Spiceland, James F. Sepe, Mark W. Nelson, and Wayne B. Thomas, published by McGraw-Hill.  
This course requires “Connect,” a publisher tool that includes an eBook, homework problems, and other learning tools and resources.

You can purchase Connect through the course (once you have access). Pricing will about $80. At your OPTION, you may purchase a loose-leaf (print copy) of the text through Connect. access from Connect. The cost is approximately $44. If you want the printed version, please order it as soon as you get access to the class.

If you want **earlier access to Connect** you can register through the publisher’s site and still get UMass pricing.  
<https://connect.mheducation.com/class/604a-summer-2025-spire-57901>

You must use your UMass email.

* **You will not have course or problem access. This is ONLY access to the E-book until the class opens.**
* **Your free access period will expire earlier if you register earlier.**

Before you make a purchase outside of Canvas or the link above, note the following.

* Do not buy an E-Book as it comes with Connect.
* The campus bookstore will sell a Connect access code, but likely at a higher price.
* A separately purchased looseleaf textbook will likely cost WAY more than $44.

Early start or extra resource materials (OPTIONAL)

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generatedIf you want to get a head start on the content, I encourage you to read in this open source (free) textbook that you can access easily now.  
*Principles of Accounting, Volume 1, Financial Accounting*. Franklin, Graybeal, Cooper   
[**https://openstax.org/details/books/principles-financial-accounting**](https://openstax.org/details/books/principles-financial-accounting)

This reading is optional, of course, but if you want to jump in a little early, read as much as you like of these first 5 chapters. Again, this is NOT required.

**Course structure**  
The course is organized by modules that follow the chapter structure. Each module requires most of the following activities:

* Reading a chapter in the textbook, eBook, or Smartbook.
* Viewing lecture videos and completion of related activities
* Completion of Connect Homework assignments.
* Completion of discussions, case problems and/or other assignments

There will be 4 timed quizzes. The timed quizzes are open book so you should expect that the questions will not be identically structured to what you have seen before. They should take about an hour each but you will have 2 hours to complete them. If you understood the concepts as you completed the learning activities, you will be able to apply that understanding to the quiz questions.

Several units in the course will require some basic excel training. You will use some of the skills learned in course assignments. Excel is an important skill that will be used in later courses and certainly in your professional life.

If you are not familiar with Excel and would like a head start on some practice, use this resource:  
[Excel tutorials overview.docx](https://umass-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/pst_umass_edu/EQKhH6rViyVGu0qwf_1o98IBjQ_CXFt_S8CQCo5kla7AIA?e=UQ9PAO)

Evaluation

Much of your required coursework is not graded. However, it is all necessary for your success. *Late work is not accepted without explanation and may be subject to substantive penalties.* The course grade components are weighted as follows:

18% 3-part assignment assessing Chapter 1-4

52% Quizzes (4 quizzes @13% each).

18% Connect Homework

12% Other (includes graded discussions, Excel tutorials, and any other graded work)

* *Connect Homework.* There are 9 graded Connect HW assignments.
* If you earn at least 85% on any Connect homework assignment, I will count that grade as 100% for grading purposes. This “grace” allows you to be efficient with your time, when needed.
* If you email me AHEAD of time (for a good reason), I may be able to extend assignments, but after the due date, I usually cannot extend them because answers were already released.
* **Unlike other graded work, you are allowed to collaborate (ask questions) on these with me, a course teaching assistant and other students in the course.**
* *Other.* This will include graded discussions, the excel assignments and other graded assignments.
* The points attached to these other items will determine the weight of each item. (They are not evenly weighted.)
* *Quizzes.*
* There are 4 Quizzes that each cover 2 chapters. These are traditional “timed” quizzes. They are short and intended to take about 1 hour.

**Unless explicitly stated otherwise, complete all graded work without the assistance of others (including the prior work of others).**

* Use of artificial intelligence for graded activities is considered academic dishonesty.
* Online “Homework help services” such as Chegg, Course Hero, and other services as a resource for ANY graded activity in the course is considered academic dishonesty.
* Posting or sharing ANY course content to these services or other individuals is also a copyright infringement.

Below is a chart that shows how your overall weighted average will translate to a letter grade.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Target Grade Curve** | | | | |
| A | 93-100% |  | B- | 73-77% |
| A- | 89-92% |  | C+ | 68-72% |
| B+ | 84-88% |  | C | 63-67% |
| B | 78-83% |  | F | Below 63% |

(Graduate courses do not allow passing grades below a C.)

Inclusive Learning Statement

To learn, we must be open to the views of people different from ourselves. As we share time together over the semester, please honor the uniqueness of your fellow classmates and appreciate the opportunity to learn from one another. Please respect each other’s opinions. Finally, remember to keep confidential all issues of a personal or professional nature that are discussed in class.

Your success in this class is important to me. We all learn differently and bring different strengths and needs to the class. If there are aspects of the course that prevent you from learning or make you feel excluded, *please let me know as soon as possible.* Together we’ll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course.

University policies  
University policies regarding Accommodations, Academic Honesty/Integrity, and Title IX, apply to all courses. The policies can be found at this University site.  <https://www.umass.edu/senate/book/required-syllabus-statements> .

Please read the Academic Integrity/Academic Honesty policy carefully. You will attest that you have followed these rules for all of the course assessments.

The COURSE SCHEDULE follows.

* I open Unit content 7 days ahead of the start of the official work window. All past units will remain open for review throughout the course.

**I look forward to working with you!**

**SCH-MGMT 604A Course Schedule**



Note that everything is set up in 24-hour blocks. This way everyone has the same amount of "prime” working hours (whatever those may be for you!) available to do the graded work. **So-- all due dates are at 11:59 PM Eastern, regardless of your time zone.** If you are in California, you get access 3 hours earlier and your due date is 3 hours earlier. You still have the same number of 8-11:59 pm work periods as anybody on the east coast or somewhere else in the world.