



ACCOUNTING 209
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING
Spring 2021

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Office Hours:

Via Zoom, by appointment (email me to request appointment) Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00am – 11:30am

Classroom Schedule			
Section	Class Time	Room #	Finals Schedule
501	Online - Asynchronous	Online	Monday, May 3 rd , 2:00 – 4:30pm (Online)
504	Online - Asynchronous	Online	Monday, May 3 rd , 2:00 – 4:30pm (Online)

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The primary objective of this course is to enable students to understand how accounting meets the informational needs of various users by developing and communicating information for decision-making. The course is designed to introduce accounting and its fundamental concepts to students who have little or no background in business or the financial aspects of an entity, but who will likely use such information in future roles as owners and operators of businesses, entrepreneurs, employees, managers, investors, and/or taxpaying citizens. By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- describe the role and purpose of accounting in business and society.
- define accounting- and business-related terms and concepts.
- describe the elements of, the relationships among, and the accounting concepts underlying the primary financial statements.
- analyze the effect of routine transactions on the basic accounting equation and describe how those transactions are reflected in the financial statements.
- analyze financial statements from the perspective of an owner, potential owner, and creditor using basic financial ratios.

**IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES**

January	19	Tuesday	First day of Fall Semester classes
January	25	Monday	Last day for adding/dropping courses for semester
March	8	Monday	Mid-Semester Grades due
March	19	Friday	Spring Break
April	15	Thursday	Q-Drop Deadline
April	21	Wednesday	Muster
April	29	Thursday	Last Day of Classes for Spring Semester
May	3 - 7		Final Exams

BUILDING

We have beautiful and state-of-the-art classrooms in the Wehner Building. We wish to maintain the high quality conditions of these classrooms for the students of future years. Thus, it is necessary for you to adhere to the established policy of **NO BEVERAGES, FOOD, TOBACCO PRODUCTS, OR ANIMALS** (unless approved) within the Wehner Building classrooms.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Resources in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

COVID-19**Campus Safety Measures**

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University has adopted policies and practices for the Fall 2020 academic term to limit virus transmission. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses and course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.):

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. **Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction.**
- Face Coverings—[Face coverings](#) (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) must be properly worn in all non-private spaces including classrooms, teaching laboratories, common spaces such as lobbies and hallways, public study spaces, libraries, academic resource and support offices, and outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to reliably maintain. Description of face coverings and additional guidance are provided in the [Face Covering policy](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) available on the [Provost website](#).
- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- To attend a face-to-face class, students must wear a face covering (or a face shield if they have an exemption letter). If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the



[Student Conduct office](#) for sanctions. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day's class remotely for all students.

Personal Illness and Quarantine

Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely, if that option is available, and **must not attend face-to-face course activities**. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.

Students experiencing personal injury or illness that is too severe for the student to attend class qualify for an excused absence (See [Student Rule 7, Section 7.2.2.](#)) To receive an excused absence, students must comply with the documentation and notification guidelines outlined in Student Rule 7.

Statement on Inclusion

Texas A&M University is committed to enriching the learning and working environment for all visitors, students, faculty, and staff by promoting a culture that embraces inclusion, diversity, equity, and accountability. Diverse perspectives, talents, and identities are vital to accomplishing our [mission](#) and living our [core values](#).

The following resources are available to support you in promoting an inclusive culture:

- [Stop Hate Website](#) – Report hate/bias incidents
- [TAMU Office for Diversity Resources](#)
- [Department of Multicultural Services](#) – Educational/developmental programs to foster inclusion
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) – Support for mental health and emotional well-being

Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student's academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in proper self-care by utilizing the resources and services available from Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). Students who need someone to talk to can call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, a person who is subjected to the alleged conduct will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The



University's goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS).

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University's [Title IX webpage](#).

ETHICS and SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

The accounting profession has a long-established reputation for its high level of ethical conduct, but that reputation has eroded considerably recently with the corporate and accounting scandals that have been so much in the news. Ethics in accounting is probably at the lowest level it has been in the past 50 years and this must be corrected. This begins in the academic arena where the profession's future leaders are being prepared. Accounting students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is above reproach in their own course-related actions.

The Faculty Senate recently passed the new Aggie Honor Council procedures and rules, effective September 1, 2004. The following statement is required on all syllabi:

Aggie Honor Code Syllabus Statement

Aggie Honor Code

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do."

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Texas A&M University community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor system. For additional information please visit: <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>

On all course work, assignments, and examinations at Texas A&M University, the following Honor pledge shall be preprinted and signed by the student: "On my honor, as an Aggie, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work."

GRADE APPEALS/CHANGES

If you believe an error has been made in grading or recording an assignment/exam, you must submit a written request for review within three class days of the date the assignment/exam score was made available in class. ANY REQUESTS MADE AFTER THIS TIME CANNOT BE CONSIDERED. It is therefore critical that you pick up and review all graded assignments on a timely basis.

The Course: Changes to this syllabus may occur during the semester. An important reason to come to class...

COURSE FORMAT:

This course will be presented as an online course, utilizing extensive out-of-classroom work, including computer-based, online learning and assignments via myBusinessCourse (see below), as well as weekly instructor-delivered lectures posted to eCampus and accessible via a YouTube link. This format offers you flexibility in scheduling the time you devote to your coursework, but it also requires you to be responsible for keeping current with all material and



assignments. *Falling behind in preparation, even for a single class, is the most frequent cause of difficulty in the study of accounting.*

You can find our course schedule on eCampus. This will give you information about what to work on each week, including online material to help you prepare for my lectures, and problems to be completed after my lectures to reinforce those particularly challenging concepts that were covered. The course will be broken down into “Units” – Unit 1 corresponding to the material for Exam 1 and Unit 2 corresponding to the material for Exam 2.

Office hours will be held via Zoom. My office hours are listed above, and you must have an appointment. Please email me to request an appointment, at which time, I will send you the Zoom meeting link.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Textbook: Financial Accounting for Undergraduates (4th Edition) by Wallace, et al, 4E

You can purchase a hard copy of the textbook from the Texas A&M Bookstore or directly from Cambridge Business Publishers <https://cambridgepub.com/book/financial-accounting-for-undergraduates-4th> (hard copy for \$80 plus shipping or eBook for \$65). A course access code (available with either the textbook or ebook purchase) will be REQUIRED for online lectures, homework, exams, and any other graded content that may be assigned during the semester.

E-Campus / myBusinessCourse:

E-Campus will be used in conjunction with myBusinessCourse, for this class. Both of these platforms, as well as their use in this class, are described below.

- *eCampus:* Log onto eCampus from A&M’s “Howdy” page, or go to <http://ecampus.tamu.edu>. Log in using your net ID, and click on the link for Acct 209 to access materials for this course. eCampus will be your “home base” for all course materials – you will see folders for In-Class Notes, ProctorU Handouts / FAQs, Class Project Materials, and others added during the semester. **You will also be accessing your myBusinessCourse content through eCampus. DO NOT access your myBusinessCourse account outside of eCampus!!** Please note, if you have any problems with eCampus, help is available! CIS staff at the Computing Services Center (open 24/7) or one of the open access labs on campus are available to answer your questions. You may either go in person, check online at <http://hdc.tamu.edu> or call 979 845-8300. Information is also available on the eCampus log-on page that will enable you to contact CIS staff on-line.
- *myBusinessCourse:* When you purchase the textbook (or eBook), you will receive a unique access code that you will use when initially creating a myBusinessCourse account. You will be accessing your myBusinessCourse account directly from our eCampus. When you first log-into eCampus, you will see a myBusinessCourse link in the content section. Click on that link and create your account by inputting your user information, including your unique access code. This myBusinessCourse account (via eCampus) will be your source for online lectures, homework problems, quizzes, and exams for the semester. **Please note, if you have any problems or questions with MBC, help is available! You can call 630-504-0505 or email mbcsupport@cambridgepub.com. There is also a document posted to eCampus in the “General Information” folder titled “MBC Registration handout” that gives you other pertinent information needed for registration.**
- Please note that I will also make all course announcements to all sections through E-Campus. ***Please check E-Campus every day for any announcements pertaining to our class.***

Zoom:

As discussed above, office hours for the semester will be held via Zoom – there are no face-to-face office hours offered at this time. Please note that, if you have not already, you will need to create a Zoom account, registered to your TAMU email address. Zoom will also be utilized for help sessions with the Accounting 209 Help Desk TAs.

**ACCOUNTING 209 - GRADING**

Online Homework.....	100 pts.
Midterm Examinations.....	200 pts.
Final Examination	50 pts.
Total Points Available	350 pts.

COURSE GRADE:

Your course grade is determined based on total points. Grades will be assigned as follows:

A	310-350 points
B	275-309 points
C	240-274 points
D	205-239 points
F	0-204 points

HOMEWORK:

There will be a total of 12 online homework assignments, worth 10 points each, given during the semester. The program will not allow late submissions, and since students have ample time to submit each homework assignment, NO HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DUE DATE. Twelve assignments worth 10 points each will be assigned, but the maximum number of homework points that will count towards the course total is 100.

Please note: the homework is NOT calculated as the total of the 10 highest homework grades. It is the total number of points earned on all homework assignments submitted, up to a maximum of 100 points. Points earned in excess of the 100 point maximum will NOT count as “extra credit”.

The homework will be assigned weekly during the semester. Homework assignments will be made available on eCampus every Tuesday morning; the assignment will be due the following **Monday by midnight**. The homework will be submitted on eCampus. Again, the system does not allow you to submit AFTER the deadline, so no late assignments will be accepted for any reason.

Total Homework 100 pts.

EXAMS:

The online exams will consist of calculations and theory questions. There will be two online mid-term examinations given during the semester, as well as a final exam. There will be no online lectures or material covered during exam weeks.

The midterm examinations will be given during your normally scheduled “class time” (see schedule below) and will be taken via myBusinessCourse (**accessed through an eCampus folder titled “Exams”**). You will have 75 minutes to complete the exams. Allowable resources include your textbook (including the eBook version), course notes, MBC notes, homework assignments, and the extra practice problems that you have completed on the material. It is expected that your work on the exams should be completed INDEPENDENTLY. Using work completed by someone else is considered academic dishonesty; this means you may NOT use another person’s work to satisfy your exam requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, another person’s work obtained through face-to-face conversations, phone calls, text messages, instant messages, chats, Slack exchanges, email messages, social media posts, tutoring sites, questions/answers on discussion forums, blogs, etc. You will be required to adhere to the Aggie Honor Code, and if it comes to my attention that you have violated this policy, you will be referred to the Honor Council and given an F in the course. The exam questions will be randomized, and **you will not be given the ability to navigate back in the exam**. This means you cannot skip questions and come back to them. The exam difficulty and length will be such that you will need to have a comprehensive and working knowledge of the material to be able to complete all questions in the given exam timeframe. Therefore, while you do have access to the aforementioned allowable materials during the exam, your reliance on those materials to get you through an exam will most likely prevent you from finishing on time.



Your final exam will cover Chapters 11 & 12 only– the final will be given online via eCampus during the scheduled final exam time (Monday, May 3rd at 2:00 – 4:30pm). This exam will include the same allowable resources as mentioned above, but is worth only 50 points.

While memorization is basic to learning, your ability to analyze and formulate a problem-solving approach will be necessary for you to do well on the exams. My lectures are intended to supplement the assigned reading. Assigned exercises and problems are intended to provide examples that should allow you to develop your working skills, but they cannot represent all the problem situations you may encounter on exams.

Examination Schedule:

Exam 1	Ch. 1-6	Tuesday, 3/9 6:45pm – 8:00pm	100 pts.
Exam 2	Ch. 8-10 +TVM <i>**omit Chapter 7</i>	Tuesday, 4/13 6:45pm – 8:00pm	100 pts.
Final Exam	Ch. 11, 12	Monday, 5/3 2:00pm – 4:30pm	50 pts.
<u>Total Exams</u>			<u>250 pts.</u>

EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY

If an absence is excused, the instructor will either provide the student an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the final grade or provide a satisfactory alternative by a date agreed upon by the student and instructor. If the instructor has a regularly scheduled make up exam, students are expected to attend unless they have a university approved excuse. The make-up work must be completed in a timeframe not to exceed 30 calendar days from the last day of the initial absence.

The reasons absences are considered excused by the university are listed below. See Student Rule 7 for details (<https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07/>). The fact that these are university-excused absences does not relieve the student of responsibility for prior notification and documentation. Failure to notify and/or document properly may result in an unexcused absence. Falsification of documentation is a violation of the Honor Code.

- 1) Participation in an activity that is required for a class and appears on the university authorized activity list at <https://studentactivities.tamu.edu/app/sponsauth/index>
- 2) Death or major illness in a student's immediate family.
- 3) Illness of a dependent family member.
- 4) Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.
- 5) Religious holy day. NOTE: Prior notification is NOT required.
- 6) Injury or illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.
 - a) Injury or illness of three or more class days:
Student will provide a medical confirmation note from his or her medical provider within one week of the last date of the absence (see Student Rules 7.1.6.1)
 - b) Injury or illness of less than three class days:
Student will provide one or both of these (at instructor's discretion), within one week of the last date of the absence: (i.) Texas A&M University Explanatory Statement for Absence from Class form available at <http://attendance.tamu.edu> or (ii.) Confirmation of visit to a health care professional affirming date and time of visit.
- 7) Required participation in military duties.
- 8) Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school which cannot be rescheduled.
- 9) Mandatory participation as a student-athlete in NCAA-sanctioned competition.
- 10) In accordance with Title IX, pregnancy and related conditions for a time deemed medically necessary by the student's physician.



Other absences may be excused at the discretion of the instructor with prior notification and proper documentation. In cases where prior notification is not feasible (e.g., accident or emergency) the student must provide notification by the end of the second working day after the absence, including an explanation of why notice could not be sent prior to the class.

Make-up Exam Schedule

Exam 1 Makeup

Tuesday, March 16th 6:45 – 8:00pm

Exam 2 Makeup

Tuesday, April 20th 6:45 – 8:00pm

HELPFUL HINTS

In accounting, your understanding of new topics often depends on your comprehension of prior concepts. You must keep up. ***Do not be afraid to ask questions.*** The minute you feel that you are getting lost, ask for help. The textbook is a wonderful resource. Read the assignment in the text ***before*** coming to class; this will help you to understand material presented in the lecture.

Do your homework. If you don't understand a concept, work additional problems until you do. In accounting, hard work really does pay off! This is definitely not a course you can wait to prepare for a night or two before an exam. I cannot stress enough the importance of

- (1) attending class
- (2) actively participating in each class
- (3) reading the text and completing the pre-class prep packets and assignments on a daily basis
- (4) developing a sound foundation by understanding and applying concepts, particularly those in the initial weeks of the course.

HELP DESK:

There is a help desk available for accounting 209 students! This semester the help desk will be held virtually. All students will be enrolled in a "Student Group" e-campus site. The help desk TA's will use this site to announce information regarding the zoom meeting ID's for all help sessions. Sessions will be held Mon – Thurs 1 – 7 pm and Fridays noon – 5 pm.