

ACCT 2301.501.25F
Introduction to Financial Accounting
Fall 2025
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Grace (Dongdi) Gu
 JSOM 4.501
 (630)689-7898
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Class Schedule: Section 501: Thursday 7:00 – 9:45 p.m. (In Person - JSOM 2.717)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CST
 In-Person in JSOM 4.501
Appointment preferred!

Sign up for an appointment for office hours here (please choose either an in-person or Teams meeting): <https://calendly.com/dxg180001-utdallas/30min>

Teaching Assistant: Tam-Nhu Dang
 JSOM 2.710
 Office Hour Mondays 4:00 pm – 6:00pm

Important Web Links, Class Notes, Homework Assignments, and other relevant information available at:
<http://elearning.utdallas.edu>

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is offered for this course. SI sessions are collaborative group study sessions, scheduled two times per week. Sessions are facilitated by an SI Leader, who has taken the course and received a high final grade. Attendance is voluntary. For information about the days, times, and locations for SI sessions, refer to <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentsuccess/help-with-courses/supplemental-instruction/>.

Course Modality and Expectations

Instructional Mode	In-person only
Expectations	<p>Students can expect me to treat them with respect and kindness. They can expect that I am working as hard as possible to create an engaging and informative learning environment. I will be fair and consistent in grading. I am available for questions and love interacting with you! If you send an email, you can expect a response within 48 hours (it may be longer on weekends or holidays).</p> <p>I expect my students to treat everyone in this course, including myself, with respect and kindness. I expect all students to attend lectures every week and to complete the assignments by due date listed in Tentative Schedule. I expect honesty from my students as it pertains to homework, and exams (no cheating!).</p>

	Classroom attendance is critical to your success in this course! Class sessions will be a combination of lecture and problem solving. Students should bring to each class session a printed copy of that day’s lecture notes (available on eLearning prior to each class) and a calculator for problem solving. The material covered in-class will follow the lecture notes, which are designed to clarify and complement the text material. It is also important that you read the assigned chapter in the textbook (see the “Tentative Schedule”). The use of cell phones or any other electronic device for personal reasons is not permitted in the classroom.
Technical Equipment and Software Requirements	Computer/tablet/laptop with internet access to view course material on eLearning and turn in homework assignments
Class Recordings and Material	<p>Classroom instruction will not be recorded. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has granted special approval, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The instructor will provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class, as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students’ use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.</p>
Extra Credit	There will be NO Extra Credit at the conclusion of the semester. If you find yourself a few points short of your desired goal at the end of the semester, I will not be able to adjust your score.

Course Description and Student Learning Objectives

This course is an introduction to business financial reporting designed to create an awareness of the accounting concepts and principles for preparing the three basic financial statements: the income statement, balance sheet, and statement of cash flows.

The course is designed to benefit all business students who will be future users of accounting information. At the end of the semester, you will understand:

- How businesses meet the information needs of investors and creditors
- How businesses operate and how accounting serves them
- The elements of, the relationships among, and the accounting concepts underlying the primary financial statements
- How business transactions are input, processed by an accounting information system, and output by that same system to produce financial statements
- The uses and limitations of financial statements and related information for making business decisions

Learning Objectives:

- (1) Obtain a basic understanding of financial accounting concepts
- (2) Conduct basic financial ratio analysis
- (3) Compare four main financial statements and understand the relationship with each other
- (4) Discuss how financial accounting information is used to make business decisions

Recommend Textbook

Financial Accounting 11th Edition, Libby, Libby, and Hodge
ISBN: 9781264634019 (this is the binder-ready version with Connect Access Card)

\$99 at UT Dallas bookstore

You may also rent/buy the eBook directly from the Publisher:

<https://www.mheducation.com/highered/product/financial-accounting-libby-libby/M9781264229734.html>

FAQ: Can you purchase a used textbook or older edition? YES, but only the 10th edition (do not purchase older than that). Please note that the end-of-chapter problems that I recommend may be different in older editions.

Grading Policy

The final grade of each student will be determined based on below weighting scheme (total: 100 points):

Assignments	Weights
<i>Homework Assignments (Best 5 out of 6)</i>	15%
<i>Group Project</i>	10%
<i>Midterm (Higher Score)</i>	25%
<i>Midterm (Lower Score)</i>	20%
<i>Cumulative Final</i>	30%
Total	100%

Final grades will be assigned using the +/- system of grading and will follow the general guidelines below:

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade (out of 100)	Letter Grade	Numeric Grade (out of 100)
A+	96-100	C+	76-79
A	93-95	C-	70-72
A-	90-92	D+	66-69
B+	86-89	D	63-65
B	83-85	D-	60-62
B-	80-82	F	<60
C	73-75		

If interested, you can compute your final grade as follows:

Numeric Grade (out of 100) = (Midterm Higher Score grade*0.25) + (Midterm Lower Score grade * 0.20) + (Cumulative final exam grade * 0.30) + (Average Homework grade (out of 10 points) * 10 * 0.15) + (Group Project grade * 0.10)

[Note: There will be 6 overall homework grades. I will drop your lowest homework score when computing the average.]

Grading Questions or Appeals

If you feel there exists a grading error on any of the above grade components (including homework, group project, and exams), or if you feel you need to bring to my attention other facts or circumstances that might affect the grade for that item, you will have ***one week from the date the grade is posted on eLearning*** to take such action and have the matter resolved.

Homework and Group Project (Graded)

This course has two types of assignments that will be completed for a grade:

1. Homework - There will be approximately **6 homework assignments** during the semester, each worth 10 points. These assignments are used to reinforce the skills necessary to do well on exams. Your average percentage score on the best five out of six homework assignments will account for 15% of your total grade. **You may work with others on the homework**, but it is important that you understand how to work the problems in order to do well on exams.

I will **drop your lowest homework grade** before computing grades. As such, **no late homework will be accepted** and there will be no opportunities to makeup missed assignments. The due date for each homework is listed in the Tentative Schedule at the end of this syllabus. Although I will repeat due dates frequently, it is ultimately your responsibility to view the homework assignment in eLearning and turn it in before it is due.

2. Group Project - You will complete one group project during the semester (**due: Friday, October 17th, 11:59 p.m.**). A portion of this project may be done during class with the remainder to be completed outside of class. Any projects received after the specified due date will receive 5 points reduction in score for each day the project is late. The Group Project is worth 10% of your overall course grade and will be scored out of 100 points: 80 points of your grade will be a common group grade based on the completeness and accuracy of your group's work. The remaining 20 points is based on the other group members' assessment of your individual contribution to the project. Anyone not actively participating in the project will receive a zero on the assignment.

You will receive additional instructions for completing the practice problem later in the course.

Attendance

While I do not grade classroom attendance, it is your responsibility to attend every session. There will be 6 unannounced attendance checks throughout this semester, and I offer 1 bonus

credit for each attendance you take towards your cumulative final. ***This is the opportunity to earn up to 6 Points total bonus points for your final exam.***

Book Problems and Supplemental Material (Not Graded)

In addition to the assignments above, there is a list of suggested problems to work out of your textbook. These assignments are **voluntary** and indicated in TENTATIVE SCHEDULE.

Unlike many courses, accounting cannot be learned by watching someone else explain concepts and work problems. ***You must become actively involved!*** Although the book problems and supplemental handouts will not be turned in for a grade, students are encouraged to work all assignments and problems on a timely basis. Getting behind in preparation is one of the most prevalent causes for poor performance in accounting.

Solutions to the end-of-chapter problems will be posted on the eLearning website.

Exams

There are three exams conducted for this class. All exams are closed book (Exams are 100% **INDEPENDENT** work!). They will consist of calculations and theory questions. Exam formats may include multiple-choice questions and longer problems requiring development, analysis, and presentation of comprehensive solutions. Concepts from chapter notes, class handouts, and homework assignments will be included on the exam. Midterm 1&2 will emphasize material covered during that respective exam period. However, some questions will require a solid understanding of topics covered on the previous exam.

All midterm exams will be administered at the testing center. Students will have the flexibility to choose a time slot to take the midterm exam during a specified period of time. Therefore, it is essential that students familiarize themselves with the Testing Center rules and regulations which can be found at: <https://ets.utdallas.edu/testing-center/students/>. **In order to take exams at the Testing Center, students must register online no later than 48 hours prior to the exam start time.** It is a student's responsibility to register with the Testing Center on time and comply with the Testing Center rules. Please read through the Testing Center instructions and let the instructor know about any problems or difficulties as soon as possible.

When registering with the Testing Center:

- (1) Students will need to choose a specific time to start their exams (i.e., as per the Testing Center guidelines, students will not be able to start their exams at a different time);
- (2) Upon successful registration with the Testing Center, students will receive an email confirming their appointment. If this confirmation email is not received, the student has not registered successfully with the Testing Center

The Final Exam is CUMULATIVE and will cover all topics discussed throughout the course of the semester. Final exam will be administered during the final week.

NO electronic devices are PERMITTED during the exam. This explicitly includes cell phones, pagers, computers, iPads, and other advanced electronic devices. I will consider it cheating if a cell phone or other electronic communication device is used and/or visible during the exam. **You**

are not permitted to copy or otherwise reproduce the exams at any time. This includes taking pictures of the exam with your cell phone or other device while taking the exam or when reviewing graded exams in class.

Unless you have prior approval from the instructor, you must take the exam in the section for which you are registered. Calculator usage during the exam is limited to **4-function calculators only**. For those students who prefer not to purchase their own, I will provide 4-function calculators for their use during the examination. All students should bring a Form 882 Scantron to each exam.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Exam Make-up Policy

Students **MUST** take the cumulative final exam (no exceptions). No make-up exams will be given unless there is an excused absence and timely notice is given. Students with anticipated excused absences (such as documented university-sponsored events) should contact me prior to the absence. If you miss an exam due to an illness or other emergency, you should notify me as soon as possible and provide me with written documentation (e.g., a note from the attending physician) after you return. I have the final authority to determine if your absence will be excused.

Disposition of exams: As per school policy, exams will be retained for one year and then destroyed.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Chapter	Topic	Assignment Due
1	08/28	Syllabus & Intro 1	Financial Statements and Business Decisions	
2	09/04	2	Investing and Financing Decisions and the Accounting Systems	HOMEWORK 1 DUE on Friday, September 12th 11:59 p.m.
3	09/11	3	Operating Decisions and the Accounting Systems	
4	09/18	4	Adjustments, Financial Statements, and the Quality of Earnings	HOMEWORK 2 DUE on Friday, September 26th 11:59 p.m.
5	09/25	4	Group Project & Review for Midterm 1	
6	Exam Week	Midterm 1 Monday, September 29th to Thursday, October 2nd @ Testing Center		
7	10/09	6	Reporting and Interpreting Sales Revenue, Receivables, and Cash	GROUP PROJECT DUE on Friday, October 17th 11:59 p.m.
8	10/16	7	Reporting and Interpreting Cost of Good Sold and Inventory	HOMEWORK 3 DUE on Friday, October 24th 11:59 p.m.
9	10/23	8	Reporting and interpreting Property, Plant, and Equipment; Intangibles; and Natural Resources	HOMEWORK 4 DUE on Friday, October 31th 11:59 p.m.
10	10/30	9	Reporting and Interpreting Liabilities & Review for Midterm 2	
11	Exam Week	Midterm 2 Monday, November 3rd to Thursday, November 6th @ Testing Center		

12	11/13	9, 10	Reporting and Interpreting Liabilities & Reporting and Interpreting Bond Securities	
13	11/20	11	Reporting and Interpreting Stockholder's Equity	HOMEWORK 5 DUE on Friday, November 28th 11:59 p.m.
14	11/27	Fall Break & Thanksgiving - No Classes!		
15	12/04	12	Statement of Cash Flows & Review for Final Exam	HOMEWORK 6 DUE on Tuesday, December 9th 11:59 p.m.
16		Cumulative Final (Chapter 1-4, 6-12) TBD		

SUGGESTED BOOK PROBLEMS (NOT GRADED)		
CHAPTER	READING ASSIGNMENT	SUGGESTED BOOK PROBLEMS
1	Financial Statements and Business Decisions <i>[Read Chapter 1]</i>	Questions: 4, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15 MC Questions: 1, 4 Mini-Exercises: 1-1 Exercises: 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, 1-9, 1-12
2	Investing and Financing Decisions and the Accounting System <i>[Read Chapter 2]</i>	Questions: 3, 12 MC Questions: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 Mini-Exercises: 2-4, 2-6, 2-11, 2-12 Exercises: 2-2, 2-3, 2-9, 2-13 Problems: 2-3
3	Operating Decisions and the Accounting System <i>[Read Chapter 3]</i>	Questions: 4, 5, 6, 8 MC Questions: 4 Mini-Exercises: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-6, 3-7 Exercises: 3-7 Problems: 3-2
4	Adjustments, Financial Statements, and the Quality of Earnings <i>[Read Chapter 4]</i>	Questions: 2, 3, 9, 10 MC Questions: 1, 3, 4, 5 Exercises: 4-2, 4-3, 4-9, 4-11, 4-13, 4-16 Problems: 4-2, 4-7
6	Reporting and Interpreting Sales Revenue, Receivables, and Cash <i>[Read Chapter 6 and Ch. Supplement]</i>	Questions: 1, 2, 8, 9 MC Questions: 5, 8, 10 Mini-Exercises: 6-2, 6-3 Exercises: 6-3, 6-8, 6-9, 6-15, 6-19 Problems: 6-1
7	Reporting and Interpreting Cost of Goods Sold and Inventory <i>[Read Chapter 7 and Ch. Supplement B, C]</i>	Questions: 4, 8, 9 MC Questions: 1, 2, 4, 5 Exercises: 7-1, 7-6, 7-8, 7-15, 7-22 Problems: 7-2
8	Reporting and Interpreting Property, Plant, and Equipment; Intangibles; and Natural Resources <i>[Read Chapter 8]</i>	Questions: 5, 6, 10, 11 MC Questions: 1, 3, 4, 9, 10 Mini-Exercises: 8-3 Exercises: 8-3, 8-7, 8-9, 8-16, 8-20 Problems: 8-5, 8-6
9	Reporting and Interpreting Liabilities <i>[Read Chapter 9]</i>	Questions: 1, 9, 12, 14 MC Questions: 2, 3, 5 Mini-Exercises: 9-4 Exercises: 9-1, 9-13, 9-16 Problems: 9-1, 9-10
10	Reporting and Interpreting Bond Securities <i>[Read Chapter 10]</i>	Questions: 1, 7, 8 MC Questions: 3, 7 Exercises: 10-3, 10-8, 10-11, 10-13, 10-15 Problems: 10-6, 10-9
11	Reporting and Interpreting Stockholder's Equity <i>[Read Chapter 11]</i>	Questions: 3, 4, 9, 11, 12 MC Questions: 2, 3, 4, 6 Mini-Exercises: 11-6 Exercises: 11-3, 11-7, 11-15, 11-18, 11-20, 11-24

		Problems: 11-2
12	Statement of Cash Flows <i>[Read Chapter 12 and Ch. Supplement B]</i>	Questions: 6, 10, 11, 12 MC Questions: 5, 6, 7 Exercises: 12-1, 12-5, 12-7, 12-10, 12-16 Problems: 12-1, 12-2

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

The Business Communication Center in JSOM 12.106 offers free in-person and online coaching to JSOM students for improving written and verbal communication skills. Students can schedule up to three 40-minute appointments per week for class assignments, resumes, cover letters, and English as a Second Language services. Visit bcc.utdallas.edu to make an appointment or to refer to additional resources for improving business communication skills.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the catalog sections regarding the [credit/no credit](#) or [pass/fail](#) grading option and withdrawal from class.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.