COURSE DESCRIPTION

Designed for both accounting and finance majors, this course combines a study of the theory, rationale, and objectives of corporate financial reporting with an examination of current reporting principles. The aim is to develop a realistic understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of corporate financial reporting, particularly from the viewpoint of the key stakeholders of such financial information. Emphasis is placed on the analysis and understanding of publicly available financial information, rather than on the mechanics of construction of financial statements. Nevertheless, there is still a great deal of mechanics (e.g. creation of journal entries to implement transactions) and problem solving in this course.

Lecture material will closely follow the textbook. However, several controversial and theoretical issues may be included in classroom discussions. The student will be responsible for these additional areas as well as the textbook material assigned.

COURSE MATERIALS


*WileyPlus Account*: This account must be included with a new textbook purchase. If not, you must order the access code on-line at [www.wiley.com/college/wileyplus](http://www.wiley.com/college/wileyplus).

- Check Blackboard ([blackboard.rutgers.edu](http://blackboard.rutgers.edu)) and your official Rutgers email account regularly.

**HOMEWORK and WileyPLUS**

All homework is assigned via WileyPLUS. Before your first assignment, you will need to register for WileyPLUS:

Go to  [http://edugen.wileyplus.com/edugen/class/cls405081/](http://edugen.wileyplus.com/edugen/class/cls405081/)

1. This is a link specific to this course and section.
2. Verify the course information in the top left of the web page.
3. If you already have a WileyPLUS account, log in using the dialog box on the left side of the page.
4. If you do not have a WileyPLUS account,
   a. Create one using the dialog box on the right side of the page.
   b. Accept the terms of service.
   c. Use the registration code provided with your textbook or bought separately to gain access to WileyPLUS.
Homework will be assigned for each chapter. The grading option that I will be choosing in WileyPLUS allows up to three chances to attempt answers before the system marks the answer to a question as being incorrect. The first homework assignment will be graded for completion, not correctness.

WileyPLUS will allow students to work on an assignment, save it, and then work on it later. WileyPLUS will not grade an assignment until a choice is clicked that indicates the work should be submitted for grading. While a grade for submitted homework appears instantly, students will not see all of the correct answers for a particular assignment until just after an assignment is due. Late submissions are not allowed, though you will be able to view your answers and the correct answers throughout the semester.

Each student will have the same questions, but different numbers where possible. I will select the option within WileyPLUS that allows you to print a blank copy of the assigned homework.

Technical questions pertaining to the online software should be directed to WileyPLUS technical support at www.wileyplus.com/support via live chat.

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**LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The six agreed upon learning goals for the Rutgers Business School – Newark and New Brunswick are:

1. Communication Skills – Students graduating with a BS degree will be able to effectively communicate business concepts orally and in writing.
2. Quantitative Skills - Students graduating with a BS degree will be able to understand, analyze and use quantitative data to make business decisions and report to stakeholders.
3. Critical Thinking Skills - Students graduating with a BS degree will be able to critically evaluate, analyze and interpret information to solve problems and make business decisions.
4. Information Technology Skills - Students graduating with a BS degree will be able to demonstrate proficiency in the use of information technology.
5. Ethics - Students graduating with a BS degree will be able to understand and evaluate ethical issues and situations to make business decisions.
6. Multicultural and Diversity - Students graduating with a BS degree will develop an awareness and understanding of the cultural issues that impact business operations in a global society.

This course is designed to help students develop skills and knowledge in the following area(s):

1. Communication Skills – Students graduating with a BS degree will be able to effectively communicate business concepts orally and in writing.
2. Quantitative Skills - Students graduating with a BS degree will be able to understand, analyze and use quantitative data to make business decisions and report to stakeholders.
3. Critical Thinking Skills - Students graduating with a BS degree will be able to critically evaluate, analyze and interpret information to solve problems and make business decisions.

- Students who complete this course will demonstrate the following:

  1. The ability to effectively draft reports to stakeholders with recommendations regarding proposed and completed financial transactions and financial reporting.
  2. Determine the financial impact on net income and retained earnings of proposed transactions.
3. The ability to utilize the conceptual framework to support financial accounting standards as set forth in the Accounting Standards Codification (ASC).

- Students develop these skills and knowledge through the following course activities and assignments:

1. Communications skills – three topical papers utilizing supporting a thesis statement responding to questions posed related to an assigned article from a scholarly journal
2. Quantitative skill – WileyPlus homework assignments will emphasize analytics and calculation in support of financial transactions and financial statements
3. Critical thinking skills – demonstrated using the exam essay format (true/false statements with supporting explanations)

PREREQUISITES

33:010:325 – Intermediate Accounting I

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I do NOT tolerate cheating. Students are responsible for understanding the RU Academic Integrity Policy (http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_2013.pdf). I will strongly enforce this Policy and pursue all violations. On all examinations and assignments, students must sign the RU Honor Pledge, which states, “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination or assignment.” Don’t let cheating destroy your hard-earned opportunity to learn. See business.rutgers.edu/ai for more details

EXPECTATIONS AND PREPARATION POLICY

We (student and professor) are expected to read all assigned Readings and attend all sessions. In the event of an emergency, an announcement will be posted to Blackboard as far in advance as possible. If you are to be absent, report your absence in advance at https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/. If your absence is due to any reason including religious observance, a Rutgers-approved activity, illness, or family emergency, you are expected to make-up any missed assignments.

- For weather emergencies, consult the campus home page. If the campus is open, class will be held.

- Expect me to prepare properly for each class session. I expect the same of you. Complete all background reading and assignments. You cannot learn if you are not prepared. The minimum expectation is that for each 80-minute class session, you have prepared by studying for at least twice as many hours.

- Stay focused and involved. You cannot learn if you are not paying attention.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and stay for the entire class section. When necessary due to an important appointment, a student may leave the class early but should minimize disruption. The same holds true for a student who arrives late. DO NOT disrupt your neighbor by asking “where is he?” which will cause your neighbor to be placed at a disadvantage since they will lose their connection to the
An attendance sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each class – you must sign the attendance sheet to receive credit for attendance.

EXAM DATES AND POLICIES

There are three quizzes and a final exam in this course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Number</th>
<th>Exam Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tuesday, September 30, 2014</td>
<td>BRR5085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thursday, October 23, 2014</td>
<td>BRR5085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thursday, November 20, 2014</td>
<td>BRR5085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Monday December 15, 2014</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(Students will be surveyed for any potential conflicts in university-wide exam schedule)

During exams, the following rules apply:
- If you have a disability that influences testing procedures, provide me an official letter from the Office of Disability Services at the start of the semester.
- No cell phones or other electronics are allowed in the testing room.
- You must show a valid Rutgers photo ID to enter the room and to turn in the exam.
- Alternate seating should be adhered to whenever possible; do not sit next to another student when you enter the exam room.
- Use the bathroom prior to the exam start; bathroom breaks, if essential, will be escorted.
- Your exam will not be accepted unless you sign the Honor Pledge on exam booklet cover.

EXAM GUIDELINES

(a) CONTENT OF EXAMS: All exams will consist of six essay questions (worth 8 points each) and two problems (total of 52 points) for a total of 100 points. A journal article will be assigned for analysis one week prior to each of the three exams.

The Final Exam will consist of problems only – no essays. **However, if you miss an in-class exam, six essay questions, related to the chapters covered on the missed exam, will be added to the Final Exam. There will not be any additional time added to the three-hour Final Exam time allotment.**

You are not permitted to use any calculators capable of storing functions and / or text. If you take an exam with this type of calculator, you will be given an F for that exam.

(b) MAKE-UP EXAMS: All exams must be taken in order to receive a grade in this course. **Make-up exams are not permitted. If an in-class exam is not taken, the weight assigned to the comprehensive final examination will be adjusted accordingly.** For example, if a student only sits for two in-class exams, the weight for the final exam is increased to 35%. **In addition, with respect to the Final Exam,**
the score for the missed exam essay questions will be added to the score for the 10 Final Exam problems for a composite score.

For example, a student misses one in-class exam. On the Final Exam, the achieves 70 out of 100 points on the 10 problems and 36 of 48 points on the essays. Thus the student has 106/148 or a score of 72 for the Final Exam.

There is no make-up Final Examination. If a student does not take the final examination, a zero grade will be assigned for the course.

GRADING POLICY

Course grades are determined as follows:

THREE IN-CLASS EXAMS (10% each) 30%
FINAL EXAM (COMPREHENSIVE) 25%
HOMEWORK AND CLASS PARTICIPATION 20%
TOPICAL PAPERS 25%
TOTAL 100%

➢ There will be a ½ grade reduction for all unexcused absences in excess of four.
➢ Class participation may be considered in assessing mastery of the course material.
➢ “Pop” quizzes may be administered at any time. Students should come to class having read the assigned material for the session.
➢ Extra credit projects will NOT be considered so put 100% effort into the assigned work.

Guidelines for topical papers:
Specifics for each paper will be posted to Blackboard one week prior to the corresponding quiz and/or submission deadline. The initial objective is to capture the essence of the assigned article. The secondary objective of the assignment is to develop a thesis statement with the paper serving to support the statement you present. You may combine both objectives; they do not need to be addressed separately.

♦ Target Length: 2-3 typed pages (plus a separate page for Notes and/or Works Cited) using an 11 Point font. Papers which are too brief will be evaluated accordingly. Please use 1 inch margins only and 1.5 line spacing for your paper.

You must reference any ideas taken from the article. Footnotes and a bibliography in standard form are required.

♦ LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
♦ The assignment must be typed to receive credit.
Grading: A total of 10 points is the maximum grade for each paper. Your actual score for this paper will be adjusted to the maximum total per the syllabus for the topical papers (25.0 in total).

Your grade on each paper is based on four criteria:

♦ Research Content (2): You must use additional sources (target 4+) to support your conclusions
♦ Critical Thinking (3): the ability to think beyond the obvious answer
♦ **Writing/Presentation (2):** Use the 2009 MLA Guide research paper format – guidelines may be found at [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/) (Academic Writing – see Strong Thesis Statements)

♦ **Writing Style (3):** grammatical context, spelling, etc.

**Summary**

1. Typed summaries of journal articles. The grades on these topical papers will be based on the depth of the analysis, the use of external sources to support your thesis, attribution/documentation of sources, and overall writing (punctuation/grammar/proofreading).
2. Maximum 1 ½ double-spaced typed pages. You must use standard margins and a 11 point font.
3. You can ask other students to proof read your work at the Learning Resource Center or use the Writing Center. However automated tools will be used to ascertain whether the paper exhibits any academic integrity issues.

**Representative Example of a Topical Paper**
The following is an excerpt from a topical paper assignment:

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

A. Read the article “Upward Revaluation of Nonfinancial Assets” in the November 2012 edition of The CPA Journal.

B. Address completely the following two requirements:

1. How does the IFRS standard for accounting for PPE compare with the treatment of available-for-sale investments under GAAP?
2. Do you agree with the authors’ recommendation that the IFRS standard apply to PPE with lives in excess of 10 years?

*Your analysis should be saved in a WORD file using the naming convention: “last name-first name-326-TP#-section number”. For example my file would be named “Stubbs-Dan-305-TP3-63”. DO NOT use special characters as they will render your file unreadable.*

**SUPPORT SERVICES**


If you are a military *veteran* or are on active military duty, you can obtain support through the Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services. [http://veterans.rutgers.edu/](http://veterans.rutgers.edu/)

If you are in need of mental health services, please use our readily available services. Rutgers Counseling and Psychological Services – New Brunswick: [http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)

If you are in need of physical health services, please use our readily available services.
Rutgers Health Services – New Brunswick: [http://health.rutgers.edu/](http://health.rutgers.edu/)

If you are in need of legal services, please use our readily available services: [http://rusls.rutgers.edu/](http://rusls.rutgers.edu/)

If you are in need of additional academic assistance, please use our readily available services. Rutgers University-New Brunswick Learning Center: [https://rlc.rutgers.edu/](https://rlc.rutgers.edu/)

### COURSE SCHEDULE

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<th>CHAPTER</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>09/02</td>
<td>Course Overview and Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td>All assignments are posted on the WileyPlus Website. You will not be able to submit problems after the due date on the website.</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/04</td>
<td>Current Liabilities and Contingencies</td>
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<td>14-A</td>
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<td>Topical Paper # 1 due 10/07</td>
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<td>10/09, 10/14</td>
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<td>11/11, 11/13, 11/18</td>
<td>Accounting for Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thanksgiving Recess</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>12/02, 12/04</td>
<td>Statement of Cash Flows (Revisited)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td><em>See WileyPlus Website</em> (HW due 12/08)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/09</td>
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<td>Thurs 12/11 and Friday 12/12</td>
<td>Reading Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 12/15</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM (Additional details in class)</td>
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