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Course #: ACCT 3400, Section 01	Office: Systems), MOS Access, Network+, OCP-DBA (in progress); Tenured Full Professor, Fall 2007
Course title: Tax Accounting I	Telephone: Udvar-Hazy Business Building, Room 304
Credit hours: 3 undergraduate semester hours	Fees: 435-652-7747
Prerequisites: ACCT 3010 (Intermediate Accounting I)	Fees: None.
Term: Fall 2009	Email: barrett@dixie.edu
Meeting time: TR, 0900 to 0950	Home page: Blackboard
Location: Udvar-Hazy Building, Room 200 & 204	Office hours: MTWRF 1200 - 1300 and by appointment
Instructor: Kevin S. Barrett, PhD (Accounting), CPA, CMA, CIA; Graduate Certificate (Information	

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course covers current federal and state income tax laws and the preparation of individual income tax returns. Emphasis is on analysis and interpretation of tax rules and their practical application. Students will also develop the ability to research tax laws and rules.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Within the context of "Issue-Resolution-Oriented Learning in a Multimedia Setting: A Skills-Based Approach to (Tax) Education," class members will discover the underlying components of the tax formula and their interrelated nature by solving a series of cases based on the lifecycle of an individual taxpayer. This learning experience will develop participants' tax expertise, oral and written communication, critical-thinking, technological, interpersonal, and team building skills, and an awareness of ethical and tax planning considerations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES:

Enhancing the Likelihood of Successfully Completing this Course.

To enhance the likelihood of understanding information systems concepts and applications, (1) complete reading assignments prior to class, (2) come to each class on time and stay for the entire class, (3) participate in all classroom learning activities, and (4) complete all learning activities on time.

Developing Teaming, Critical Thinking Skills, and Oral Communication Skills.

- You will have the opportunity to work in teams of two to solve and present the issues appearing in lifecycle cases and present your findings to the class. The solutions will be from three perspectives: 1) legal; 2) tax formula, and 3) tax return.
- Your participation is very important to the success of this class. You will have several random and non-random opportunities to participate in class-related learning activities. Those participation opportunities will enhance your critical thinking and oral communication skills. I will evaluate your participation contributions on a daily basis and use the resulting rankings to compute your participation points. Your participation ranking depends upon the complexity of the issues you solve, the accuracy of your issue resolutions, and the extent to which other contributions enhance our classroom learning dynamics.
- Completing team-oriented learning activities will enhance your oral communication, teaming, and critical-thinking skills. To promote a wide range of team interaction, each new team-oriented learning activity must be completed with a new teammate with whom you have never completed a learning activity.
- Participating in the VITA (volunteer income tax assistance) program under the direction of the VITA site coordinator provides a practical, client-based opportunity to strengthen teaming, critical thinking, and oral communication skills.

Developing Tax-Research Skills.

You will have to the opportunity to complete three research memos, thus reinforcing the tax-research skills developed as you solve your case-related issues.

Developing Tax-Expertise Skills.

- Every activity that you complete this semester will help you develop tax expertise and provide the means whereby you can continue to independently develop tax expertise in a professional setting.

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- Your expertise skills will be evaluated through class cases, tax return projects, tax research memos, and a comprehensive exam that will be solved in the lab using tax-practitioner electronic tools.
- Participating in the VITA (volunteer income tax assistance) program under the direction of the VITA site coordinator will provides a practical, client-based opportunity to strengthen tax-expertise skills as related to the tax issues of the financially challenged.

Developing Tax-Oriented Technological Skills.

- You will have an opportunity to utilize and become proficient in some of the tax profession's leading Internet and tax preparation software.
- You will need to complete all projects in an electronic format and submit them to barrett@dixie.edu as e-mail attachments.
- Participating in the VITA (volunteer income tax assistance) program under the direction of the VITA site coordinator provides a practical, client-based opportunity to strengthen tax-technology skills through the use of the online tax return preparation tool TaxWise Online.

Professionalism.

- **Absenteeism.** I conceptualize our student-instructor relationship in very much the same way that I conceptualize an employer-employee relationship. I have personally never missed a day of work and had I had the need to do so, I would most certainly have informed my employer of any planned or emergency absence. Missing my class without informing me of your absence in advance is definitely unprofessional. Thus, any unexcused absence will result in a one-percentage-point reduction of your final grade.
- **Timeliness.** Grading late work is very disorienting to me because I am typically unable to recapture the mindset that I used when I graded timely submissions. **For that reason, I will not accept late work unless I have agreed to do so in advance of the due date, typically in connection with a compelling life emergency.**
- **Orderliness.** All assignments will be graded, at least in part, on accuracy, completeness, logic, difficulty, clarity, neatness, and organization.
- **Electronic Devices.** In the event that one of your electronic devices detracts from our learning environment, you have the choice of five-percent reduction of your final course percentage or providing your instructor and class peers with sufficient pastries and libations (for classes ending prior to 11:00 AM) or pizza and ice-cold Coca-Cola (for classes ending after 11:00 AM) to meet the caloric intake of their gluttonous dreams.

Team-Oriented Learning Activities.

A solution submitted by a given team for a team-oriented learning activity must be the sole product of that team. That is, cross-team pollination is strictly prohibited. Violations of this "no-pollination" constraint will result in an "F" for the course for all offending parties.

Exams.

Exams are normally an open-book, take-home, and small-team oriented (i.e., no more than two individuals) effort. Cross-team pollination is strictly prohibited. Violations of this "no-pollination" constraint will result in an "F" for the course for all offending parties.

Disability Statement.

If you are a student with a medical, psychological or a learning difference and are requesting reasonable academic accommodations due to this disability, you must provide an official request of accommodation to your professor(s) from the Disability Resource Center (located in the Student Services Center, Room #201 of the Edith Whitehead Building) within the first two weeks of the beginning of classes. Students are to contact the Center on the main campus to follow through with and receive assistance in the documentation process to determine the appropriate accommodations related to their disability. You may call (435) 652-7516 for an appointment and further information regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 per Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Academic Integrity.

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. You are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the student handbook (published by Student Services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information and procedures about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.

Changes to Syllabus.

Information contained in this syllabus, other than grading and course requirements and policies may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. You are responsible for changes to the syllabus or learning activities announced in class during your absence.

Additional Tax Mastery Activities.

To enhance your tax application skills, you must participate in the Dixie State VITA program (meet with financial challenged individuals, create an online tax return for those individuals, submit those returns via the internet, and receive an overall tax prowess grade from the VITA coordinator). This portion of the course is a significant component in the Tax-Return portion of your assessment activities.

REQUIRED LEARNING RESOURCES:

University Provided:

- **CCH Internet Tax Research Network**
- **TaxWise Online Tax Preparation Software**

COURSE GRADING:

- This grading scale will map your performance on assessment event (**AE**) activities to a letter grade:

92.5-100%	89.5-92.4%	86.5-89.4%	82.5-86.4%	79.5-82.4%	76.5-79.4%	72.5-76.4%	69.5-72.4%	66.5-69.4%	62.5-66.4%	59.5-62.4%	0-59.4%
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

This scale is approximate because it imperfectly reflects my analysis of cumulative assessment performances that end up close to the demarcation line between grade increments. In such cases, I review all assessment activities to see if they were completed and performed at a competent level. I typically give qualifying individuals with competent performances the benefit of the doubt, thus awarding them the higher grade.

- These are the assessment activities, your completion of which accumulates points that are transformed into percentages that are summed and then mapped into grades using the previously noted grading scale:

	Tax Law Activity (TLA)	Research Memos (RM)	Participation-Cases (P)	Tax Returns-Cases (TRC)	Exams (E, Q)	Total
%	5%	7.5%	30%	20%	37.5%	100%

- For policies regarding incomplete or withdrawal, please refer to the current university catalog.

TENTATIVE CLASS MEETING AND EXAMINATION SCHEDULE (MWF, 0900 - 0950, UH 200 & 204):

Day	Date	Learning Activities, Assessments, Recesses	Day	Date	Learning Activities, Assessments, Recesses
M	08-24	• Preliminary Case 1	R	10-22	• VITA (4:30 - 7:30)
W	08-26	• Preliminary Case 1	F	10-23	• Case 3 • Ranking #2 due • TRC2 (TaxWise) due
F	08-28	• Preliminary Case 1 • VITA Reference Material	M	10-26	• Case 3
M	08-31	• TRPC1 (by hand) due • TaxWise Demo • Preliminary Case 2	T	10-27	• VITA (4:30 - 7:30)
W	09-02	• Preliminary Case 2	W	10-28	• Case 3 • VITA (4:30 - 7:30)
F	09-04	• Preliminary Case 2 • TRPC1 (TaxWise) due • VITA Basic Certification Due	R	10-29	• VITA (4:30 - 7:30)
M	09-07	• Labor Day Holiday (no school)	F	10-30	• Case 3
W	09-09	• Preliminary Case 2 • TLA Demo	M	11-02	• Case 3 • VITA (4:30 - 7:30)
F	09-11	• TRPC2 (TaxWise) due • PCE • TLA1 due (Q1-5) • VITA Intermediate Certification Due	T	11-03	• VITA (4:30 - 7:30)
M	09-14	• Case 1 • CCH Network Demo	W	11-04	• Case 3 • VITA (4:30 - 7:30)
W	09-16	• Case 1 • VITA Advanced Certification Due	R	11-05	• VITA (4:30 - 7:30)

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Day	Date	Learning Activities, Assessments, Recesses	Day	Date	Learning Activities, Assessments, Recesses
F	09-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 1 TLA2 due (Q6-10) 	F	11-06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 3 RM2 due
M	09-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 1 	M	11-09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 3
W	09-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 1 	T	11-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VITA (4:30 - 7:30)
F	09-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 1 TLA3 due (Q11-15) 	W	11-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 3 VITA (4:30 - 7:30)
M	09-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 2 TRC1 (TaxWise) due Ranking #1 due 	R	11-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VITA (4:30 - 7:30)
T	09-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VITA (4:30 - 7:30) begins 	F	11-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 3 VITA (4:30 - 7:30)
W	09-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 2 VITA (4:30 - 7:30) 	M	11-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 3
R	10-01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VITA (4:30 - 7:30) 	T	11-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VITA (4:30 - 7:30)
F	10-02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 2 TLA4 due (Q16-20) 	W	11-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 3 VITA (4:30 - 7:30)
M	10-05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 2 	R	11-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VITA (4:30 - 7:30)
T	10-06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VITA (4:30 - 7:30) 	F	11-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 3
W	10-07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 2 VITA (4:30 - 7:30) 	M	11-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 3
R	10-08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VITA (4:30 - 7:30) 	W	11-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving Break (no school)
F	10-09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 2 TLA5 due (Q21-24) 	R	11-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving Break (no school)
M	10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 2 	F	11-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving Break (no school)
T	10-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VITA (4:30 - 7:30) 	M	11-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 3
W	10-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 2 Ranking #2 due RM1 due VITA (4:30 - 7:30) 	W	12-02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 3
R	10-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall Semester Break (no school) 	F	12-04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 3 RM3 due
F	10-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall Semester Break (no school) 	M	12-07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 3
M	10-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 2 Last Day to Drop this Class VITA (4:30 - 7:30) 	W	12-09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 3
T	10-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VITA (4:30 - 7:30) 	F	12-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 3 Ranking #3 due TRC3 (TaxWise) due Last Day of Class
W	10-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case 2 VITA (4:30 - 7:30) 	M	12-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam (1000 - 1200)