

ACCT 212
Financial Measurement and Disclosure
Fall Semester 2020

Instructor

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Special arrangements for fall 2020

The course design for ACCT 212 attempts to respond to the unprecedented circumstances brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. First, the course will be synchronous and online.¹ Second, lectures will be based on a series of PowerPoint slides that are keyed to the assigned textbook material. Third, the slides will be posted on Canvas in PDF format, thereby allowing students to review the lecture material in advance and at their convenience.

See the **Course Schedule** at the end of this syllabus for class and quiz dates. Note there are no classes on quiz dates. Instead, students will have 90 minutes to download the quiz from the course website on Canvas, complete the solution templates on the quiz, and then upload a completed quiz to Canvas. The last 2 pages of this syllabus includes instructions for scanning on iOS and Android devices.²

If a student has questions about the course or lecture material, please contact me at my e-mail address (see above). Assuming there is demand, once the course gets underway we may set up a time for remote office hrs.

Course prerequisites

ACCT 212 has two prerequisites: first, a student has to have completed successfully ACCT 101 (or some equivalent introductory financial accounting course); and second, a student has to be reasonably facile in the use of a calculator for quizzes. Tutorials for the latter are likely available online. However, no class time has been set aside for such.

Note that ACCT 212 is required for the accounting concentration.

Course textbook (required)

The textbook (TB) for this course is *Intermediate Accounting, 2e*, by Michelle Hanlon, Leslie Hodder, Karen Nelson, Darren Roulstone, and Amie Dragoo, Cambridge Business Publishers (ISBN: Volume 1: 978-1-61853-313-5; Volume 2: 978-1-61853-335-7; Copyright 2020). Cambridge Business Publishers also have available for purchase an electronic text (eBook): use the link <https://cambridgepub.com/book/intermediate-2e?purchase>.

It will be very difficult to succeed in this course without access to the TB, and so students should secure a copy before the 1st class.

¹ In addition, one lecture (of the two sections of ACCT 212 we intend to offer) will be recorded and posted on Canvas.

² It would be prudent to practice scanning *before* the 1st quiz on September 24.

Course website

The website for ACCT 212 can be found on Canvas: <https://canvas.upenn.edu/courses>. All the course material for class **XX** will be placed in a folder titled “Course material: Class #**XX**” in the “Files” section of the website. Course material on Canvas includes:

- Lecture slides for each class in PDF format (in the “Course material: Class #**XX**” folder).
- Solutions to the all the TB exercises and problems (in its own separate folder).
- Suggested solutions and summary performance statistics for quizzes after grading has been completed (in its own separate folder).

Let’s talk about this course

What does the humble honeybee, the North Atlantic right whale, and students who concentrate in accounting at Wharton all have in common? Each is its own type of ‘endangered species’ whose numbers have collapsed in recent years. While there are myriads of reasons for the decline, the implications can be profound. For example, in most undergraduate business programs the 2-semester intermediate financial accounting sequence is the backbone of the curriculum – at least for students with interests in finance and accounting. In intermediate financial accounting students achieve a comprehensive understanding of the guidelines set forth by generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) to measure a firm’s performance, and then disclose the results to shareholders, creditors, etc. In other words, the intermediate financial accounting sequence serves as an important transition from basic accounting (e.g., ACCT 101) into reading and analyzing real-world financial data. As such, it is an invaluable ‘skills’ course that should assist a student admirably in a variety of work endeavors related to finance, accounting, and financial institutions.

However, to make the accounting major more accessible, we re-structured our 2-semester sequence (‘old’ ACCT 201 & 202) into a 1-semester course (current ACCT 212). To accommodate this change, this year we are introducing a new textbook (see above: *Intermediate Accounting, 2e*, Cambridge Business Publishers) and will attempt to teach the course from a more general finance perspective (and less from a traditional accounting perspective). For example, one dilemma in the use of intermediate financial accounting textbooks is that they are written for a 2-semester course sequence (assets in the fall; liabilities and shareholders’ equity in the spring) and chiefly for an undergraduate audience interested in working in public accounting. However, our textbook breaks down each chapter into a series of “learning objectives” (LOs). This will allow us to focus on the LOs at the *beginning* of each chapter – arguably, the LOs that are the most relevant to a general finance audience – and avoid the LOs toward the *end* of each chapter – which are more arcane (i.e., tedious-and-boring) and thus less suited to a general audience. In the **Topic Coverage** at the end of this syllabus, the LOs for each chapter have been designated as covered (√) or not covered (∅). By avoiding the LOs that seem unduly tedious, our goal is to march through most of the textbook in one semester and focus on the course material that is most relevant.

Note that exercises and problems at the end of each chapter in the textbook are also keyed to specific LOs. This means that a student can focus exclusively on those exercises/problems germane to the course coverage (as laid out in the **Topic Coverage**).

Let's talk about grading

The plan is to set a GPA (grade point average) of between **3.4** and **3.5**: this implies that the *median* grade for the course should be either an **A-** or **B+** depending on the distribution of grades. Course coverage in quizzes is **NOT** cumulative: reference **Topic Coverage** below for the specific chapters covered in each quiz. The following table provides a summary of relevant quiz information.

Quiz	Date	Allotted time ³	Points
Quiz #1	September 24	90 minutes	50 pts.
Quiz #2	October 15	90 minutes	50 pts.
Quiz #3	November 12	90 minutes	50 pts.
Quiz #4	December 8 ⁴	90 minutes	50 pts.
Total Points			<u>200 pts.</u>

There are no “make-up” quizzes! Potential conflicts with quiz dates should be brought to our attention at the beginning of the semester, where we will deal with them on a case-by-case basis. The only exception to this is a documented medical emergency, in which a proportional adjustment will be made to performances on other quizzes to back into the 200-pt. total.

Re-grade requests are strongly discouraged! Inquiries about quiz grading should be addressed to the course TA (Shawn Kim) at sinkim@wharton.upenn.edu.

Quiz preparation

In preparing for the quizzes the following hierarchy is recommended.

1. Carefully review the lecture slides that accompany each class.
2. Read the course material in the TB related to the **Topic Coverage**.
3. Do as many exercises and problems in the TB related to the **Topic Coverage** as is practical.

Because we are introducing a new textbook and course design, there are no prior exams for reference. That said, quiz questions will align closely with the exercises and problems in the TB, and so this is where students should focus most of their attention.⁵

Course Schedule

The 2-page **Course Schedule** begins on the next page.

³ This is the total time to download the quiz from Canvas, complete the quiz, and then upload the quiz to Canvas.

⁴ This date is tentative.

⁵ Answers to exercises and problems in the TB are posted on Canvas in the folder titled “Solutions to TB exercises and problems”

Course Schedule

Date & Class	Topic Coverage	LOs covered (✓); not covered (⊘)		
September 1 Class #1	Chapter 2 Accounting Information System	LO 2-1 ✓ LO 2-2 ✓ LO 2-3 ✓ LO 2-4 ✓	LO 2-5 ✓ LO 2-6 ✓ LO 2-7 ⊘ LO 2-8 ⊘	LO 2-9 ⊘ LO 2-10 ⊘
September 3 Class #2	Chapter 3 Income Statement and Comprehensive Income Chapter 4 Balance Sheet and Financial Reporting	LO 3-1 ✓ LO 3-2 ✓ LO 3-3 ✓ LO 3-4 ✓	LO 3-5 ✓ LO 3-6 ⊘ LO 3-7 ⊘ LO 3-8 ⊘	LO 4-1 ✓ LO 4-2 ✓ LO 4-3 ✓ LO 4-4 ⊘ LO 4-5 ⊘
September 8 Class #3	Chapter 5 Statement of Cash Flows and Financial Analysis	LO 5-1 ✓ LO 5-2 ✓ LO 5-3 ✓	LO 5-4 ⊘ LO 5-5 ⊘ LO 5-6 ⊘	LO 5-7 ✓ LO 5-8 ✓
September 10 Class #4	Chapter 6 Time Value of Money	LO 6-1 ✓ LO 6-2 ⊘ LO 6-3 ✓	LO 6-4 ⊘ LO 6-5 ✓ LO 6-6 ✓	LO 6-7 ✓ LO 6-8 ⊘
September 15 & 17 Classes #5 & 6	Chapter 7 Revenue Recognition	LO 7-1 ✓ LO 7-2 ✓ LO 7-3 ✓ LO 7-4 ✓	LO 7-5 ✓ LO 7-6 ✓ LO 7-7 ⊘ LO 7-8 ⊘	LO 7-9 ⊘ LO 7-10 ✓ LO 7-11 ⊘
September 22 Class #7	Chapter 8 Cash and Receivables	LO 8-1 ✓ LO 8-2 ✓ LO 8-3 ✓	LO 8-4 ✓ LO 8-5 ⊘ LO 8-6 ⊘	LO 8-7 ✓ LO 8-8 ⊘ LO 8-9 ⊘
September 24 Class #8	Quiz #1	All course material to date		
September 29 Class #9	Chapter 9 Inventory: Measurement	LO 9-1 ✓ LO 9-2 ✓ LO 9-3 ✓	LO 9-4 ⊘ LO 9-5 ⊘ LO 9-6 ✓	LO 9-7 ✓ LO 9-8 ⊘ LO 9-9 ⊘
October 1 Class #10	Chapter 10 Inventory: Additional Issues	LO 10-1 ✓ LO 10-2 ✓ LO 10-3 ✓	LO 10-4 ⊘ LO 10-5 ⊘ LO 10-6 ✓	LO 10-7 ⊘ LO 10-8 ⊘ LO 10-9 ⊘
October 6 Class #11	Chapter 11 Property, Plant, and Equipment: Acquisition and Disposition	LO 11-1 ✓ LO 11-2 ✓ LO 11-3 ✓	LO 11-4 ✓ LO 11-5 ✓ LO 11-6 ✓	LO 11-7 ✓ LO 11-8 ✓ LO 11-9 ✓
October 8 Class #12	Chapter 12 Depreciation, Impairments, and Depletion	LO 12-1 ✓ LO 12-2 ✓ LO 12-3 ⊘ LO 12-4 ✓	LO 12-5 ✓ LO 12-6 ⊘ LO 12-7 ✓ LO 12-8 ⊘	LO 12-9 ⊘ LO 12-10 ✓ LO 12-11 ✓
October 13 Class #13	Chapter 13 Intangible Assets and Goodwill	LO 13-1 ✓ LO 13-2 ✓	LO 13-3 ✓ LO 13-4 ✓	LO 13-5 ✓ LO 13-6 ✓
October 15 Class #14	Quiz #2	All course material since Quiz #1		

Course Schedule (continued)

Date & Class	Topic Coverage	LOs covered (✓); not covered (⊘)		
October 20 & 22 Class #15 & 16	Chapter 14 Investments in Debt and Equity Securities	LO 14-1 ✓ LO 14-2 ✓ LO 14-3 ✓	LO 14-4 ✓ LO 14-5 ✓ LO 14-6 ⊘	LO 14-7 ✓ LO 14-8 ⊘ LO 14-9 ✓
October 27 Class #17	Chapter 15 Current Liabilities and Contingencies	LO 15-1 ✓ LO 15-2 ✓	LO 15-3 ⊘ LO 15-4 ✓	LO 15-5 ✓ LO 15-6 ⊘
October 29 Class #18	Chapter 16 Long-Term Liabilities	LO 16-1 ✓ LO 16-2 ✓ LO 16-3 ✓ LO 16-4 ✓	LO 16-5 ✓ LO 16-6 ⊘ LO 16-7 ✓ LO 16-8 ✓	LO 16-9 ⊘ LO 16-10 ✓ LO 16-11 ⊘ LO 16-12 ⊘
November 3 & 5 Class #19 & 20	Chapter 17 Accounting for Leases	LO 17-1 ✓ LO 17-2 ✓ LO 17-3 ✓	LO 17-4 ✓ LO 17-5 ✓ LO 17-6 ✓	LO 17-7 ⊘
November 10 Class #21	Chapter 18 Income Taxes	LO 18-1 ✓ LO 18-2 ✓ LO 18-3 ✓ LO 18-4 ✓	LO 18-5 ✓ LO 18-6 ✓ LO 18-7 ✓ LO 18-8 ✓	LO 18-9 ⊘ LO 18-10 ⊘
November 12 Class #22	Quiz #3	All course material since Quiz #2 <i>except for</i> Chapter 18 (Income Taxes)		
November 17 Class #23	Chapter 19 Pensions and Postretirement Benefits	LO 19-1 ✓ LO 19-2 ✓ LO 19-3 ✓ LO 19-4 ✓	LO 19-5 ✓ LO 19-6 ✓ LO 19-7 ⊘ LO 19-8 ⊘	LO 19-9 ⊘ LO 19-10 ⊘
November 19 & 24 Class #24 & 25	Chapter 20 Stockholders' Equity	LO 20-1 ✓ LO 20-2 ✓ LO 20-3 ✓	LO 20-4 ✓ LO 20-5 ✓ LO 20-6 ✓	LO 20-7 ✓ LO 20-8 ⊘
November 26 Thanksgiving Break	<i>No classes!</i>			
December 1 & 3 Class #26 & 27	Chapter 22 Statement of Cash Flows Revisited	LO 22-1 ✓ LO 22-2 ✓ LO 22-3 ✓	LO 22-4 ✓ LO 22-5 ✓ LO 22-6 ✓	LO 22-7 ✓ LO 22-8 ⊘
December 8 Class #28	Quiz #4	All course material since Quiz #3 <i>including</i> Chapter 18 (Income Taxes)		