

Master Syllabus
Bus230A - Principles of Accounting (4)
School of Business and Economics
Sonoma State University

I. Catalog Description:

A foundation course designed to provide a basic understanding of the theory and practice of accounting, with emphasis upon basic principles, concepts and controls in relation to external reporting (3 credit hours). **Prerequisites: Computer competency, CAN BUS2**

II. Course Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to provide tools to understand and analyze corporate financial reports; a foundation in basic preparation techniques for financial statements; and an appreciation of the usefulness and the limitations of financial statements. Students will:

1. Learn and apply the basic objectives, principles and procedures of accountancy in the preparation, analysis, and interpretation of general-purpose financial statements.
2. Learn fundamental concepts of accounting information and their impact on financial statements.
3. Solve problems related to income determination for service and merchandising entities.
4. Measure and report assets.
5. Measure and report liabilities.
6. Measure and report stockholders' equity.
7. Learn about International/Global, Ethical, and legal Issues in accounting

III. Course Materials:

Financial Accounting textbook, practice sets and case analysis. Sample texts include: Libby, Libby, Short Financial Accounting, Megs and Megs, Financial Accounting

IV. Teaching Methods:

Primary teaching methods are conceptual lectures and in-class review and discussion of problems.

V. Evaluation Tools:

About 70% examinations, 30% practice sets or the review of the annual report case analysis, homework and in-class quizzes.

VI. Course Content:

A. Course Topics

1. Financial Statements and Business Decisions
2. Accounting: an information system
3. The accounting process, The Adjustment Process, income determination, financial statement presentation including the statement of cash flows.
4. Asset measurement: cash, receivables, inventory, Property, Plant, and Equipment: Natural Resources: and Intangibles.
5. Liability measurement: short- and long-term.
6. Stockholders' equity
7. Reporting and Interpreting Investments in other Corporations
8. Analysis and interpretation of financial statements.

B. Perspectives for Business Decisions:

Business Decisions	Minimum Number of 50 50 Minute Periods Devoted to Topic	Required Graded Work Other Than Exams
International/Global		*
Ethical Issues	1	*
Political Issues		*
Social Issues	0.5	*
Legal/Regulatory Issues	2	*
Environmental Issues		*
Technology Issues	2	*
Demographic Diversity		*

* Required graded work other than exams will be at the discretion of the instructor

C. Interdisciplinary Skills:

Skills	Required Graded Work Other Than Exams?
Oral Communications	No
Written Communications	No*
Critical Thinking	Yes**
Working in Teams	No

* Accounting faculties use Homework problems and the exams to assess students' written communication skills. In many accounting classes students are required to work as a team to solve a particular problem or cases. In some accounting courses students are required to give a short presentation.

** Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are enhanced by the problems assigned in the course. Students complete problems that require them to organize and analyze data in a logical form for decision-making, separate relevant data from irrelevant data, and make decisions from the results of their analysis.