INTRODUCTION TO ACCOUNTING & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
MGMT 6190-01
Fall 2014

Syllabus

Instructor: Qiang Wu, Ph.D.
Office: Pittsburgh Building Room 1208
Office Hours: Thursday 12:00pm – 1:30pm; or by appointment
Lectures Hours: Thursday 6:00pm – 8:50pm
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course introduces accounting and financial management to first-semester MS students. The interpretation and preparation of basic financial statements such as the balance sheet and income statement are introduced along with relevant regulation and practice. In addition, the course introduces the student to basic financial concepts and techniques such as time value, risk, equilibrium asset pricing models, capital budgeting, cost of capital and capital structure and discusses their applications in practice.

PREREQUISITE
None

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The primary objectives of this course are to:

- introduce the student to basic accounting techniques and methodology to understand, interpret and prepare basic financial data and statements and
- provide the student with the theoretical background and analytical tools necessary to sound financial decision-making.

Other objectives include: 1) Preparing the student for more advanced graduate work in finance and investments and 2) Providing breadth of coverage particularly for those students not intending to take additional course work in finance.

TEXTBOOK

**CONNECT**
McGraw-Hill “Connect Accounting” and “Connect Finance” are web-based assignment and assessment platforms and we will be using Connect for homework in this course. You can purchase Connect student access code as part of the package with your text in the bookstore or you can buy the code during the process of registration to Connect. To register to Connect, you will need to use the following web address (URL):

This web address will enable you to register for this course using the student access code.

**NOTE:**
- Rather than buying textbooks in paper form, some students buy electronic access to the text via the internet (“Connect Plus”). This includes “Connect” and electronic access to the text book.

**CALCULATOR**
A calculator is required for the course. Students are not allowed to share calculators in the course. You should bring calculators to each class as you will need it for working examples and problems.

**COURSE WEB PAGE**
The course web page is managed through RPI’s blackboard system. Log-in using your RPI computer user name and password. The course website will contain the syllabus, announcements, class schedule, and lecture notes. You will also have access to your course grades through blackboard.

**GRADING**
In Class Quizzes (2x6) 12%
Individual Homework (3x8) 24%
Exam1 32%
Exam2 32%
Total 100%

Grades will be assigned using the breakdown of the total possible points as listed below.

A > 93%; A- 92.99%-88%; B+ 87.99%-83%; B 82.99%-78%; B- 77.99%-75%; C+ 74.99%-72%; C 71.99%-69%; C- 68.99%-66%; D+ 65.99%-63%; D 62.99%-60%; F <60%
There is no opportunity for individual extra credit work. Don’t even bother to ask!

In Class Quizzes
There will be approximately 7 in class quizzes during the semester. The primary purpose of these quizzes is to check your class participation and whether you are following the materials in a timely manner. Five highest quiz scores will count 10% for your final grade. All quizzes will be open book and will be taken in class. No make-up for quizzes. Make sure that you turn in your quizzes before you leave the classroom.

Individual Homework
There are about 10 assignments throughout semester. 8 out of 10 assignments will count 24% for your final grade. I will drop your 2 lowest homework scores when calculating your homework average.

Homework assignments are made for students’ benefit. There will be unlimited attempts for homework assignments and these assignments are to be taken on Connect Accounting and Connect Finance. All homework assignments close at Midnight on the due date. Please note the assignment due dates. Assignments will be automatically submitted “as is” on the due date. They are all individual-basis homework. No late assignments will be accepted. No e-mail submissions will be accepted. No make-up for homework.

Exams
There will be two exams. They are close-book close-note exams. The dates of these examinations are indicated on the attached class schedule. There will be no make-up exam. Absence from any exams at the scheduled time will result in a grade of zero, unless official documentation provided (e.g., of an illness). Any students who cannot attend an exam must contact me as soon as possible prior to the exam with relevant evidence.

Class Participation
In-class participation is required in this course. I encourage you to actively participate in each class. Please feel free to ask questions related to the lectures and participate in the discussion of course materials with me or other classmates. There is no right or wrong answer to particular topics. Our interest is in the arguments you make and in the plausibility of the reasons you offer to support them. You are not graded on whether you agree or disagree with me.

RE-GRADE POLICY
If you believe an error has been made in grading your homework or exams, you may request a re-grade by doing the following: Write a brief note to me explaining why you think there is an error and submit both the note and the entire assignment or exam to which it pertains. All re-grade requests must occur within seven (7) calendar days of the day graded material is returned to the class. I reserve the right to re-grade the entire contents of any submitted assignment or exam.
CLASSROOM POLICY
Students should bring pencil and calculator to every class meeting. Cellular phones and pagers are disruptive to the class and the class lecture. All pagers must be set on the vibration mode and all ringers on cellular phones must be turned off. If in the unusual event you are expecting an extremely important phone call and are unable to disengage the ringer, you may leave the room to answer the phone. Please be courteous to your classmates. E-mails, instant messaging, web surfing, and unrelated computer usages are not allowed during class time. It is distracting to both your classmates and the instructor.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Student-teacher relationships are built on trust. For example, students must trust that teachers have made appropriate decisions about the structure and content of the courses they teach, and teachers must trust that the assignments that students turn in are their own. Acts, which violate this trust, undermine the educational process. The Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities defines various forms of Academic Dishonesty and procedures for responding to them. You should make yourself familiar with these. In this class, all individual assignments that are turned in for a grade must represent the student’s own work. Submission of any assignment that is in violation of this policy will result in a penalty of “F”. I expect that the in-class examinations will be your individual work effort. Any noncompliance will result in your receiving an “F” in this course. Please familiarize yourself with the academic integrity section of the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

SPECIAL NEEDS
Special needs of students will be accommodated whenever it is feasible to do so. Students with disabilities or other special needs should advise the instructor at the beginning of the semester so that special arrangements can be made.
## Tentative Class Schedule
(Please note that this schedule is tentative and may be changed as semester goes by)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>class</th>
<th>date</th>
<th>topic</th>
<th>reading chapter</th>
<th>assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>28-Aug</td>
<td>syllabus, introduction to finance and accounting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4-Sep</td>
<td>introduction, analyzing and recording transactions</td>
<td>ACC CH1, CH2</td>
<td>HW1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11-Sep</td>
<td>adjusting accounts and preparing financial statements</td>
<td>ACC CH3</td>
<td>HW2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>reporting and analyzing inventories</td>
<td>ACC CH5</td>
<td>HW3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>25-Sep</td>
<td>reporting and analyzing long-term assets</td>
<td>ACC CH8</td>
<td>HW4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2-Oct</td>
<td>reporting and analyzing liability and equity</td>
<td>ACC CH10, CH11</td>
<td>HW5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>9-Oct</td>
<td>review for exam 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>23-Oct</td>
<td>overview of corporate finance and financial market</td>
<td>FIN CH1, CH2</td>
<td>HW6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>30-Oct</td>
<td>Measuring corporate performance, time value of money</td>
<td>FIN CH4, CH5</td>
<td>HW7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>6-Nov</td>
<td>value bonds and equity</td>
<td>FIN CH6, CH7</td>
<td>HW8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13-Nov</td>
<td>NPV and other investment criteria, risk and return</td>
<td>FIN CH8, CH11</td>
<td>HW9</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>20-Nov</td>
<td>Risk, return and WACC</td>
<td>FIN CH12</td>
<td>HW10</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>27-Nov</td>
<td>Thanksgiving, no class</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4-Dec</td>
<td>final exam</td>
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