

**ACCOUNTING 343  
INTERMEDIATE ACCOUNTING III  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
FALL, 2016**

**Instructor:** Ron Singleton  
**Office Hours** 12-12:45 MW  
and by appointment

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Additional communication and information will be posted to Canvas during the term. It is important to have access to your Canvas account as soon as possible.

**Course Material:**

**Required Text - *Intermediate Accounting***, 7th ed, Spiceland, Sepe & Nelson, 2013. (Note – the Air France/KLM Annual Report 2010/11 is part of the text package and is sometimes used for Case Analyses). The link to Connect is: <http://connect.mheducation.com/class/w-singleton-spring-16-1> (No points are assigned for Connect work; however, the information can be helpful for understanding the material)

**Suggested Additional Readings and Library Resources:**

*Effective Writing: Handbook for Accountants*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., 2012, May & May, Prentice Hall. Written assignments are graded according to the guidelines provided in May & May.

Various business & accounting journal articles (available in the library and online) and data bases for financial reporting will also be assigned during the course for discussion or to assist with projects. The Wall Street Journal provides timely articles on many of the topics that are discussed in class.

**Course Objectives:** The objectives of the course are to extend the study of Financial Accounting topics – specifically leases, taxes, pensions & postretirement benefits, share-based compensation & EPS, accounting changes and the Cash Flow Statement. In addition, accounting in the global environment (IFRS) will be explored. The goal is to provide students with a thorough understanding of the Conceptual Framework of financial accounting and the principles, assumptions and concepts that underlie US and International GAAP. The course is devoted to the development of a professional-level understanding of financial statements, income determination, asset measurement and the cash-flow effects for selected economic events and transactions. The course will provide a solid foundation not only for financial accounting but for other courses as well.



**Examinations:** The exam format will be a combination of objective (multiple choice), problems, and short answer/essay questions. The objective format prepares students for professional objective exams. The problem format allows students to practice the application aspects of the course. Short answer/essay questions enhance writing and communication skills, and are a part of the writing proficiency component of the course (points are deducted for misspelling, incorrect grammar, syntax, etc). Exam 1 is split into two parts (A & B) worth 50 points each. Only departmental calculators may be used – no other electronic devices, including head/ear phones, may be used while taking the exam.

**Make-up Examination:** Make-up exams are of two types: those due to illness or emergencies, and ‘retakes’. Illness or emergencies should be discussed with the instructor as soon as possible. A ‘retake’ exam is for a special case when a grade of less than 60% is earned on an exam. If the exam score is less than 60%, the student may elect to take a “retake” exam covering the same material as the original exam. The maximum score on a ‘retake’ exam is 70%. Instructor assigned material must be completed and submitted by **November 28, 2016** to qualify to take a ‘retake’ exam. There is a maximum of one makeup exam (whether illness or retakes).

All make-up exams and completion of prior quarter K grades will be given **at one time during Final Exam Week: exact date/time will need to be coordinated among students and instructor, but no later than Thursday, December 8, 2016, 4 pm).**

**Communication Focus Project ‘Accounting Scandals’:** The Accounting Scandal assignment is a team presentation on November 30, 2016 .Each team member must present a portion of the presentation. All presentations will be filmed by a WWU staff member and evaluated by an outside consultant. The evaluation rubric for the Communication Focus requirement is posted on Canvas.

Topic content is graded separately. Select a company that has had an ‘accounting scandal’ (suggest discussing with instructor for final approval). The presentation should review and summarize the accounting issues, difficulties and magnitude of the problems created by the company. How did the irregularities occur and why weren’t they prevented? What were the impacts on the financial statements and how did the market react to the news (specifically)? How was the company able to continue operations given the irregularities and what eventually happened to the company as a result of the problems? Who was affected by the scandal? Grades will be based on the extent of research and the organization/analysis of the issues. Power point slides or other supporting material should be submitted after the presentation on November 30, 2016.

**Proposed Lease Accounting Rules Research Project (LARP) (25 points):** The Lease Research project is an individual research project. Each student will submit a typed paper (double spaced) that:

- answers specific questions about the proposed lease rules;
- reviews the development of the proposed lease rules, particularly the joint efforts of the FASB and IASB;
- discusses the differences between the proposed lease rules and current lease accounting, and the effects of the propose changes on financial statements.

Points are assigned based on writing proficiency, extent of research (references should be cited!!), and logic/thoroughness of analysis. See the Proposed Lease Accounting Research Project Requirements page for specific questions and format.

Background information on the proposed lease accounting rules will be covered in chapter 15 and a guest speaker from the accounting profession will also provide information. The proposed lease rules will be covered on the first exam. The text and speaker coverage provide basic information for the paper.

An entire session (**Wednesday, October 19, 2016**) is provided for students to prepare the major research for the project,

The final paper on the Proposed Lease Research Project must be submitted no later than the end of class **October 24, 2016** to avoid penalty. Projects submitted late will be assessed a ‘price’ of 1 point per day or fraction thereof.

**Homework:** Homework will not be collected for grading; however, completion of assignments is **highly recommended** for test review purposes. Homework problems will be discussed in class as time permits. In the spirit of ‘active’ learning, student teams will be assigned to present some of the problems. Solutions for the assigned homework will be provided. In addition to the recommended homework, on-line exercises are provided in the text. Solutions for the on-line problems are provided with the material.

**ACCOUNTING 343**  
**FALL, 2016**  
**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

- 9/21 Welcome back, Introductions, Syllabus, Team Formation. Chapter 15 – Introduction to Leases.
- 9/26 Leases, continued;  
9/28 Leases, continued; **Guest speaker – New Lease Accounting Rules**
- 10/3 Chapter 15 – Leases – concluded. Exam Review.  
**10/5 EXAM #1A (Chapter 15)**
- 10/10 Chapter 16 - Accounting for Income Taxes;  
10/12 Chapter 16, - Accounting for Income Taxes, concluded
- 10/17 EXAM #1B (Chapter 16)**  
**10/19 Research Session – Proposed Lease Accounting Rules Research Paper**
- 10/24** Chapter 17 – Pension and Other Postretirement Benefits  
**Proposed Lease Accounting Research Paper Due**
- 10/26 Chapter 17 – Pension and Other Postretirement Benefits, concluded
- 10/31 Chapter 19 – Share-Based Compensation & EPS  
11/2 Chapter 19 – Share-Based Compensation & EPS, concluded
- 11/7 EXAM #2**  
11/9 Chapter 20 – Accounting Changes and Error Corrections,
- 11/14 Chapter 20 – Accounting Changes and Error Corrections, concluded  
11/16 Chapter 21 – The Statement of Cash Flows
- 11/21 Chapter 21 – The Statement of Cash Flows, continued  
**11/23 HOLIDAY**
- 11/28 Chapter 21 – The Statement of Cash Flows, concluded;  
Summary and Exam Review
- 11/30** Communication Focus Presentations: “Accounting Scandals”

**12/5-9 FINAL EXAM – REGULARLY SCHEDULED FINAL EXAM TIME**

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**Weather Note** – Classes may have to be canceled and rescheduled due to in-climate weather. **If an exam date has to be rescheduled due to weather, the exam will be on the following regularly scheduled class date.** Contact the WWU Emergency Line or the professor either by email or Canvas to determine if there is a rescheduled class.

**INTERMEDIATE ACCOUNTING III**  
**ACCOUNTING 343**  
**RECOMMENDED HOMEWORK PROBLEMS – TENTATIVE**

The exercises are from the “Exercise” portion at the end of each chapter, and “Problems” are from the problem section. The terms “Terminology and Background”, ‘Team’, “Professional Exam Exercises...” and “Other”, are for classification purposes or ways of describing the exercises. They are not specially designated sections of the chapter.

- CHP. 15      Exercise Terminology and Background  
                 Team Exercises 1,8,9,10,14,22,23,26,28  
                 Team Professional Exam Exercises CPA, CMA Exercises  
                 Other Exercises 3,4,5; Problem 2
- CHP. 16      Exercise Terminology and Background 6,7,23,27  
                 Team Exercises 1,2,3,4,5,11,17,19,22,29  
                 Team Professional Exam Exercises CPA, CMA Exercises  
                 Other Exercises 14,24; Problem 1
- CHP. 17      Exercise Terminology and Background 1,3,17  
                 Team Exercises 2,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,14  
                 Team Professional Exam Exercises CPA, CMA Exercises  
                 Other Exercises 15,16,20
- CHP. 19      Exercise Terminology and Background 24  
                 Team Exercises 2,4-9,11,12,14-19  
                 Team Professional Exam Exercises CPA, CMA Exercises  
                 Other Exercises 3
- CHP. 20      Exercise Terminology and Background 18,25  
                 Team Exercises 1,7,11,15-17,19,21  
                 Team Professional Exam Exercises CPA, CMA Exercises  
                 Other Exercises 13,14,20,23,24
- CHP. 21      Exercise Terminology and Background 1  
                 Team Exercises 2,4,6,10,11,12,15,16,17  
                 Team Professional Exam Exercises CPA, CMA Exercises  
                 Other Exercises 20,23,24,27,31,32
- APPEN A      Exercise Terminology and Background  
                 Team Exercises A1-A4  
                 Other Problems A-2

**ACCOUNTING 343**  
**OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS**  
**FALL, 2016**

The basic number of points for the class is 350 points (3 exams @ 100 each, 25 point Accounting Scandal team presentation and the 25 point Lease Research project). However, students may elect to complete a maximum of 2 optional assignments selected from the following list (total possible 50 points). The optional assignment points increase the basic number of points for the class; they are not ‘bonus’ point or extra credit. For example, if 2 projects are selected, the total possible points for the course increases from 350 to 400. Then the 90%, 80%, 70%, etc. grading scale is applied and a letter grade assigned based on the total points earned.

**Special Projects & Cases (25 points):** The purpose of this project is to apply chapter concepts to case situations (usually financial statement analysis) or to synthesize chapter material. There will be a series of projects and cases assigned for each chapter, some for in-class preparation and some outside of class. The point value will vary with a maximum of 5 points **per chapter**. There are no ‘make ups’ for missed projects/cases (there will be more than 5 projects/cases, so there will be plenty of opportunities to obtain the maximum 25 points). Submitted material must be legible to receive credit (illegible submissions will be returned for -0- credit). Cases prepared outside of class are due at **the beginning of the assigned class**. Late projects are **not** accepted. Answers to the cases should be presented in Memo format, with correct spelling, grammar, syntax, etc. (See May & May text for correct Memo format).

Note – The projects and cases are individual projects and each class member should submit their version of the assignment solution. Discussion with team members is encouraged; however, individual solutions need to be submitted.

**You Tube (or similar source) Project (25 points):** This purpose of this activity is to apply research skills in a virtual learning environment to aid understanding chapter material. For each chapter, find a video presentation that discusses and explains chapter material. Submit (hard copy) a brief summary of the material covered in the video; your opinion of whether it helped you in understanding the material, and what, if any, improvements could have been made. Also provide a link to the video. Point value is a maximum of 5 points per chapter. Chapter reviews are **due on the exam date** when the material is covered on the exam. Late assignments are not accepted; however, there are more than 5 chapters of material, so the maximum 25 points can still be earned even if an assignment is missed.

**ACCOUNTING 343**  
**OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS (continued)**  
**FALL, 2016**

**Research Paper (25 points):**

**‘Adjusted Earnings’:** Many firms are shifting away from, or supplementing, GAAP rules for financial reporting purposes. The essence of the arguments for the firms that use the alternative ‘adjusted earnings’ is that the figure more accurately represents the financial performance and operations of the firm. The research paper for this topic should review the current literature on the more common definitions of ‘adjusted earnings’, the US firms using the measure, whether it is an alternative to GAAP earnings or a supplement, the rationale for its use and the pros/cons of using an alternative measure of earnings. The paper should conclude with a position on whether ‘adjusted earnings’ should be used by firms and why. Grades will be based on the extent of research and the organization/analysis of the issues. An outline of the paper is due to the instructor for review and approval **November 14, 2016**. The due date for the final paper is the beginning of class **November 30, 2016**.

Note – students may select other topics for optional research papers, instead of adjusted earnings, with instructor approval.