

Department of Economics, University of California San Diego



Economics 4:- Financial Accounting Fall 2009

5:00-6:20 pm Monday & Wednesday – Solis 107

Michael Willoughby, Ph.D., CFA

Required Materials:

1. **Financial Accounting Reader & Tutorial** ("Reader"). Willoughby (2009).
2. **Liar's Poker**. Michael Lewis
3. Starbucks ("SBUX") Form 10Q (FY 2009 3rd Quarter). Online – course webpage.

Course Objective:

An introduction to financial accounting (assumes no prior knowledge of accounting).

Guidance

The course webpage is an ongoing guide to the course. Amongst other things, it contains links to Lecture Notes, *Your Scores*, Readings, and Documents to *print & bring-to-class*.

Four undergraduate Tutors are assigned to this course. Email addresses and office hours will be updated below:

1. **Matt Wilkinson Monday 1430-1630 hours Sequoyah 231**
2. **Armand Kok**
3. **Yu-ching Yang**
4. **Jing Chen**

Our Graduate Teaching Fellow will record scores and archive the exams and quizzes.

Course Requirements:

Grades are based on two midterms and a final exam. Dates are firm - no make-ups. A missed midterm (for pre-scheduled UCSD events/programs or documented emergencies, no self-diagnosed illnesses) will be rolled forward.

Assignments and Grade Weighting

Item	When	%	Description
Two Midterm Exams	4 th and 8 th weeks	25.0 % 30.0 %	60 minute multiple-choice and Problem-solving exams
Final exam	Thursday 12/10/09 7pm	45.0 %	A 110 minute multiple-choice, Problem-solving, and Essay exam.

Exam Kit

For the exams you may bring a “kit” consisting of a 1 inch 3-ring binder including whatever you choose. We will offer guidance but not specifications. All materials must be “punched & secured” into the binder. No old Econ 4 exams of any sort will be allowed (lest you forfeit your kit). Exchanging *Kits*, or any part of a *Kit*, during exams will be considered cheating.

Grading:

Final are based on weighted total scores on a 100-point scale and curved at the following reference points:

- The class average approximately establishes the lowest B-. At least 50 percent of all possible points will be needed to *Pass* the course, i.e. for the lowest C-.
- Less than 50 percent of the average of the “top-three scores” will be the threshold for an F.
- In-process scores a will be published frequently – it’s a sequential process: exam/quiz, grading, recording, checking, uploading. You should check your progress frequently. It is your responsibility to insure that your scores are accurate. No changes made after Friday of 10th week.
- The Grade distribution generally follows these parameters.

Grades	Distribution	Count (N=160)
A, A-	20-25 percent	32-40
B+, B, B-	25-30 percent	40-53
C+, C, C-	30-35 percent	53-61
D-F	5-10 percent	8-16

Course Calendar

Fall 2009 September 28 to December 2	Monday	Wednesday
Week 1 9/28-30	Reader Intro About the Course	Reader Chapter 1 & 3 Accounting jobs.
Week 2 10/5-7	Chapter 3 Financial Capital.	Chapter 2 Accounting foundations.
Week 3 10/12-14	Chapter 2-4 Accounting elements.	Chapter 4-5 Accounting cycle.
Week 4 10/19-21	Chapter 5	Midterm #1
Week 5 10/26-28	Exam Debrief	Chapter 6 Accrual Accounting.
Week 6 11/2-4	Chapter 7 The Statements.	Chapter 7-8 Reporting.
Week 7 11/9-11	Chapter 11 Analysis.	Holiday
Week 8 11/16-18	Midterm #2	Chapter 9 Accounting choices.
Week 9 11/23-25	Chapter 9 Accounting choices.	Chapter 9 Accounting choices.
Week 10 11/30-12/2	Chapter 10 Accounting talk.	Review