

University of California San Diego



Economics 4:- Financial Accounting Syllabus Spring 2007

Materials:

1. [Accounting for Dummies](#), John Tracy, CPA or any fundamental “Financial” Accounting text.
2. [Financial Accounting READER](#); Willoughby (UCSD Bookstore)
3. A *CLICKER*

Course Objective:

An introduction to the principles of financial accounting (assuming no prior knowledge of accounting) to help students understand how accrual accounting information is produced insofar as that will facilitate more thoughtful reading of the primary financial statements. [Overview](#)

Course Webpage and WebCT:

The course webpage is an ongoing guide to the course including a calendar, *your scores*, documents to *print & bring-to-class*. You can find the Econ4 webpage from the Department’s list of course webpages or from my [Homepage](#).

Graduate Fellows and Teaching Assistants:

Graduate Fellows and Teaching Assistants have been assigned to this course and each will be responsible for specific tasks which will be listed on the course webpage.

Grading:

Letter grades will be assigned at the end of the course based on weighted total scores. Grades will be curved at the following reference points:

- The class average establishes the lowest B-;
- 50 percent of all possible points will be need for a C-, which is the minimum requirement for a P on *Pass/No Pass*;
- Less than 50 percent of the “top-three scores” will be the threshold for an F.

Guidelines:

- **Bring** a *Scantron*® form -- 4¹/₄ x 11 any color 50 items per side for each quiz.
- **No make-ups** for a missed quiz.
- **No make-up** for missing the Midterm exam. However, if your absence is documented and excused, then your Final Exam score will substitute for the Midterm. If you absence is not excused then 85% of your final exam score will substitute for your midterm exam score.

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- A reference Kit will be allowed for the final exam. This is a 10inch 3-ring binder.
- There will be specific time limits for both exams. Late arrivals will sacrifice time.

In-process scores will be published frequently. It is your responsibility to insure that your scores are accurate (no changes will be made after the last day of classes). Final scores will be weighted across all assignments according to the Table below.

Item	Weight	Description
Attendance	12 percent	Based on the <u>percent of lectures attended</u> .
Quizzes	18 percent = 3 percent each.	<u>Six quizzes in-class</u> , Multiple choice on Tuesdays at: 3.1, 4.1, 6.1, 7.1, 9.1, 10.1 .
Midterm exam	25 percent	May 1 st .
Final exam	35 percent	Scheduled by the University. A reference Kit will be allowed at this exam.
Problem Sets	10 percent = 5 percent each.	May 10 th and May 29 th

Recommendations

1. You might find this course more interesting if you also read a complementary popular book about capital markets, mergers & acquisitions, etc. Check the webpage for a list of suggestions. And also consider purchasing an issue of Fortune or Business Week magazine.
2. In addition to the text that you choose, Dummies, or Idiot's, or Core Concepts, you might find a little tour of the accounting section of the Geisel Library stacks interesting and helpful in giving you a perspective on the subject.
3. Chapters **5, 6, and 7** of Dummies are the most critical chapters; next are chapters **12** and **13**.
4. Use (and compare) Glossaries. Accounting language consists of *professional terms-of-art* – common and uncommon words used to concisely express specific, contextual meaning. If you assume, without checking, that your understanding of a word “in accounting” agrees with “accounting’s definition” of that word, then you may be regretful.
5. Accounting (and finance) also use a collection of acronyms and abbreviations. It’s part of the vernacular and you will need to get comfortable with it. I have made a couple of lists for you.
6. Come to class, take limited notes, read the material and study my uploads. This class won’t require too much time outside of the classroom if you focus while in the classroom.
7. Get help early.

Class Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic and Important Dates</i>	<i>Reference</i>
Week 1	Course Intro/Admin	<u>Reader 1</u> <u>Dummies 1</u> and <i>skim 15</i> .
April 3-5	Financial Statements & reporting	<u>Dummies 11</u>
Week 2	Accounting fundamentals.	Reader 2. <u>Dummies</u> <i>skim 8 & 14</i>
April 10-12	Booking (the income statement)	<u>Dummies 5</u> and <u>6</u> and <u>7</u> .
Week 3	Booking (balance sheet)	Quiz #1 Reader 3-4.
April 17-19	Booking con't.	<u>Dummies 5</u> and <u>6</u> and <u>7</u>
Week 4	Accrual Accounting techniques	Quiz #2 Reader 5; Dummies 12 and 13
April 24-26	Accrual (cash flow statement)	
Week 5	Midterm	Exam
May 1-3	Accrual debrief	
Week 6	<i>RSH Financials</i>	Quiz #3 Download <u>Starter Kit</u> .
May 8-10	Financial Statement Analysis	Reader 6; <u>Dummies.14, 16, 17</u>
Week 7	Financial Statement Analysis	Quiz #4 <u>Dummies</u>
May 15-17	Time Value of Money (basic)	PS #1 Downloads incl. Tutorials
Week 8	TVM - annuities	<u>Dummies 4</u> pp 77-79, 84-84, 86-89.
May 22-24	TVM	
Week 9	Working Capital proformas	Quiz #5 <u>Dummies 9</u>
May 29-31	The Standards (SFAS)	PS #2 <u>Dummies</u>
Week 10	More Analysis	Quiz #6 <u>Reader 6; Dummies 14, 16, and 17</u>
June 5-7	Review	