

Course number:	ACCT 3200	Instructor:	Robin S. Boneck, JD, LLM, CPA
Course title:	Tax 1 (Individual Income Tax)	Office:	Room 323, Business Building
Credit hours:	3 undergraduate semester hours	Telephone:	(435) 586-7773
Prerequisites:	Advanced standing	Fax:	(435) 586-5493
Term:	Spring 2007	Email:	boneck@suu.edu
Meeting time:	MWF, 8:00-8:50 AM	Home page:	Access via http://www.suu.edu
Location:	Business Building, Room 102	Office hours:	MW: 1:30-3:30 F: 9:00-11:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Accounting theory and practices of federal income taxation based on a study of governmental publications - the laws, regulations, and digests of official income tax decisions. The course fee of \$11.00 is used to support the computer labs and mediated classrooms in the Business Building.

OBJECTIVES

<i>University core abilities</i>	<i>Outcomes/competencies</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
1. Communication	Demonstrate competent and professional oral and written communications.	Participation in class discussions and performance on written assignments demonstrate communication competency. Also, VITA service requires client interviews, review of client tax documents, and preparation of clients' federal and state tax return.
2. Quantitative literacy	Solve and discuss quantitative tax issues.	Performance on VITA certification, class exams, 1040 take home tests and other assignments demonstrates ability to solve tax issues.
3. Personal and Professional Responsibility	Evaluate, discuss and develop professional standards of professional responsibility.	Participation in class discussion of "Ethical Considerations" will provide opportunities to contemplate professional responsibility. VITA service instills the virtue of giving to the less-advantaged and provides an avenue to perform pro bono professional

		services.
4. Critical Thinking	Demonstrate ability to analyze and apply complex tax laws to various facts and circumstances.	Performance on exams and 1040 take home tests demonstrates ability to analyze and apply tax law. VITA certification requires each student to successfully analyze several independent tax situations. VITA service provides real life opportunities to apply tax law to individual client circumstances.
5. Diversity/appreciation for differences	Develop team skills by completing group assignments.	Performance on 1040 take home group assignments requires team work. VITA service provides the students with opportunity to interact with a variety of people (tax clients).
6. Lifelong learning	Develop competency in using the internet as a tool to assist students in keeping current on the ever changing tax laws.	Use of the internet (CCH Tax Research Tool and www.IRS.gov) is required to complete 1040 take home exams.
<i>School of Business objectives</i>	<i>Outcome/competency</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
1. Effectively use information systems and technology.	Demonstrate competency in using web-based technology in completion of tax research and income tax return preparation.	Completion of CCH Tax Research training, VITA certification and 1040 take home tests demonstrate successful use of web-based technology. Also, using VITA software to prepare income tax returns for the community demonstrates effective use of technology.
2. Have basic knowledge of the major functional areas of business.	Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of individual income tax laws which are widely used in business.	Performance on exams, 1040 take home tests, homework assignments and participation in the VITA program demonstrate appropriate level of knowledge of tax law.
3. Develop effective verbal presentation and communication skills.	Provide students with the opportunity to develop verbal communication skills in the context of matters of income taxation..	Participation in class discussions will provide opportunities for students to hone verbal communication skills.

		Group assignments require students to effectively communicate to each other in order to arrive at a consensus on disputed solutions. VITA provides a student with many opportunities to improve verbal communication skills as they interact with the general public to complete individual income tax returns.
4. Understand the ethical roles of business within society.	Develop an understanding of ethics as applied to preparation of income tax returns and client relationships.	Participation in class discussions of “Ethical Considerations” will increase the student’s understanding of the ethical role of a tax practitioner. VITA service provides the student with real life opportunities to make ethical judgments about the law as they prepare tax returns for clients who may not understand or disagree with tax positions taken on their returns.
5. Possess sufficient qualitative and quantitative tools to perform quality business analyses.	Students will be required to use analytical tools, both qualitative and quantitative analysis, to complete various tax problems. The exams will become progressively complex and will require greater and greater analytical skills.	Performance on VITA certification tests, in class exams and group 1040 take home tests will demonstrate analytical skills.
6. Understand the roles of government with respect to business and markets.	Understand the role of the IRS, that tax practice is regulated by the government in addition to self regulating bodies (AICPA and ABA), that the importance of the revenue generated from taxes., and what government bodies make tax law.	Performance on exams will demonstrate student understanding of the government’s role. Participation in VITA will provide real life application of these concepts.
<i>Course-specific objectives</i>	<i>Representative outcome/competency*</i>	<i>Assessment</i>

*Each chapter of the textbook contains several additional learning objectives.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity: Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. You are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the student handbook (published by Student Services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.

ADA Statement: Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations or auxiliary aids will need to contact the Southern Utah University Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), in Room 206F of the Sharwan Smith Center or phone (435) 865-8022. SSD determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

Changes to syllabus: Information contained in this syllabus, other than grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. It is the responsibility of each student to determine changes to the syllabus or assignments announced in the student's absence.

TEXT

Hoffman, William H., and James E. Smith. *West Federal Taxation: Individual Income Taxes*, 2007 edition. Thomson-Southwestern, ISBN 0-324-37953-6.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Homework, Class Participation and Blue Book VITA Reflection Assignment

- a. Homework: Homework is to be prepared on Excel or Word and is to be completed before attending class. Handwritten corrections to homework assignments during class are permitted. Assignments are due at the end of class.
- b. Class Participation: Regular attendance is required. Students are expected to be on time, participate in class discussions, stay for the entire class, be respectful of others, and refrain from disruptive behavior.
- c. Blue Book VITA Reflections: Each student will be required to complete a 350 to 500 word writing assignment using a Blue Book. The essay will contain the student's reflections on their service in the VITA program, i.e. the benefits to self and community. The assignment is due at Final Exam.

VITA Certification & 1040 Take Home Exams: There will be four 1040 Take Home Exams. Each exam requires the completion of an Individual Income Tax return along with selected Schedules. These exams may be completed individually or by group effort. Group effort is encouraged as it will help students to recognize more tax issues and provide opportunity to debate the correct application of tax law. Use of tax software is strictly prohibited. All necessary tax forms can be found at www.IRS.gov.

The IRS created three levels of VITA certification: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. Certification is completed on-line through an IRS linked web page. Each level of certification contains a variety of tax situations and explanations of the applicable law. Students study the provided information and when prepared take the appropriate on-line certification test. Students must obtain a grade of 80% in order to be certified for the tested level. Each level of certification obtained by a student will replace one 1040 Take Home Test. Each successful certification will be assigned a grade of 100%. Thus, if all three certifications are obtained, a student will only be required to take the fourth 1040 Take Home Test and will receive a grade of 100% on each of the first three Take Home Tests.

VITA Service: Each student will be required to participate in the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program for 2-3 evening during the semester. Students will provide the service of income tax preparation and filing for low income families in our community that avail themselves of our free services. The tax returns are prepared and filed on-line. Training will be provided the first week of the semester during class hours. Students will fulfill their service hours in the evenings from 5:30-8:30 pm during tax season. Basic certification must be obtained prior to providing any VITA Service hours.

In Class Exams: There will be an exam after each chapter. Four of the exams will be take home as discussed above. The other six exams will be administered during class. Each exam will last the entire class period. In Class Exams are individual effort. An exam may consist of a mix of true/false, multiple choice, short answer questions, and problems. The lowest score of the six exams will be dropped in calculating the final grade.

Notes:

- a. Late assignments and make up work will be allowed if arrangements are made in advance.

- b. Students will be responsible for learning all of the assigned reading material even if some of the reading material is not covered in class, as it may be tested on the exams.

Course grades will be determined based on the following points:

Homework, Class Participation & Blue Book VITA Reflection Assignment	200
VITA Certification & 1040 Take Home Exams (4)	200
VITA Service	100
In Class Exams (5 of 6)	<u>500</u>
Total Points	1,000

Points may be deducted for inappropriate or disruptive behavior.

0-59%	60-62%	63-66%	67-69%	70-72%	73-76%	77-79%	80-82%	83-86%	87-89%	90-92%	93-100%
F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A

For policies regarding incomplete or withdrawal, please refer to the current university catalog.

ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Jan 8	Overview	
Jan 10	Comp Lab 207/CCH Tax Research & VITA Training	
Jan 12	Comp Lab 207/VITA Training	
Jan 15	HOLIDAY (MLK)	
Jan 17	Chapter 3	Problems 28-31
Jan 19	Chapter 3	Problems 32-39
Jan 22	Chapter 3	Problems 40-43
Jan 24	Chapter 3	Problems 46-52
Jan 26	Exam	
Jan 29	Chapter 4	Problems 29-31 & 35
Jan 31	Chapter 4	Problems 36-39, 44 & 45
Feb 2	Chapter 4	Problems 46, 47, 50, & 51
Feb 5	Chapter 4	Problems 53, 55 & 58
Feb 7	Exam	
Feb 9	Chapter 5	Problems 28-32
Feb 12	Chapter 5	Problems 33- 38
Feb 14	Chapter 5	Problems 41-43, 47- 49
Feb 16	Chapter 5	Problems 50, 51, 56 & 58: (1040 Take Home Exam or Basic Cert.)
Feb 19	Holiday (Pres Day)	
Feb 21	Chapter 6	Problems 33-36
Feb 23	Chapter 6	Problems 37, 39, 40-43 & 45
Feb 26	Chapter 6	Problems 46-52
Feb 28	Chapter 6	Problems 55, 56, 58- 61
Mar 2	Exam	
Mar 5	Chapter 7	Problems 32-36
Mar 7	Chapter 7	Problems 38, 40-52
Mar 9	Chapter 7	Problems 53-58: 1040 (Take Home Exam or Intermediate Cert.)
Mar 12	Spring Break	
Mar 14	Spring Break	
Mar 16	Spring Break	
Mar 19	Chapter 8	Problems 26-31
Mar 21	Chapter 8	Problems 32, 33, 35, 37, 38, 40 & 42
Mar 23	Chapter 8	Problems 44, 45, 47, 48, 54 & 56: (1040 Take Home Exam or Advanced Cert.)
Mar 26	Chapter 9	Problems 31-36
Mar 28	Chapter 9	Problems 37-42
Mar 30	Chapter 9	Problems 43-49
Apr 2	Exam	
Apr 4	Chapter 10	Problems 24-28
Apr 6	Holiday (Good Friday)	
Apr 9	Holiday (Easter)	
Apr 11	Chapter 10	Problems 30, 31, 34-37
Apr 13	Chapter 10	38(compute only) 40-42, 45, 47 & 48: 1040 Take Home Exam
Apr 16	Chapter 11	Problems 36-38, 40 & 41
Apr 18	Chapter 11	Problems 42-46, 49 & 50
Apr 20	Chapter 11	Problems 51, 53, 54, 56-58 & 60
Apr 23	Exam	
Apr 25	Chapter 13	Problems 35-38, 40 & 41
Apr 27	Chapter 13	Problems 42-46, Review For Final
May 2	Final Exam, 7:00-8:50 am	