

ACCOUNTING 530: CORPORATE TAX LAW I: FALL: 2009
Monday – Wednesday 3:15 - 4:30 (B-215)

INSTRUCTOR: Shawn Novak Ph.D., CPA
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OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Wednesday (2:00-3:15; 4:30-6:00). I am generally available most of the time, Monday through Friday, when I am not in class. Please verify in advance any meeting that you want to make outside of my normal office hours.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required: Fundamentals of Corporate Taxation, Seventh Edition. Lind, Schwarz, Lathrope & Rosenberg. Foundation Press, New York, 2008.
ISBN 978-1-59941-386-0

COURSE WEBSITE: A website for the course has been established using the Blackboard platform. The Blackboard website for BSU is located at:
<http://blackboard.boisestate.edu>

RESEARCH TOOLS PROVIDED:

CCH Online; RIA Checkpoint; BNA Tax Research Library; Tax Notes Library
Access to all tax research resources is through the “Online Databases” section of the Albertson’s Library website <http://library.boisestate.edu/indexes/databases.htm>
Your Bronco Web user Id and password are needed for off campus access to these research tools.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Accounting 530 is an advanced course in federal income taxation of corporations and shareholders for students with prior exposure to both accounting and taxation. The primary emphasis of the course is taxation in the context of closely held corporations. This course is organized using a life cycle approach to corporations. S corporations are included in this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Develop a logical framework for understanding basic taxation of corporations and their shareholders. This necessitates developing an understanding and appreciation of the non-tax attributes of the corporate form of operating a business.
- 2) Examine the major provisions of current federal income tax law as they apply to corporations and apply these provisions to specific factual situations.
- 3) Enhance research and communication skills.

DROP POLICY: The last day to drop the course is Friday, October 2.

GRADING: Grades will be assigned based on your performance relative to other students in the class. You will not be held to an absolute grading scale such as 90% and above being an A. Expect exams and other assignments to be challenging.

RELATIVE VALUE OF EXAMINATIONS AND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mid-term exam	30%
Class project	20%
Class assignments	20%
<u>Final exam</u>	<u>30%</u>
TOTAL	100%

MID-TERM EXAM: The mid-term exam will consist of approximately six problems. These problems will require both computational and essay answers.

FINAL EXAM: The final exam will be heavily weighted towards material covered after the mid-term exam and will also consist of approximately six problems.

LECTURE NOTES: Each class topic will be presented in Microsoft PowerPoint. Outlines will be provided for each class. If you miss a class any documents distributed in class will be available on the course website.

CLASS PROJECT: Students (working individually) will write an 8 to 12 page term paper and make a brief class presentation (approximately 10 minutes) based on it. The topic shall be agreed upon early in the semester. Topics should be heavily oriented toward a corporate context. Each project should include identification and discussion of statutory, administrative and judicial authority as it relates to the topic. Examples should be used where appropriate to illustrate computational aspects of taxation. Each topic selected should be presented as a PowerPoint or other similar presentation. I will provide support in helping to select, define, organize and research topics. Select narrow yet important topics! I encourage you to select topics that are of importance to you in the context of your current or anticipated future work environment. A separate document will establish deadlines for topic selection, topic outlines, first draft and final draft. Presentations will be evaluated by both your peers in the class and your instructor.

CLASS PARTICIPATION & ASSIGNMENTS: It is the instructor's goal to have an informal classroom environment where there is a free exchange of ideas among all participants in the class. This process is greatly enhanced when there has been adequate advance preparation for each class. Class participation will also be encouraged through in-class discussion of homework problems. Some of the students in this class will enter it with substantial practical knowledge of corporate tax and non-tax issues. It is my hope that this knowledge and experience can benefit all of the participants in the class. Some homework assignments will be collected and graded. I encourage students to work together on homework assignments.

OUTSIDE READING: Additional readings outside of the textbook may be assigned on a topic by topic basis. It is the intent of the instructor to provide these items to you in advance either in print or as documents that can be downloaded from the course website. In particular we will pay attention to current events that are affecting the corporate tax environment.