

AC 302—INTRODUCTION TO TAXATION

Fall, 2009

M 6:00- 9:00

INSTRUCTOR: Susan Shannon

OFFICE HOURS: M 3:00- 5:00

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By appointment

TEXTBOOK: Concepts in Federal Taxation, 2010 Edition, Kevin Murphy and Mark Higgins, Southwestern

Course Description: This first course in taxation is designed to introduce students to the dynamic discipline of federal income taxation. The emphasis will be on the stable framework of tax law, even though it changes regularly as it is amended to address revenue issues and to meet economic and social needs. The study of taxes blends together accounting, economics, law and public finance concepts. An introduction to federal income taxation can be challenging and difficult. The ever-changing tax laws add to the difficulty of the task. The goal of this course is to assist you in learning a manageable set of basic tax principles and concepts that will give you a strong foundation of knowledge. The fundamental concepts of business and property transactions will be emphasized. This should provide you with a good starting point for further tax study, an appreciation of the impact of tax laws on our daily activities and insight into how tax laws affect business and investment decisions.

Learning Objectives:

There are three main objectives:

- Develop an understanding of the rationale and logic behind our system of income taxation including the political processes that shape tax law.
- Examine the general tax principles and concepts of Federal income tax law as they apply to property transactions, investments, sole-proprietors and other individuals and be able to apply them to factual situations by completing tax returns.
- To gain an understanding of the impact that income taxes have on investing activities.

Outcomes Assessments: Evaluation of the students understanding of fundamental tax concepts, business, investment and individual tax implications will primarily involve examinations, homework, writing and case assignments, preparation of individual tax returns and participation in class activities. Part of the evaluation will include a grading of writing and/or oral communication skills.

Course Grading (estimated):	3 exams	300 points
	Final exam - comprehensive	100 points
	Tax Return Case (@50 pts)	200 points
	Homework, Assignments, Quizzes	100 points
	Participation, responsibility	<u>30 points</u>
	Total course points (approximately)	730 points

Points earned by the students will be totaled and grades assigned accordingly. Grades will be determined based on the plus/minus grading policy as described in the 2009 Boise State undergraduate catalog.

Quizzes, Assignments, Attendance, Participation: The attached assignment sheet includes tax returns, assignments and other homework problems that will be the basis for evaluating your efforts to achieve the stated course objectives. You will be expected to have prepared the assignments prior to class and to be ready to discuss any of the day's topics. Assigned discussion questions can be answered in phrases or any form that prepares you for class discussion. Assigned problems will be randomly collected. There will be in class assignments and quizzes that will also be collected. Your homework will be evaluated on both the content of your work as well as its form. **There will be NO credit for late assignments.** Success in this class will most likely correlate with your attendance and preparation.

Exams: There will be three exams and one comprehensive final exam. Exams will be given on the tentatively scheduled dates (see attached assignment schedule). There will be no make up exams. No cellphones or programmable calculators will be allowed during exams.

Tax Return Cases: There will be four parts to the Tax Return Case, which will be completed in teams. Students will work in groups of 3-4. The fourth part of the tax case will also require each group to schedule a 20-30 minute meeting with their client (the instructor) where they will explain the return and answer any questions the client has about her return.

Research Assignment: There will be a written research assignment consisting of completing a handout related to tax research and discussion of the tax issues.

Participation, responsibility: Class participation and responsibility will be another indicator of your effort and achievement. Participation assumes regular attendance. Participation is a measurement of a student's willingness to initiate and/or contribute to class discussion. As part of the student's role as a participant in the educational process, it is also expected that each student will display professional behavior. Professional behavior enhances the learning environment. Any disruptions to that environment, such as arriving late to class, leaving early without notice, side conversations in class, cell phone usage or other disruptive behavior will have an effect on your grade for this course.

Blackboard: This online communication device is available to everyone in the course. It will be used to post all course documents and to make announcements when appropriate. It can be accessed at **blackboard.boisestate.edu**—Your user ID is your Broncweb sign on.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Last day to Add	Friday, September 4 th
Last day to drop without a “W”:	Friday, September 4 th
Last day to drop with a “W”:	Friday, October 2 nd

In accordance with Boise State University policy, any instance of dishonesty in this class will result in a failing grade for the course.

Assignments AC 302
Fall, 2009
Monday 6:00- 9:00

DATE		CHAPTER & TOPIC	HOMEWORK & ASSIGNMENTS
Aug 24		Introduction	
	1	Types of Tax Tax Formula, Tax Planning	2a,4,16,38,41,48 18,19,26,28,39,53,55,59,62,63,67
31	1 2	Tax Formula, Tax Planning Income Tax Concepts	Finish chap 1 2,6,8,9,11,18 25,27,31,40 handouts
	2 16	Income Tax Concepts pp. 715-720	43,52,61 Sample Tax Case-in class
Sept 5		LABOR DAY	
Sept 14	3	Gross Income	3,6,9,20,30,37,39,40,46,55, 104 (sch D in class) Research Assignment handout
	3 4	Gross Income Capital Gain/Loss Exclusions	65,68 Sample Case DUE
Sept 21	4	Exclusions	2,3,7,27,31, 86 (worksheet in class)
	5	Business Expenses Hobby, Vacation Home, Home Office	1,4,9,27,34, 35,52,54,59 Research Assignment DUE Team Tax Case 1 handout
28		EXAM 1 (Chap 1-5)	75 min Tax case work time
Oct 5		Review Exams-brief	
	6	Business Expenses	2,4,6,7,14,20,28,33,35,38,41 95 (sch C in class)
Oct 12	9	Acquisition of Property Basis: Gifts, Inheritance, Other	4,6,21,23,62 13,17, (89 in class)
	10	Depreciation	4,7,9,11,16,29,46,48,54 Team Tax Case Part 1 DUE Team Tax Case 2 handout
Oct 19	10	Depreciation	74
	11	Property Disposition-Section 1231	6,7,10,14,15,22,33,37,39

DATE		CHAPTER & TOPIC	HOMEWORK & ASSIGNMENTS
Oct 26	11	Depreciation Recapture	17,18,21,61,62,66
	11	Property Review	Team Tax Case Part 2 DUE Team Tax Case 3 handout
Nov 2		Exam 2 (chap 6,9,10,11)	
Nov 9		Review Exam-brief	Discuss Tax Case Part 3
	12	Non Recognition Transactions Like Kind Exchanges Sale of Residence	2,5,8,19,26,27,29 52,53
Nov 16	8	Dependency Exemptions Filing Status Adjustments to Gross Income	2,,30, 5,6,32,63 8,9
	8	Itemized Deductions	40,46,47,50,53,54,56 Team Tax Case Part 3 DUE Team Tax Case 4 handout
Nov 23		Thanksgiving Break	
Nov 30	7	Losses-Deductions/Limitations Investment Taxation	7,8,17,27,34,35,36
30		Exam 3 (chap 7, 8,12) Take Home	
Dec 7			Take Home Exam Due
		Tax Case Scheduled Sessions-	
Dec 7-11		Time-TBA	Tax Case Part 4 Presentations

COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM

Monday, December 14th