ACCT 302—INTRODUCTION TO TAXATION
Summer 2014
M, Tu, W, Th 7:30 am to 11:10 am

INSTRUCTOR: Bill Lathen
OFFICE HOURS: After class, or email anytime including weekends, nights
OFFICE: Micron 3107
TELEPHONE: 426-3415
E-MAIL: blathen@boisestate.edu
Class Room: Micron 4003

Course Description: The first course in taxation is designed to introduce students to the dynamic discipline of federal income taxation. The emphasis is 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 is 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 tax principles and concepts that will give you a strong foundation of knowledge. The fundamental concepts of business and property transactions are 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. A positive by-product of the course is that it prepares you for the individual, sole proprietorship, and property transaction portions of the CPA Exam.

Learning Objectives:
There are three main objectives:
1. Develop an understanding of the rationale and logic behind our system of income taxation, including the political processes that shape tax law.
2. Examine the tax principles and concepts of federal income tax law as they apply to property transactions, investments, sole-proprietors and individuals. We will apply this knowledge to factual situations by completing tax returns.
3. To gain an understanding of the impact that income taxes have on investing activities.

Outcomes Assessments: Evaluation of the student’s understanding of fundamental tax concepts, business, investment and individual tax implications will primarily involve examinations, homework, preparation of individual tax returns and participation in class activities.

Course Grading (estimated):
2 Exams 400 points
5 Quizzes, drop one 100 points
3 Tax Returns 150 points
Homework, Assignments 50 points
Participation, Responsibility, Attendance 50 points
Total course points (approximately) 750 points
Points earned are totaled and grades assigned accordingly. At a minimum, 90% is an “A”, 80% a “B”, etc. I do use +/- for grades on the borderline. Typically 85% earns an A, while 70% earns a B. This varies each semester, but I do grade on a curve.

**Assignments, Attendance, Participation:** The attached assignment sheet includes tax returns, assignments and other homework problems that are the basis for evaluation of your efforts to achieve the stated course objectives. You are expected to have prepared the assignments prior to class so you are ready to discuss any of the day’s topics. Assigned discussion questions may be answered in phrases or any form that prepares you for class discussion. **Do not just record a number, as I want detailed calculations or analysis of each problem.** Assigned problems are randomly collected. Your homework is evaluated on both the content of your work as well as its form. Again, never just put in the answer. I want to see all the calculations. There is no credit for late assignments unless you email me your homework the day you are absent. Success in this class will highly correlate with your attendance and preparation. Each class missed counts 10 points off from the 50-point participation maximum score.

**Exams:** There are just two exams. Exams are given on the tentatively scheduled dates (see attached schedule). No cell phones are allowed during exams and no scratch paper.

**Quizzes:** There are five quizzes and we will drop the lowest quiz score. No late quizzes are given.

**Tax Return Case:** There are three Tax Return cases, each worth 50 points. You will work in teams of two for the tax returns. The second tax return includes a client letter.

**Participation, Responsibility:** Class participation and responsibility is an indicator of your effort and achievement. 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 expected that each student will display professional behavior. Professional behavior enhances the learning environment. 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 may have an effect on your grade for this course.

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

The Department of Accountancy has developed individual goals for each accountancy class. Besides the course objectives identified earlier, the following College concepts and skills are discussed, stressed, and examined: General Accounting knowledge, legal environment of business – tax laws, writing skills in the form of client letters, solving unstructured problems by completing complex tax returns, and resolving ethical issues in taxation.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Boise State University Statement of Shared Values, [http://www.boisestate.edu/osrr/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct/StatementofSharedValues](http://www.boisestate.edu/osrr/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct/StatementofSharedValues).
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<td>Income Tax Concepts</td>
<td>6, 8, 11, 16, 17, 29, 31, 39, 49, 50, 61, 62, 82  <strong>Team Tax Return #1 – DUE MAY 22</strong></td>
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<td>June 3</td>
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<td>June 5</td>
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<td>EXAM TWO</td>
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Boise State University upholds the following values as the foundation for a civil and nurturing environment. Campus community members are expected to adhere to these common values: Academic Excellence, Caring, Citizenship, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility, and Trustworthiness.