ACC 3410 – PRINCIPLES OF TAXATION

COURSE SYLLABUS

CRN 90080
Course Format: Traditional
Term & Year: Fall 2017 CPS Semester – Full Term
Location: Broad Street Downtown Campus
Meeting Days/Times: Tuesdays 3:25 PM to 5:45 PM

Lead Professor: J. David Golub
Email: JD.Golub@northeastern.edu
Northeastern University
College of Professional Studies
360 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
D’Amore-McKim School of Business
Doctoral Law & Policy Program
Faculty and Lead Instructor: Accounting and Tax Programs
Professor: Finance and Accounting Management
Global Classroom Program
(617) 373-2400, (973) 454-0677 and (212) 331-7517

Instructor: Joseph DeMello
E-mail: j.demello@northeastern.edu
Northeastern University
College of Professional Studies
360 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
(401) 481-1040

Office Hours: By appointment, Tuesdays 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Room number TBA. Also by E-mail and telephone, weekdays 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications through Blackboard E-mail and all electronic E-mail shall be addressed to professor DeMello with CC to professor Golub and contain the following information in the Subject Heading: NEU CPS ACC3410 CRN 90080 Fall 2017 preceding the Subject Matter. Generally, replies to E-mails are expected to occur within 24 hours.
COURSE PREREQUISITES
ACC 3201

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Students should also access information on E-textbook versions, at www.vitalsource.com. Alternatively, students should navigate to the publisher’s website at www.wiley.com/college/Dennis-Escoffier and Fortin.

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS
Supplemental readings, including academic and professional journals and articles, will be posted in the NEU CPS Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course covers the objectives and principles of taxation including the economic policy underlying various tax systems, i.e., property, consumption, value added and income taxes. The course emphasizes the tax decision making and planning process in the context of compliance responsibilities and tax accounting methods for individuals, corporations and various pass-through entities such as partnerships and subchapter S corporations.

STUDENT LEARNING COURSE OUTCOMES

Students will have the opportunity to learn about the following tax accounting principles and concepts for compliance and planning objectives by decision-makers in various business and personal contexts:

1. Definitions, objectives and types of taxes, tax systems and regimes. Characteristics of taxes, tax models and the purpose of a tax system as a penalty and incentive mechanism in addition to funding government and public resources. The Tax Practice Environment, sources of authority, the legislative process, tax research process, tax planning, compliance and filing tax returns.

2. The determinants of income and capital. Tax planning using accounting methods, the statutory provisions covering exclusions and the tax benefit rule. Tax planning for compensation, retirement and employee benefits.
3. The treatment of business expenses and allowable deductions in the tax formula and the comparative analysis of book/tax differences as distinguished from financial accounting pronouncements and generally accepted accounting principles. Understanding the distinctions between capital expenditures, property acquisitions, depreciation, amortization and cost recovery deductions.

4. Tax planning and decision-making for property dispositions, cash flow analysis, the realization vs. recognition principles, definitions of capital assets, the favorable tax formula for net capital gains, the postponement, deferral and avoidance of tax using favorable tax free and like-kind exchanges, the calculation of basis and the importance of holding period as an economic incentive in capital budgeting models, the principles and theory underlying asset transfers and investment theory penalties and incentives, the use of financing instruments, debt and tax accounting methods for long-term asset investment and acquisitions such as commercial and residential real estate investment, commercial air carriers, ocean tankers, railroad cars and oil drilling equipment.

5. Differentiating and distinguishing the taxation of various business entities such as C and S corporations, partnerships, sole proprietorships, Limited Liability Companies, disregarded entities, affiliated corporate entities, tiered partnerships, redemptions, distributions, liquidations, dividends, and earnings and profits vs. distributions in excess of basis in flow-through entities.

6. Income taxation of Individuals, the basic tax model, adjusted gross income, tax liability, tax credit, filing status, and the tax planning objectives underlying inheritance, estate, gifts, trusts, family planning and wealth transfers.

Expectations

- Workload. For a three-credit course, students should expect 2.5 hours a week of classroom or faculty instruction and a minimum of 5 hours of outside of class student work for a 15-week course.

- Attendance policy. Students must attend the weekly on-campus meetings as well as the weekly asynchronous Blackboard discussion forum.

- Policy on late/incomplete work:
  - Assignments up to one week late will receive a 25% grade discount. Assignments more than one week late will receive a 50% grade discount.
  - Online assignments submissions are due by 11:59 PM EST on the due date indicated.
  - No make-up work (homework, discussion board posts, quizzes, etc.) will be permitted.
  - Extra credit assignments are not available.
COURSE METHODOLOGY

This is a 15-week course. Each student will be required to use the Northeastern University CPS online Blackboard application tool to submit homework assignments, respond to discussion board questions and to complete required examinations, assignments and tests.

Assignments and associated due dates are subject to change.

Each week you will be expected to:

1. Review the week’s learning objectives;
2. Complete all assigned readings;
3. Participate in the Discussion Board;
4. Attend classes and work on collaborative assignments during class;
5. Complete and submit all assignments and examinations by the due dates.

COMMUNICATION/SUBMISSION OF WORK ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments notes:

1. Must be submitted in either Microsoft Word or Excel format. Submitted file names should include your first initial, last name and chapter number.

2. Discussion Board assignments require reproduction of the facts and requirements of each assigned question, problem, exercise etc. together with your solution.

GRADING/EVALUATION STANDARDS

Please refer to the discussion of grading standards in the CPS Student Handbook, at http://www.cps.neu.edu/student-services/student-handbook. Except for the collaborative work during classroom time, all work is to be completed on an individual basis. Also, students’ written work should be clear, comprehensible, and competently produced.

The final grade is weighted according to the following. See the detailed explanation for each item below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Discussion Board</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Classroom Collaborative Work</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackboard Weekly Individual Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination (Comprehensive)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Notes for Testing:

1. Will be administered online.
2. Once a test is started, it must be completed at that time.
3. Results will be posted to Blackboard.

Undergraduate Catalog

The College of Professional Studies Undergraduate Catalog is a reference/resource with information about curricula, resources, and academic and student policies. For more information, visit http://www.cps.neu.edu/student-resources/.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

Discussion Board:

Textbook Questions will be assigned to students individually on a weekly basis. Students are to reproduce the question in the Discussion Board and provide explanatory responses to the questions, including citation of supplemental materials that were utilized in arriving at the responses. This assignment should be deemed a Research Assignment with citations to relevant websites, i.e., www.aicpa.org. The postings are to contain the link to the relevant website. This course assessment includes reading Discussion Board postings by your colleagues and adding new information, analysis and website links. It is insufficient to merely acknowledge or compliment another student entry without providing value added supplementary comments. Students are to study and review all Discussion Board postings submitted by all students in addition to their own postings. Details will be announced in Blackboard.

Classroom Collaborative Work:

Each weekly classroom session will consist of instruction and collaborative work. The instructor will spend some time lecturing and answering questions. The remaining classroom time will be spent working on tax problems from the textbook in pairs or small groups. The students will work together to find the solutions to their assigned problems. The students will then present the problem and solution to the rest of the class.

Weekly Individual Assignments:

Between three to five problems will be assigned weekly from every textbook chapter in the course in preparation for the final exam. These assignments will be due at the beginning of each Tuesday’s class. They may be sent electronically (email) or via hard copy.

Midterm Examination:

Discussion questions, problems and essays covering the Course material in a comprehensive examination will be posted in Blackboard during the designated time
Students are limited to one timed online session to complete the exam. In addition to the online timed exam, there will also be the preparation of a tax return for individuals, Form 1040. **Details will be announced in Blackboard.**

**Final Examination:**

Discussion questions, problems and essays covering the Course material in a comprehensive examination will be posted in Blackboard during the designated time period. **Details will be announced in Blackboard.**

Final course grades will be assigned on the following basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure (below 60)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Class Schedule / Topical Outline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9/5/17 – 9/10/17</td>
<td>Introductions, Course Overview Chapter 1 An Introduction to Taxation</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 1 Assignments</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/11/17 – 9/17/17</td>
<td>Chapter 2 The Tax Practice Environment</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 2 Assignments</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/18/17 – 9/24/17</td>
<td>Chapter 3 Determining Gross Income</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 3 Assignments</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/25/17 – 10/1/17</td>
<td>Chapter 4 Employee Compensation</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 4 Assignments</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10/2/17 – 10/8/17</td>
<td>Chapter 5 Deductions and Completing the Individual Tax Return</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 5 Assignments</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10/9/17 – 10/15/17</td>
<td>Chapter 6 Business Expenses</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 6 Assignments</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/16/17 – 10/22/17</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAMINATION</td>
<td>Chapters 1 - 6</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/23/17 – 10/29/17</td>
<td>Chapter 7 Property Acquisitions and Cost Recovery Deductions</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 7 Assignments</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/30/17 – 11/5/17</td>
<td>Chapter 8 Property Dispositions</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 8 Assignments</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>Instructions and Announcements</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11/6/17 – 11/12/17</td>
<td>Chapter 9 Tax-Deferred Exchanges</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 9 Assignments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11/13/17 – 11/19/17</td>
<td>Chapter 10 Taxation of Corporations</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 10 Assignments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/20/17 – 11/26/17</td>
<td>Note: 11/22-11/26 is the Holiday break (no assignments due). Chapter 11 Sole Proprietorships and Flow-Through Entities</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 11 Assignments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/27/17 – 12/3/17</td>
<td>Chapter 12 Estates, Gifts, and Trusts</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 12 Assignments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>12/4/17 – 12/10/17</td>
<td>Review and Study Chapters 1 through 12</td>
<td>Submit Chapters 1 through 12 Review Assignments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12/11/17 – 12/16/17</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAMINATION</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 1 through 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MODIFICATIONS**

There may arise situations in which course content or course procedures and practices may be changed because of unforeseen circumstances such as scheduling problems, unexpected serious illness, weather conditions, etc. Students are required to visit the
Blackboard or individualized e-mail accounts on a daily basis to check for special announcements or emergency e-mail correspondence covering such unforeseen events. Modifications to course syllabus requirements, procedures and practices will be provided generally no later than 48 hours after the occurrence of such an event.

### GUIDE TO WEEKLY STUDY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>READ CHAPTERS</th>
<th>REVIEW LECTURE SLIDES AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS</th>
<th>PREPARE HOMEWORK SET</th>
<th>REVIEW SOLUTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Primary Response</td>
<td>Prepare and Review Assignments</td>
<td>Discussion Board Secondary Responses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is only a suggested weekly format. All work can be completed well in advance of deadlines and students are encouraged to plan for what works for your personal schedules. This format is designed to be flexible.

### Classroom Policy on Technology Devices

Students are encouraged to bring laptops to the classroom for purposes of taking notes or accessing tax and accounting course related websites. All students must turn off their Cell phones during the class room sessions. The use of Calculators to aid in solving accounting problems is also encouraged. All technology devices when in use should be devoted to the classroom discussion of accounting topics. Students are not permitted to use these devices for matters not related to the course. Students who violate the policy will be subject to course grade penalties at the discretion of the professor.

### Student Accommodations

The College of Professional Studies is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities to students with documented disabilities (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical). To ensure access to this class, and program, please contact The Disability Resource Center [http://www.northeastern.edu/drc/](http://www.northeastern.edu/drc/) to engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations in the classroom and clinical or lab settings. Accommodations are not provided retroactively so students are encouraged to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as they begin their program. The College of Professional Studies encourages students to access all resources available through the DRC for consistent support.
Library Services

The Northeastern University Library is at the hub of campus intellectual life. Resources include over 900,000 print volumes, 206,500 e-books, and 70,225 electronic journals. For more information, visit http://library.northeastern.edu/.

Northeastern University Online Technical Help

Get immediate 24/7 technical support for NU Online by calling 855-836-3520 or visiting the online Support Center. Support via e-mail is also available within one business day at NUOnline@neu.edu.

End-of-Course Evaluation Surveys

Your feedback regarding your educational experience in this class is very important to the College of Professional Studies. Your comments will make a difference in the future planning and presentation of our curriculum.

At the end of this course, please take the time to complete the evaluation survey at https://neu.evaluationkit.com. Your survey responses are completely anonymous and confidential. For courses 6 weeks in length or shorter, surveys will be open one week prior to the end of the courses; for courses greater than 6 weeks in length, surveys will be open for two weeks. An email will be sent to your Husky Mail account notifying you when surveys are available.

Academic Honesty and Integrity Statement

The University views academic dishonesty as one of the most serious offenses that a student can commit while in college and imposes appropriate punitive sanctions on violators. Here are some examples of academic dishonesty. While this is not an all-inclusive list, we hope this will help you to understand some of the things instructors look for. The following is excerpted from the University’s policy on academic honesty and integrity; the complete policy is available at http://www.cps.neu.edu/about-cps/policies-and-procedures.

- **Cheating** – intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in an academic exercise. This may include use of unauthorized aids (notes, texts) or copying from another student’s exam, paper, computer disk, etc.
- **Fabrication** – intentional and unauthorized falsification, misrepresentation, or invention of any data, or citation in an academic exercise. Examples may include making up data for a research paper, altering the results of a lab experiment or survey, listing a citation for a source not used, or stating an opinion as a scientifically proven fact.
- **Plagiarism** – intentionally representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise without providing proper documentation by source by way of a footnote, endnote or intertextual note.
• **Unauthorized collaboration** – Students, each claiming sole authorship, submit separate reports, which are substantially similar to one another. While several students may have the same source material, the analysis, interpretation and reporting of the data must be each individual’s.

• **Participation in academically dishonest activities** – Examples include stealing an exam, using a pre-written paper through mail order or other services, selling, loaning or otherwise distributing materials for the purpose of cheating, plagiarism, or other academically dishonest acts; alternation, theft, forgery, or destruction of the academic work of others.

• **Facilitating academic dishonesty** – Examples may include inaccurately listing someone as co-author of paper who did not contribute, sharing a take home exam, taking an exam or writing a paper for another student.

**Northeastern University Online Policies and Procedures**
For comprehensive information please go to [http://www.cps.neu.edu/online/](http://www.cps.neu.edu/online/)

**Northeastern University - OSCCR**

Academic integrity matters or student misconduct matters may be referred to the Office of student conduct and conflict resolution (OSCCR), at the discretion of the faculty. Students should familiarize themselves with the policies, practices and procedures of OSCCR at: [www.northeastern.edu/osccr/studentboard.html](http://www.northeastern.edu/osccr/studentboard.html) and the academic integrity policy at [www.northeastern.edu/osccr/academichonesty.html](http://www.northeastern.edu/osccr/academichonesty.html).

**Northeastern University – Smarthinking – On-Line Tutoring**

Online tutoring resources called Smarthinking are available for every NEU CPS student. The Smarthinking link to the website is: [http://services.smarthinking.com/dashboard/index/](http://services.smarthinking.com/dashboard/index/). This website and link is also located on the NEU academic and support services website. Tutoring can benefit skilled professionals and beginning students alike. NU offers many opportunities for you to enhance your academic work and professional skills through free one-on-one academic support on and off campus. Tutoring is available in multiple subject areas. For more information, visit [http://www.cps.neu.edu/student-resources/tutoring-services.php](http://www.cps.neu.edu/student-resources/tutoring-services.php).

**Northeastern University Online Examination Policy**

Where appropriate show all computations and provide detailed explanations for partial credit (problems and essays). Online exams may be taken once and you have a fixed time period in which to complete the exam. The actual allotted time period for each exam will be announced in the Blackboard in a section entitled exam guidelines. It is recommended that students allocate their time according to point values.

Submission via e-mail of portions or selected solutions after the exam has been completed and closed will not be accepted.
Unless the NEU technology center experiences technical downtime while you are taking the exam, there will be a point deduction (15-20%) for all self-induced technology errors, such as accidentally hitting the keyboard, incorrectly or freezing the computer because of human error, or opening the examination in two screens or simultaneously opening and viewing Blackboard in two locations on one screen. Thus, those students who need to retake the exam because of such personalized errors will have a maximum exam potential of reduced by 15-20% subject to the discretion of the faculty.

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The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus, both online and the document itself, during the term and will notify students of the change(s). The revised syllabus is the official record of class policies and schedule of due dates.