ACCOUNTING 3410 – TAX ACCOUNTING
COURSE SYLLABUS

CRN 90107 SECTION 01
Course Format: VTL - Online
Term & Year: Fall 2017 CPS Semester - Full Term
Location NU Online Login URL: https://nuonline.neu.edu

Instructor Information
Full Name Lisa Volpicelli
Email Address L.Volpicelli@northeastern.edu
Office Hours Email me to schedule an appointment (Virtual)

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications through Blackboard E-mail and all electronic
E-mail shall contain the following information in the Subject
Heading: NEU CPS ACC 3410 90107 01 Fall 2017
preceding the Subject Matter. Generally replies to e-mails will occur
within 48 hours

COURSE PREREQUISITES
ACC 3201

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK
Dennis-Escoffier and Fortin, Taxation For Decision Makers 2018th ED.
Students should also visit http://www.coursesmart.com/ to access
information on E-textbook versions, which has changed name and location
to www.vitalsource.com. Alternatively, you 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:
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**

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• Workload
  o 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 out of class student work for a 15-week course;

• Attendance Policy
  o This class is 100% online – however, attendance is measured through a student’s participation in the weekly Discussion Board.

• Policy on late/incomplete work
  o Late assignments will AUTOMATICALLY receive half credit.
  o Online classes: Each assignment is due at 11:59 pm EST of the date indicated.
  o No make-up work (homework, discussion board posts, quizzes, etc) will be permitted.
  o Extra credit assignments are not available.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

This is an online 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. Complete all lecture materials for the week
4. Participate in the Discussion Board
5. Complete and submit all assignments and examinations by the due dates.
6. Prepare, study and review practice exams when and if posted.

Participation/Discussion Board

Each week discussion board webliography questions will be assigned for posting and discussion. All discussion board questions require at least one response from each student.

Also required is one secondary response (a comment to another student’s post) per week. Students are expected to actively participate in the NUOL online discussion board on a weekly basis in addition to the live classroom discussions.

Student discussion board webliography participation and individual assignments will be included in the final grade evaluation. Guidelines are posted in the NEU CPS Blackboard in designated folders and the Discussion Board.
COMMUNICATION/SUBMISSION OF WORK ASSIGNMENTS

In the Assignments folder, click on the View/Complete Assignment link to view each assignment listed in the excel spreadsheet. Attach your completed individual assignments in the discussion board in the designated locations. Individual assignments will be graded through the discussion board.

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.
3. Individual Assignments and Webliography Assignments require reproduction of the facts and requirements of each assigned question, problem, exercise etc. together with your solution.
4. Individual Assignments Problems and Webliography Assignments must be directly entered into the designated discussion board thread with a Word or excel attachment.

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. All work is to be completed on an individual basis. Also, students’ written work should be clear, comprehensible, and competently produced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Discussion Board¹</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackboard Weekly Individual Assignments²</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination³</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Return Problem(s) (Comprehensive)⁴</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination (Comprehensive)⁵</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</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 Board¹:
Textbook Questions will be assigned to the entire class on a weekly basis for discussion, thought and written response in addition to required postings in the preparation of the Webliography (See Discussion Board for Guidelines and Criteria). Students are to state and reproduce the question in the discussion board and provide explanatory responses to initial postings including citation of supplemental materials that were utilized in arriving at the entry. This assignment should be deemed a Research Assignment with citations to relevant websites, i.e., www.aicpa.org. All webliography postings are to contain the link to the relevant World Wide Web internet website. The objective of this course assessment includes studying Discussion Board postings by your colleagues and adding new information, analysis and nonduplicative web site postings. You are also required to comment on your colleague’s postings. 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 in the Webliography sections and in the Weekly assignments sections.

**Weekly Individual Management Accounting Assignments²:**

Questions and Problems will be individually assigned from every Textbook chapter in the Course, in preparation for the final exam. Weekly Tax Accounting assignments are posted in the following manner: 1) Directly into the Discussion Board thread or 2) in an attachment using a separate word document or excel spreadsheet. All solutions to the assignments are to be posted in the designated discussion board thread by week and chapter. Students are to enter in the “subject” heading the chapter assignment number and description. The facts of each problem should be reproduced with the solution and written detailed explanations of the solutions. All students should question or comment on the posted solution, especially if there is uncertainty, ambiguity, errors, confusion, or issues about the posted solution. (This is done by posting the question directly to the student’s thread, or in the “Water Cooler” thread or by sending an e-mail to the student with a cc: to the professor.) Students will have access to over 250 problem and question solutions posted in the Blackboard for study, observation, analysis, review and in preparation for course exam assessments.

**Midterm Examination³:**

Discussion questions, problems and essays covering the Course material in a comprehensive examination will be posted in Blackboard during the designated time period. Students are limited to one timed (4hr) session to complete the exam. *TBA in BLACKBOARD.*

**Comprehensive Tax return⁴:**

Comprehensive Tax return problems will be assigned and graded covering corporations, partnerships and individuals during the designated week in the Course schedule prior to the final examination

**Final Examination⁵:**

Discussion questions, problems and essays covering the Course material in a comprehensive examination will be posted in Blackboard during the designated time
period and due no later than Midnight of the last day designated for the Fall exam period. Students are limited to one timed (4hr) session to complete the exam. **TBA 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66.99</td>
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<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>
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**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>9/5/2017</td>
<td>Introductions, Course Overview Read and study Chapter 1 Introduction to Taxation</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 1 assignments</td>
<td>INTRODUCTIONS: BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/11/2017</td>
<td>Read and study Chapter 2 and Appendix The Tax Practice Environment</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 2 assignments</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/18/2017</td>
<td>Read and Study Chapter 3 Determining Gross Income</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 3</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Read and Study</td>
<td>Submit</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/25/2017</td>
<td>Read and study Chapter 4 Employee Compensation</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 4 Assignments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10/2/2017</td>
<td>Read and Study Chapter 5 Business Expenses</td>
<td>Submit chapter 5 assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10/9/2017</td>
<td>Read and Study Chapter 7 Property Dispositions</td>
<td>Submit chapter 7 assignments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/16/2017</td>
<td>Read and Study Chapter 8 Tax Deferred Dispositions</td>
<td>Submit chapter 8 assignments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/23/2017</td>
<td>Read and Study Chapters 1 through 8</td>
<td>Submit Chapters 1 through 8 Assignments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/30/2017</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAMINATION</td>
<td>Submit Chapters 1 through 8 Assignments</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS MIDTERM EXAMINATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11/6/2017</td>
<td>Read and Study Chapter 9 Taxation of Corporations</td>
<td>Submit Chapter 9 Assignments</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Task Details</td>
<td>Blackboard Instructions and Announcements</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11/13/2017</td>
<td>Read and Study Chapter 10 Sole Proprietorships and Flow-Through Entities</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Submit Chapter 10 Assignments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/20/2017</td>
<td>Read and Study Chapter 11 income Taxation of Individuals</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Submit Chapter 11 Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/27/2017</td>
<td>Read and Study Chapter 12 Wealth Transfer Taxes</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Submit Chapter 12 Assignments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>12/4/2017</td>
<td>Review and Study Chapters 1 through 12 Comprehensive Tax Return Assignments APPENDIX C</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Submit Chapters 1 through 12 Assignments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12/11/2017</td>
<td>REVIEW WEEK FINAL EXAMINATION</td>
<td>BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Submit and review all assignments chapters 1 through 12</td>
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</table>

**NOTE TO INSTRUCTORS:** End of Textbook chapter questions, exercises, cases and problems are to be assigned from the textbook in addition to discussion board questions to match student learning outcomes.

**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.
**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/) 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/academicichonesty.html](http://www.northeastern.edu/osccr/academicichonesty.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.

Northeastern University Online Examination Policy

Where appropriate show all computations and provide detailed explanations for partial credit. (Problems and essays). On-line 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 your time according to point values. The final exam period will be announced in the Blackboard and runs until the midnight of exam closing day. Note: Each student has one exam computerized timed hour session.*

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.