

**Accounting 470/570**  
**Taxation for Decision Makers**  
**Tuesday and Thursday**  
**10:00 – 11:50 AM 312 Lillis**  
**Fall 2004**

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Office hours: Mondays from 1:00-3:00 and Wednesdays from 10:30-Noon

Friday sessions

Time: 10:30-11:30 AM

Dates are as follows:

- October 8
- October 15
- October 22
- November 5
- November 12
- November 19
- December 3

Place:

Lisa will hold a 60-minute session on specific Fridays. This time will be used to cover examples that we do in class or homework problems. **THIS IS YOUR TIME AND WE ARE VERY LUCKY TO HAVE LISA WITH US THIS TERM.**

Lisa will be grading your homework and quizzes. She will help me grade your exams. I will grade your projects.

If you have questions/comments for me, you are welcome to email me. I will respond within 24 hours, as long as I am in town and it is not the weekend.

If you would like to speak with me personally, please stop by any time or make an appointment for a specific time. I am available and I am happy to chat with you.

Taxation is my very favorite class to teach! To lead! To coach!

**Our Objectives:** (1) to acquaint you with the economic and social policy implications of the various tax systems used by governments to raise revenue; (2) to learn how effective business planning depends on an accurate assessment of relevant tax factors; and (3) to introduce you to the framework (which has been remarkably stable over time) of the Federal income tax law.

In addition, we continue the development of the leadership skills you need to be successful- learning to think critically, discussing information, paying attention to current events, and writing are a few that come to mind.

**Required Materials:** 2005 edition of *Taxation for Decision Makers* by Dennis-Escoffier and Fortin, published by Prentice Hall.

470/570 packets provided by me. Please return the packet to me if you drop this class. Please bring your textbook, packet, and calculator to class each day.

**Exams (55% of your final grade):** There will be one midterm and a comprehensive final exam.

**Attendance, Quizzes, Homework, Attitude, Participation, and Current Events (10% of your final grade):**

We will have weekly quizzes on the reading for the day.

Homework includes your "About Me," assigned homework on the syllabus, and assignments that I hand out during the term. Homework should have a professional appearance and, preferably, be typed. I cannot accept homework late, early is fine. Lisa is not authorized to accept any homework at any time, so please make sure that your homework gets to me directly.

Attitude is a subjective assessment by me and includes such things as appearing interested, being prepared, and arriving on time for class.

Participation may encompass many activities and includes, but is not limited to, the following: attendance, drawing attention to current events, participating in class discussion, discussing issues with me in my office, and e-mailing me with questions and issues.

**If I call on you and you are unable to answer the question, feel free to call on one of your classmates for help.**

Please do not enter **our** classroom late. Class begins at 10 AM, so please arrive a bit early so that you are seated and ready to go by 10 o'clock. You are welcome to bring coffee in a closed container that cannot spill, however, it is Lundquist College policy not to allow food in the classroom. Chewing gum in a professional setting is unprofessional.

**Please turn off your cell phone while in class.**

**Attendance:** It is very important to me that you attend class. I put a great deal of effort into preparing class materials that add value to what you can learn from the text. **Please let me know in advance if you will not be attending class. You will lose points toward your final grade if you do not let me know by 9:45 AM on the day of class that you will not be in attendance.**

**This is your life (35% of your final grade):** Where do you want to be in 10 years (2014)? In addition to compiling a set of tax returns for your family, you will explore tax-planning opportunities that suit the family's situation. You have 1250 words to tell your story. You will find a more extensive explanation of the project in the class packet. You will work in teams of two, so choose your partner well.

**My Grading Philosophy:** The A's go to people who do more than just what an assignment calls for and do it well. These are the people who go the extra mile, who take the initiative to do a little more, who dare to set themselves apart from the crowd, and who truly master the material.

Going the extra mile may take a number of forms:

- Critical thinking\*
- Imaginative thinking
- Creative thinking
- Integrative thinking
- Daring to be different
- Completeness
- Thoroughness
- Extra effort

**\*The educated person is one who critically thinks using strategies, principles, concepts, and insights for analyzing and organizing subject matter content.** It is especially rewarding to me when you show me how to think about something in a new way, when you present a new model or a new idea. I like to be surprised and I like to have fun.

**Final Grade:**

First examination (25%) Thursday, October 28, 2004 (Week 5)

This is your life (35%) Wednesday, November 24, 2004 at Noon (Week 9)

Final examination (30%) Wednesday, December 8, 2004 at 7:45 AM (Week 11)

Quizzes, homework, attitude, participation, current events (10%)

**About You:** I would like no more than one page (**I will not read beyond one page**) of information about you. I do not want a resume. Include something that makes you special or different from other people, something of which you are proud. I would like a recent and flattering photograph of you attached to the upper **right** hand corner of your page. This page must be word processed with at least **size 12 font with one and half spacing**, and be prepared in a professional manner, as must everything you turn in during the term. Let's make this due **Tuesday, October 5.**

**About Me: Helen Gernon, Ph.D., CPA:** I live on 20 acres out near the town of Lorane with my husband and four cats. Dennis and I have two daughters who are off making their way in the world. We have one granddaughter, Sagan Aurora Kilauea Oliphant.

I was born in New York City, moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida when I was 11, and then went off to college. My Ph.D. is in Business Administration from Penn State University. I moved to Oregon in 1978.

I am very lucky to have a job I love. I am the Department Chair and that makes me the leader of an incredible group of people with whom I enjoy working.

Last June, I was asked to speak to the Eugene Professional Women's Forum. The topic was my life. I decided to share some of the things that I have done that I am really proud of and lessons that I have learned. I have decided to share them with you too, so here goes.

### **Things I am proud of, really proud.**

# 1 (1973) Started the Accounting Students Association at Florida Atlantic University.

#2 (1991) Of being the first woman to ever hold the rank of full professor in the Lundquist College of Business and (1993) the first woman to hold an endowed chair in the Lundquist College.

#3 I wrote *Accounting an International Perspective* (5 editions 1987, 1991, 1994, 1997, and 2001) Translated into Japanese, Chinese, Spanish, and Russian.

#4 Proud of being a good daughter, a good mom, a good friend to so many women and men, and a good role model and mentor for my students.

#5 Proud of completing two marathons 1980 and 1991.

### **Lessons/Values**

#1 Exercise leads to a happy life.

#2 Be impeccable with your word. Speak with integrity.

#3 Don't take anything personally. When others evaluate you, be aware of the baggage they bring.

#4 Don't make assumptions. Communication has helped me avoid misunderstandings and sadness.

#5 Always do your best. This will help you avoid self-judgment, self-abuse and regret. Lessons 2-5 are adapted from *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz.

**Until December 13, you and exercise are my highest priorities!!!**

**About Me: Lisa Hersrud, MAcc, CPA** I received my undergraduate degree in Accounting from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota. I am a licensed CPA in both Minnesota and Oregon. I started my career with Arthur Andersen in Minneapolis, Minnesota in the Tax Reporting Services group. My client base was composed mainly of large and mid-sized publicly traded corporations, although a few of my clients were large S-Corps and even some small partnerships. After a few years with Andersen, I transitioned from public accounting to private accounting with MTS Services, Inc., a manufacturing and engineering company based in the Minneapolis suburb of Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

In 2003, I moved to Oregon with my husband. We lived in Portland for nearly a year before relocating to Eugene during the summer of 2003. I completed the Master of Accounting program here at the U of O June. 2004. I am currently in my first term in the Doctoral program.

## Tentative Schedule

### Week 1

1. **Tuesday September 28** Hello and introductions.  
What's this course all about???? Chapter 1 An introduction to taxation
2. **Thursday, September 30** Chapter 1 continued

### Week 2

3. **Tuesday October 5** Chapter 1 and Chapter 11

About you is due today. (Must be typed)

**Homework** for Chapter 1 is due. 7, 8, 10, 11, 16, 17, 20, 25, 39, 42, 63  
Handwritten is Ok, typed is preferred but not mandatory.

FYI, I do not accept homework electronically.

OSCPA Career Showcase  
October 6, 2004  
Lloyd Center Doubletree Hotel, Portland

4. **Thursday October 7** Chapter 11 Income taxation of individuals  
Quiz at 10 AM

### Week 3

5. **Tuesday October 12** Chapter 11 continued

**Homework** for Chapter 11 is due. 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 65

6. **Thursday October 14** Read Chapter 3 Determining gross income  
Quiz at 10 AM

Beta Alpha Psi Meet the Firms  
October 14, 2004  
EMU Ballroom  
6:00 PM

Extra homework credit can be earned for attending BAP Meet the Firms. Simply turn in a 150 word essay on what you learned about yourself at the event. Your essay must be typed and it must include the name and affiliation of at least one professional accountant with whom you had a conversation. Deliver your essay to my office on Monday October 18 by 1:00 PM.

Week 4

7. **Tuesday October 19** Chapter 3 continued

**Homework** for Chapter 3 is due. 23, 24, 28, 30, 35, 41, 42, 44, 66, 69, 71

8. **Thursday October 21** Read Chapter 4 Employee compensation  
Quiz at 10 AM

Week 5

**Monday October 25**

PWC xTREME xAct Competition kickoff

[www.pwc.com/xact](http://www.pwc.com/xact)

Time and place TBA

9. **Tuesday October 26** Chapter 4 continued

**Homework** for Chapter 4 will not be collected. Suggested problems 4, 6, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37

Mid-term Student Evaluation of me. Today, in class, I am going to ask you to give me some written feedback on what you would like me to start doing, stop doing, and keep doing. I will summarize this feedback and present it to you on Thursday, November 2 with my assessment of what I would like you to start, stop, and keep doing. This is our class and if we can make it better, let's do it.

10. **Thursday October 28** First Exam. Calculators will be provided.

Week 6

**Monday November 1** One page outline of your tax project is due in my office by 1:00 PM. By Friday of this week, I will have had a 30-minute project consultation with your team.

11. **Tuesday November 2** Review Start Stop Keep

Review Exam

Review revised syllabus

Guest speaker, Steve Terry, Managing Partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers in Portland

12. **Thursday November 4** Chapter 5 Business expenses

Week 7

**Monday November 8**

PWC xTREME xAct Competition Presentations

Time and place TBA

13. **Tuesday November 9** Chapter 5 continued.

**Homework** for Chapter 5 is due. 18, 20, 25, 28, 30, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 57

14. **Thursday November 11** Chapter 6 Property acquisitions and cost recovery deductions  
Quiz at 10 AM

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14 IS THE LAST DAY TO DROP  
THIS CLASS WITH THE GRADE OF W.**

Week 8

15. **Tuesday November 16** Chapter 6 continued

**Homework** for Chapter 6 is due. 6, 8, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26, 28, 32, 33, 34, 42, 59, 62

16. **Thursday November 18** Chapter 7 Property dispositions  
Quiz at 10 AM

Week 9

17. **Tuesday November 23** Chapter 7 continued

**Homework** for Chapter 7 will not be collected. Suggested problems: 5, 6, 12, 20, 24, 26, 33, 35, 37, 38, 42, 44

**Final Projects are due on Wednesday November 24 at Noon. Deliver to my office. Unfortunately, late projects will lose 5 points for any part of a day that they are late. If you do not turn your project in on Wednesday, then by Monday, you will have lost 30 points.**

18. **Thursday November 25** Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 10

19. **Tuesday November 30** Chapter 8 Tax-deferred exchanges pages 272-288  
Chapter 10 pages 350-top of 353; page 362 Rental relief for middle-income taxpayer and  
Real property business exception

**Homework** for Chapters 8 and 10 will not be collected. Suggested problems:

Chapter 8- 20, 21, 24, 27

Chapter 10- 16, 19, 20

20. **Thursday December 2** Comprehensive Review

Week 11

21. **Wednesday December 8** Comprehensive Final Exam 7:45 AM in 312 Lillis

Have a wonderful holiday season.