THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SCHOOL
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
FIN 212a
Accounting and Financial Analysis
Fall 2012

Instructor:	Hagit Weihs
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Office Hours:	Mon 11:00-12:00

Course Description:

The primary objective of this course is to develop a fundamental understanding of financial accounting and corporate reporting issues. Students will be exposed to a variety of real world applications involving for profit financial statements. More specifically, students will acquire skills allowing them to read, interpret and analyze the income statement, balance sheet and the statement of cash flows. This course will primarily address accounting standards employed in the US (GAAP) but will acquaint students with international standards (IFRS) used by other countries in numerous accounting areas. Further, issues related to the project on the convergence of standards currently being conducted by the FASB and IASB will be discussed. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on interpreting financial statements to understand how accounting information, in a variety of decision settings, can be utilized by managers.

Course Reading:

Financial Accounting, Libby, Libby and Short, McGraw Hill, 7th Ed.

**** There is a custom soft cover version of this text available in the bookstore for a price substantially lower than the hard cover text.**

**** Please do NOT purchase the international version of the text as it will NOT correspond to the syllabus**

Additional Materials/Cases: Available on LATTE

Please bring a basic calculator to all class meetings.

Learning Goals:

Upon completion of this course, students will have a fundamental understanding of corporate financial reporting issues. Students will be able to (1) prepare, understand, and interpret the basic financial statements (statement of earnings, balance sheet and statement of cash flows) and (2) evaluate the financial well-being of an organization by employing analytical techniques that include financial ratios and trend analysis.

Course Requirements:

Performance in the course will be evaluated based upon the following:

HOMEWORK/ATTENDANCE	10%	
QUIZ	10%	
MIDTERM EXAM	25%	
FINAL EXAM	35%	
GROUP PROJECT	20%	(analysis of a company of your choice)
TOTAL	100%	

Course Policies:

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is required. Records of attendance will be kept for each class. Students are allowed one excused absence. Please notify me in advance when you are unable to make it to class.

HOMEWORK: In an accounting class, keeping up with assigned homework problems on the syllabus is critical to your success. If you do not take the time to challenge yourself and struggle with the issues in each problem, you will, in all likelihood, perform very poorly on the exams. Homework will be collected on a surprise basis. You will be allowed one homework "free pass" on a day that you choose during the semester. Please notify the TA when you decide to use this pass. Free passes may NOT be used after the fact (i.e., after you have received a poor grade on an assignment). Solutions to homework problems will be available on LATTE on the day each assignment is due in class. Homework will be returned to you by the next class meeting. If you would like to review your homework with the LATTE solutions as they become available, I would suggest you make a copy of it prior to handing it in. IMPORTANT: All homework that is handed in should be YOUR work and not the work of others.

QUIZZES AND EXAMS: ***THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS OR QUIZZES UNLESS THE STUDENT HAS A VALID EXCUSE AND NOTIFIES THE PROFESSOR IN ADVANCE.*** There will be absolutely no opportunity to assign the weight of a missed quiz or exam to another exam. If you miss a quiz or exam without a valid excuse, you will receive a grade of zero. Therefore, please make every effort in advance to ensure that you will be in attendance on the quiz and exam dates shown on the syllabus. If you have a question regarding a quiz or exam grade, you must bring it to my attention with one week of receiving the grade.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is central to the mission of educational excellence at Brandeis University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person- be it a world-class philosopher or your lab partner - without proper acknowledgement of that source. This means that you must use footnotes and quotation marks to indicate the sources of any phrases, sentences, paragraphs or ideas found in published volumes, on the internet, or created by another student. Violations of university policies on academic integrity, described in Section 3 of *Rights and Responsibilities*, may result in failure in the course or on the assignment, and could end in suspension from the University. If you are in doubt about the instructions for any assignment in this course, you must ask for clarification.

Notice: If you have a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and require accommodations, please contact Kate Goldfield (goldfiel@brandeis.edu) in Student Services and bring it to my attention prior to the second meeting of the class.

***** The course schedule shown on the following pages is tentative and subject to change at the discretion of the instructor*****

Course Schedule

CLASS SESSION	DATE	LECTURE TOPIC AND ASSIGNMENT (due next class)
1	TH8/30	Introduction to External Financial Reporting Economic Transactions and the Balance Sheet Read Chapters 1 & 2 (pgs. 42–57 only)
2	T9/4	The Balance Sheet and Income Statement/Interrelationship of the Financial Statements Global Connections A (Latte) E1-3, E1-4, P1-1, P1-2, P1-3, P1-4, CP1-2, CP1-3, CP1-4, P2-2
3	TH9/6	Analysis of Economic Events via Journal Entries Global Connections A "Revisited"
4	T9/11	Analysis of Economic Events cont. / Adjusting Journal Entries Ch. 2 (pgs. 57-78): E2-4, E2-6, P2-1, P2-3 (do #1, for #2 prepare journal entries, post to T-accts and continue with #3), P2-5
5	TH9/13	Adjusting Journal Entries Global Connections B (Latte) Ch. 3: E3-2, E3-3, E3-4, E3-5, P3-2, P3-7, CP3-2
	T9/18	**NO CLASS / ROSH HASHANAH**
	TH9/20	**NO CLASS / MONDAY ON A THURSDAY SCHEDULE**
6	T9/25	Non-recurring Items and the Income Statement Global Connections B (Continued) Ch. 4: E4-6, P4-2, P4-3, P4-5, P4-7 (1&2), CP4-6 Ch. 5 & Supplement: E5-10, E5-12, P5-6, CP5-2, CP5-4, CP5-6
7	TH9/27	**QUIZ**

CLASS SESSION	DATE	LECTURE TOPIC AND ASSIGNMENT (due next class)
8	T10/2	Accounting for Receivables
		Ch. 6: E6-9, E6-13, E6-17, E6-18, P6-1,P6-3,P6-5
9	TH10/4	Inventory Valuation and Reporting
		Ch. 7 & Supplement A: E7-7, E7-9, E7-10, E7-16, E7-17, E7-20, P7-3, P7-4, P7-8, P7-9, P7-10
	T10/9	**NO CLASS / MONDAY ON A TUESDAY SCHEDULE**
10	TH10/11	Inventory Valuation and Reporting
11	T10/16	Non-current Assets
		Ch. 8 & Supplement A: E8-1, E8-8, E8-9, E8-13, E8-23, P8-5, P8-6
12	TH10/18	Non-current Assets
13	T10/23	Understanding Audited Financial Statements/Project Introduction
14	TH10/25	Financial Statement Analysis
		Ch. 14 (reading is from Ch. 14, but homework comes from various chapters): E5-17, E14-3, E14-8, E14-9, P14-10, CP14-5, P6-6, CP6-3
15	T10/30	**MID-TERM EXAM**
16	TH11/1	Financial Statement Analysis
17	T11/6	Time Value of Money and Bond Pricing
		Ch. 9 & Supplements A,B,C: E9-9, E9-10, E9-12, E9-14, E9-15, E9-22, P9-10, P9-11, P9-12, CP9-2

CLASS SESSION	DATE	LECTURE TOPIC AND ASSIGNMENT (due next class)
18	TH11/8	Bond Pricing and the Impact of Debt Financing
		Ch.10: M10-2, M10-3, M10-4, M10-6, E10-16, E10-22, E10-23, P10-8 (1 & 3 only), P10-10, P10-12
19	T11/13	Bond Pricing and the Impact of Debt Financing
20	TH11/15	Cash Flow Analysis
		Ch. 13 & Supplement B: E13-4, E13-7, E13-9, P13-1, P13-2, P13-4 (2 only), P13-5, CP13-2, CP13-4
	TH11/15	*****LAST DAY TO DROP OR CHANGE TO AUDIT*****
21	T11/20	Cash Flow Analysis
	TH11/22	**NO CLASS / THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**
22	T11/27	Stockholders' Equity
		Ch. 11: E11-16, E11-18, E11-22, E11-24, P11-5, CP11-2, CP11-4
23	TH11/29	Stockholders' Equity
24	T12/4	Financial Statement Analysis Project Workshop
25	TH12/6	Investments
		Ch. 12: M12-3, M12-4, E12-2, E12-5, E12-6, E12-7, P12-5, P12-10, CP12-1, CP12-3, CP12-4
26	T12/11	Investments
		FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANASLYSIS PROJECT DUE

FINAL EXAM DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY THE REGISTRAR DURING THE SEMESTER - DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL PLANS UNTIL YOU KNOW THE SPECIFIC DATES/TIMES OF YOUR FINAL EXAMS

(Exam period is 12/14-12/21)