

## COURSE SYLLABUS

**Semester:** Fall, 2014

**Course Number:** ACCT B493.1

**Course Title:** Special Topics in Accounting

**Prerequisites:** Students must have completed Accounting B205 and have Junior status

**Academic Credits:** 3 semester hours

**Instructor:** Dr. Jean Meyer

**Office:** 356 Miller Hall

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**Office Hours:** T 12:30-1:30

T 3:30-4:00

W 9:30-12:00, and by appointment

**Classroom:** Miller Room 205

**Class Time:** 11:00-12:15 Tuesday, Thursday

**Course Description:** This course will help students clarify their understanding of accounting issues within specific areas of accounting, specifically cash flow statements, financial analysis from the accounting perspective, and budgeting and forecasting.

**Required Text:** As we discuss the history of Accounting, we will be reading “The Reckoning, Financial Accountability and the Rise and Fall of Nations” by Jacob Soll for class. This book can be purchased online through Amazon as a hard back or in Kindle version. You will be required to purchase a course pack which will cover the financial analysis portion of the class as long as the case studies that we will be analyzing. I will have details on how to purchase the course pack during the first week of class.

**Course Objectives:** The main objective is to expand your perspective of the fundamental nature of accounting specific to cash flow statements, financial analysis, forecasting and budgeting. Upon completion of the course students should be able:

1. To review financial analysis from the accounting perspective. This includes: evaluating performance, setting benchmarks or standards for performance, highlighting areas that need to be improved, and assessing the creditworthiness and profitability of the company.
2. To experience the financial statement and investment decision processes that follow from use of financial reports through participating in the simulation game.
3. To train to effectively research and build lesson plans and teach core elements of financial literacy to students, who range in age from kindergarten through adulthood.
4. To develop a more comprehensive understanding of accounting and economic history. The history of accounting is key to important phases of history, among the most important professions in economics and business. Accountants participated in the development of cities, trade, and the concepts of wealth and numbers.

**Evaluation Process:** Case analysis in both written and oral format, completion of a community based service learning project, completion of the simulation game “Real Money” and class

participation will be the basis for determining a student's grade in this course. The scale used in this course will be as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Point Scale</u>
A = 90-100 %	400-360
B+= 87-89%	359-348
B = 80-86 %	347-320
C+= 77-79 %	319-308
C = 70-76 %	307-280
D+ = 67-69 %	279-268
D = 60-66%	267-240
F = Less than 60%	239

**Participation, presentations, and Case Studies:** Throughout the course there will be assigned articles pertaining to the history of accounting, as well as case studies dealing with financial analysis. Students will be required to present a review of a specific article on the history of accounting to the class. Students will be expected to lead the discussion and weekly evaluations will be done to assess participation in class discussions.

In addition to participation in discussions of the articles and case studies, there will be various speakers invited to class. Quality of questions and on topic discussion with the speakers will be considered in evaluating weekly participation. Students can enhance their participation grade by volunteering throughout the semester to events sponsored by the LCPA's. These will be announced via Blackboard.

**Service Learning Project:** This year is the tenth anniversary of the AICPA and LCPA financial literacy. The class will be participating in developing and presenting to specific non-profit groups in New Orleans on areas of interest in financial literacy. Details of the service learning project will be discussed during the first week of classes. This project will be worth 100 points of the final grade. Along with participation in the project, there will be several reflective papers, and evaluations done by participants and audience.

**"Real Money" an Accounting Simulation Game:** The objective of this simulation game is for you to apply the accounting cycle in a dynamic business environment and experience the financial statement and investment decision processes that follow from use of financial reports. Each student does the accounting for their experience using journal entries and T-accounts. You will then prepare an Annual Report to Stockholders including a balance sheet, income statement, statement of cash flows and statement of stockholders equity.

After the entire class has had an opportunity to read all the annual reports and perform financial statement analysis, then each student buys shares of stock in those companies expected to dominate or monopolize each local market. After students complete their investments, they are ready to return and play year two of their game.

The simulation game continues until annual reports have been prepared for four years. At that time the play of the game and investment winners are declared and Real Money is over. Details can be found on the Blackboard. This simulation game will be worth 100 points of the final class grade. Top class winner will be awarded bonus points.

**Academic Integrity:** In this course honesty, integrity and respect for others are fundamental expectations. The student bulletin states, "All academic work will be done by the student to

whom it is assigned without unauthorized data or help of any kind. A student who supplies another with such data or help is considered deserving of the same sanctions as the recipient. Specifically, cheating, plagiarism, and misrepresentation are prohibited. Plagiarism is defined by Alexander Lindley as “the false assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the product of another person’s mind, and presenting it as one’s own” (Plagiarism and Originality). “Plagiarism may take the form of repeating another’s sentences as your own, adopting a particularly apt phrase as your own, paraphrasing someone else’s argument as your own, or even presenting someone else’s line of thinking in the development of a thesis as though it were your own.” (MLA Handbook, 1985). A student who is found to have cheated on any examination may be given a failing grade in the course. In case of a second violation, the student may be excluded for one or two terms or dismissed from the university.

A student who engages in cheating, plagiarism, or misrepresentation on term papers, seminar papers, quizzes, laboratory reports, and such may receive a sanction of a failing grade in the course. A second offense may be cause for exclusion or dismissal from the university. Faculty members are required to report immediately to the dean of the student’s college any case of cheating, plagiarism, or misrepresentation which he or she has encountered and, later, the manner in which it was resolved.

The dean of the student’s college should apprise the student of the serious consequences of cheating, plagiarism, and misrepresentation as well as of the appeals procedure open to the student in such cases.”

**Classroom Policies:** The University policy on attendance states that missing more than ten percent of regularly-scheduled classes is considered excessive. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a professional business manner. This includes arriving to class on time. Late arrivals should be infrequent, if you are late for class it is your responsibility to see me after class to ensure that you are credited with attending class.

In order to maintain an optimal learning environment, all cell phones must be silenced before class starts. There is no eating or drinking in the classrooms. Any disruptive activities within or outside the classroom will not be tolerated. Students are expected to read all assigned chapters before coming to class, and to have completed all homework assignments prior to coming to class.

Loyola University is committed to complying with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a disability that qualifies for accommodations should contact the Academic Resource Center at 865-2990 (Office of Disability Services, Room 112, Marquette Hall). A student wishing to receive a test accommodation should provide the instructor with an official Accommodation Form from Disability Services in advance of the scheduled test date.

**Responsibilities of Students According to the University Hurricane Evacuation Policy:** At times, ordinary university operations are interrupted as a result of tropical storms, hurricanes, or other emergencies that require evacuation or suspension of on-campus activities. To prepare for such emergencies, all students will do the following during the first week of classes:

1. Practice signing on for each course through Blackboard.
2. Provide regular and alternative e-mail address and phone contact information to each instructor.

△ In the event of an interruption to our course due to the result of an emergency requiring an evacuation or suspension of campus activities, students will:

3. Pack textbooks, assignments, syllabi and any other needed materials for each course ad bring during an evacuation/suspension
4. Keep up with course work during the evacuation/suspension as specified on course syllabi and on-line Blackboard courses.
5. Complete any reading and/or writing assignments given by professors before emergency began.
  - ▲ Assuming a power source is available....
6. Log on to university Web site within 48 hours of an evacuation/suspension.
7. Monitor the main university site ([www.loyno.edu](http://www.loyno.edu)) for general information.
8. Log on to each course through Blackboard or e-mail within 48 hours of an evacuation/suspension to receive further information regarding contacting course instructors for assignments, etc.
9. Complete Blackboard and/or other online assignments posted by professors (students are required to turn in assignments on time during the evacuation/suspension period and once the university campus has reopened.)
10. Contact professors during an evacuation/suspension (or as soon as classes resume on campus) to explain any emergency circumstances that may have prevented them from completing expected work.

Further information about student responsibilities in emergencies is available on the Academic Affairs web site: <http://academicaffairs.loyno.edu/students-emergency-responsibilities>