



NYU

**ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

HPAM-GP 4130

Fundamentals of Accounting Spring 2024

Instructor Information

- Kimberly Lyons
- Email: krl6905@nyu.edu
- Office Address:
- Office Hours: By appointment.

Course Information

- Class Meeting Times: 4:55pm – 6:35pm (1/23/2024-3/5/2024)
- Class Location: 31 Washington Pl (Silver Ctr) Room 618

Course Prerequisites

- The required course prerequisite is to have completed or placed out of Financial Management for Public, Nonprofit, and Health Organizations (CORE-GP.1021).

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide students with essential skills of financial accounting. While CORE GP 1021, Wagner's core course in Financial Management for Public, Nonprofit and Health Organizations, provides students with the tools necessary to understand and use financial information it does not delve into the specific techniques related to generating financial information, including forecasting financial statements in both nonprofit and for-profit settings.

Topics covered include fundamental accounting principles, the transaction recording process (double entry accounting, journal entries, T-accounts, adjusting entries, closing entries), and financial statement analysis. We will focus on both for-profit and nonprofit accounting, with a focus on healthcare accounting principles. organizations worldwide use the approaches we will cover in this course.

Course and Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to identify the basic principles of accounting and understand the importance of accurate financial reporting.
- Students will learn how to record basic financial transactions and how they apply to income statements and balance sheets.
- Students will learn how to recognize and interpret financial ratios.
- Students will understand the basic concepts of capital financing and its role in both non-profit and for-profit accounting.

Required Readings

The readings, cases and other material for the course will come from the following sources:

- **Textbook** - Wild, John (2019). Financial Accounting Fundamentals, 8th Edition. New York: McGraw Hill Education. (The 6th and 7th editions may be more affordable and are also acceptable).
- **NYU Brightspace** - Brightspace will be used to post readings and other items to support class discussions and assignments. Assignments will be found on Brightspace throughout the semester and should be submitted there as well. Students are encouraged to check Brightspace frequently.

Assessment Assignments and Evaluation

[This section is a brief overview of the assignments and elements that factor into a student's final grade. Also make note of which course learning objective is assessed in each assessment, or if all are assessed. Below is an example:]

Individual Assessment

- Class participation (25%)- includes presence, promptness, preparation, professionalism and engagement.
- Homework Assignments (25%) – submitted via Brightspace
- Case Study (25%)- submitted via Brightspace
- Final exam, (25%)
 - This is a closed book exam.

Late Submission Policy for Assignments

All deadlines should be taken as firm except in the case of unavoidable and unanticipated circumstances that are communicated in advance. In lieu of other arrangements, the default will be that late assignments will be subject to a 1/2 letter grade (5%) reduction for each day late. It is difficult to accept an assignment after it has been discussed in class.

Extensions will be granted only in case of emergency, out of respect to those who abide by deadlines despite equally hectic schedules. I will accept approved late work (extension granted) up to one week after the original due date.

Overview of the Semester

- Week 1
 - Date: January 23
 - Topic: Introduction to Accounting Principles
- Week 2
 - Date: January 30
 - Topic: Recording Financial Transactions (T-accounts & Journal Entries)
 - Deliverable: Assignment #1 due at 5pm on February 5th
- Week 3
 - Date: February 6
 - Topic: Preparation of Financial Statements & the Accounting Cycle
 - Deliverable: Assignment #2 due at 5pm on February 12
- Week 4
 - Date: February 13
 - Topic: Capital Financing Overview (Debt & Equity)
 - Deliverable: Assignment #3 due at 5pm on February 19
- Week 5
 - Date: February 20
 - Topic: Financial Statements Analysis, Financial Ratios & Internal Controls
 - Deliverable: Assignment #4 due at 5pm on February 26
- Week 6
 - Date: February 27
 - Topic: Healthcare Accounting and Analysis
 - Final Exam Prep
 - Deliverable Case Study due at 5pm March 4
- Week 7
 - Date: March 5
 - Topic: Final Exam

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Points
A	4.0 points
A-	3.7 points

B+	3.3 points
B	3.0 points
B-	2.7 points
C+	2.3 points
C	2.0 points
C-	1.7 points
F	0.0 points

Student grades will be assigned according to the following criteria:

- (A) Excellent: Exceptional work for a graduate student. Work at this level is unusually thorough, well-reasoned, creative, methodologically sophisticated, and well written. Work is of exceptional, professional quality.
- (A-) Very good: Very strong work for a graduate student. Work at this level shows signs of creativity, is thorough and well-reasoned, indicates strong understanding of appropriate methodological or analytical approaches, and meets professional standards.
- (B+) Good: Sound work for a graduate student; well-reasoned and thorough, methodologically sound. This is the graduate student grade that indicates the student has fully accomplished the basic objectives of the course.
- (B) Adequate: Competent work for a graduate student even though some weaknesses are evident. Demonstrates competency in the key course objectives but shows some indication that understanding of some important issues is less than complete. Methodological or analytical approaches used are adequate but student has not been thorough or has shown other weaknesses or limitations.
- (B-) Borderline: Weak work for a graduate student; meets the minimal expectations for a graduate student in the course. Understanding of salient issues is somewhat incomplete. Methodological or analytical work performed in the course is minimally adequate. Overall

performance, if consistent in graduate courses, would not suffice to sustain graduate status in “good standing.”

- (C/-/+) Deficient: Inadequate work for a graduate student; does not meet the minimal expectations for a graduate student in the course. Work is inadequately developed or flawed by numerous errors and misunderstanding of important issues. Methodological or analytical work performed is weak and fails to demonstrate knowledge or technical competence expected of graduate students.
- (F) Fail: Work fails to meet even minimal expectations for course credit for a graduate student. Performance has been consistently weak in methodology and understanding, with serious limits in many areas. Weaknesses or limits are pervasive.

A	> 93.0	4.0
A-	> 90.0	3.7
B +	> 87.0	3.3
B	> 83.0	3.0
B-	> 80.0	2.7
C+	> 77.0	2.3
C	> 73.0	2.0
C-	> 70.0	1.7
F	< 70.0	0.0

Detailed Course Overview

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION: OVERVIEW OF ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

Session Topics

1. Key accounting terms and concepts
2. Basic accounting principles
3. The role of accounting in decision making
4. Importance of accurate financial reporting

Discussion Questions

Recommended Reading

1. [Brightspace – Other Tools - Media Gallery] [Financial Statements Refresher](#) (This video lecture was originally recorded for PADM-GP 4315 – the former Excel modeling course - in 2021). The Brightspace Media Gallery link will not work in Safari, but the direct link above should.

WEEK 2: Recording Financial Transactions (T-accounts & Journal Entries)

Session Topics

1. Brief recap of week 1 and recommended readings
2. Accounting equations and transactions
3. Journal Entries
4. Adjustments
5. Financial statement preparation

Discussion Questions

Resources

1. [Online video]. Link to "[T accounts](#)"
2. [Online video]. Link to "[Accounting Basics: Debits and Credits Explained](#)"
3. [Online video]. Link to "[Accounting Skills: Rules of Debits and Credits](#)"

WEEK 3: Financial Statement Analysis (Financial Ratios)

Session Topics

1. Components and Analysis of the Income Statement
2. Components and Analysis of the Balance Sheet
3. Key Financial Ratios for different organizations

Discussion Questions

Resources

1. Wild text, Chapter 13

2. [Brightspace Resources Tab] Financial ratios cheat sheet

WEEK 4: Capital Financing Overview (Debt & Equity)

Session Topics

1. Understanding capital financing
2. Sources of capital financing
3. Cost of capital
4. Capital structure

Discussion Questions

Resources

1. Online Videos

WEEK 5: Preparation of Financial Statements & Internal Controls

Session Topics

1. Review of primary financial statements
2. The accounting cycle
3. Types of internal controls

Discussion Questions

Resources

WEEK 6: Healthcare Accounting and Analysis

Session Topics

1. Key concepts of healthcare accounting
2. Healthcare accounting principles
3. Key financial ratios in healthcare accounting
4. Final Exam Prep

Discussion Questions

Recommended Reading

1. [Brightspace Resources Tab] “Health Care Providers”, Chapter 14 in Granof, Khumawala, Calabrese, and Smith, Government and Not-for-profit Accounting
2. [Brightspace Resources Tab] New York and Presbyterian Hospital 2019 Financial Statements; please be sure to read the statements as well as Notes 2, 8 and 11 (you can skim the other notes)
3. [Online article]. Link to "New York–Presbyterian loses \$128M in first quarter as COVID-19 takes its toll"

WEEK 7: Final Exam

Session Topics

1. Final Exam
2. Course wrap-up and conclusion

Brightspace

All announcements, resources, and assignments will be delivered through the Brightspace site. I may modify assignments, due dates, and other aspects of the course as we go through the term with advance notice provided as soon as possible through the course website.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a vital component of Wagner and NYU. All students enrolled in this class are required to read and abide by [Wagner's Academic Code](#). All Wagner students have already read and signed the [Wagner Academic Oath](#). Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated and students in this class are expected to report violations to me. If any student in this class is unsure about what is expected of you and how to abide by the academic code, you should consult with me.

Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Student Accessibility

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please visit the [Moses Center for Students with Disabilities \(CSD\) website](#) and click the “Get Started” button. You can also call or email CSD (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are strongly advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays

[NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#) states that members of any religious group may, without penalty, absent themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. You must notify me in advance of religious holidays or observances that might coincide with exams, assignments, or class times to schedule mutually acceptable alternatives. Students may also contact religiousaccommodations@nyu.edu for assistance.

NYU's Wellness Exchange

[NYU's Wellness Exchange](#) has extensive student health and mental health resources. A private hotline (212-443-9999) is available 24/7 that connects students with a professional who can help them address day-to-day challenges as well as other health-related concerns.

Class Policies

Attendance: This is a brief course with only seven class meetings. Attendance and participation is required.

An absence may be accepted for an extraordinary circumstance and will require documentation. The absence must be requested in advance.

Any student who misses class without prior communication and approval, or who misses more than one class, is at risk of receiving "0" on this portion of the course grade.

Late Submission Policy: All deadlines should be taken as firm except in the case of unavoidable and unanticipated circumstances that are communicated in advance. In lieu of other arrangements, the default will be that late assignments will be subject to a 1/2 letter grade (5%) reduction for each day late. It is difficult to accept an assignment after it has been discussed in class.

Extensions will be granted only in case of emergency, out of respect to those who abide by deadlines despite equally hectic schedules. I will accept approved late work (extension granted) up to one week after the original due date.

Contact: Email (krl6905@nyu.edu) is the best method for reporting illness or emergencies or general contact.

Response Time: Please allow 12-24 hours for a response via email.

[incomplete policy](#)

[course withdrawal policy](#)