New York University

Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

PAD-GP 4130 (2 Credits)

FUNDAMENTALS OF ACCOUNTING
Spring 2013
Waverly Building, 3rd floor room 366
8:35 p.m. – 10:15 p.m.

Professor: Stewart M. Presser, Vice President, Greater New York Hospital Association

The purpose of this course is to provide students with essential skills of financial accounting. P11.1021, Wagner’s core course in Financial Management for Public, Non-profit and Health Organizations provides students with the tools necessary to understand and use financial information. However, 1021, does not delve into many of the specific techniques related to generating financial information. In many careers pursued by graduates of the Wagner School, knowledge of such technical details will be useful, and in some cases it may be necessary. This course seeks to fill that need.

Topics covered include debits and credits, the recording process (including double entry accounting, T accounts, journal entries, adjusting entries, closing entries, and financial statement preparation), accounts receivable (including allowances for bad debts and aging schedules. We will focus on both for-profit and not-for-profit accounting. All organizations use the basics of what will be covered in this course.

Text: Fundamentals of Accounting Custom Edition for NYU –Wagner, Pearson Learning Solutions. This text was customized for students and is an extract of Introduction to Financial Accounting, 10 edition, Horngren, Sundem, Elliott and Philbrick.

LECTURES

Class 1
Jan. 31
Chapter 1 - Accounting: The Language of Business - Types of entities and the need for financial information. Review balance sheet components; analyze business transactions and how they relate to the balance sheet.

Chapter 2 - Measuring Income to Assess Performance - Understand how income is recorded and measured, use the matching principle to record expenses.

Chapter 3 - Recording Transactions - Double entry accounting (debits and credits); analyze and journalize transactions; posting journal entries to ledger accounts; prepare and use a trial balance; use T accounts to analyze accounting relationships, “closing the books.”

Class 2
Feb. 7
Further discussion of Chapter 3 and homework review of Chapters 3, see assignment sheet for problems that will be discussed this class. The remaining problems will be reviewed Feb. 14th.
Class 3
Feb. 14
Chapter 4 - Accrual Accounting and Financial Statements - Understand the role of adjustments in accrual accounting; make adjustments to both revenue and expenses in order to achieve the matching principle. Prepare classified balance sheet and single and multi-type income statements

Class 4
Feb. 21
Review Chapter 4 homework
Chapter 6 - Accounting for Sales and Revenue - Record sales, adjustments/allowances, evaluate accounts receivable and reserve for bad debts. Handling of revenue and allowances for hospitals will be reviewed. Hospital financial statements presentation of bad debts and charity care will be discussed.

TAKE HOME FINAL PORTION OF FINAL WILL BE GIVEN OUT.

Class 5
Feb. 28
Review Chapter 6 homework
Chapter 7 - Inventories and Cost of Goods Sold - focus will be on recording cost of goods sold and developing gross profit.

Class 6
Mar. 7
Review Chapter 7 homework
Review for in-class final

Class 7
Mar. 14
FINAL EXAMINATION IN CLASS, PART 2 and SUBMISSION OF PART ONE OF THE FINAL EXAM

Assignments

There will be weekly assignments see hand out. Students are expected to complete the assignments on dates indicated and handed in for review. We will go over the problems in class. The homework assignments are an integral part of the class work. PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE DATE INDICATED ON THE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT SHEET. WORK MUST BE IN MS-WORD OR EXCEL. HAND WRITTEN WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. YOUR NAME MUST BE IN THE UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER OF THE FIRST PAGE. ALL SHEETS MUST BE STAPLED.

ALL CLASS MATERIAL WILL BE POSTED ON THE BLACKBOARD

Grading

The final exams will comprise 80% of the course grade. The final will be in two (2) parts: Part one, a take home problem (a skill set problem) and part two (a test of accounting theory) will be given in class. The final exam grading will account for 80% of the final grade: take home 30%, in class 70%. Timely completion of the homework will make up the balance of the grade (20%).

Office Hours
You may reach me during the day via e-mail at sp19@nyu.edu. I will be available to meet with any student on an individual basis if necessary. Please contact me via e-mail.