

Syllabus
Accounting and Finance for Lawyers
Fall, 2011
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The objectives of this course are to develop basic accounting and finance knowledge and skills, to enable the student to use the knowledge and skills to understand the financial condition of organizations and the financial environment in which they operate, and to integrate the subject matter with the analytical and practical skills necessary to the practice of law.

Statement: All students who wish to remain in the class are required to sign and return in the first week of class a statement that they have not previously taken more than one semester of either accounting or finance.

Attendance: The Law Center's rules of attendance apply.

Grades: There will be regular weekly assignments to develop analytical skills; these will be discussed in class. Assignments must be turned in at the start of class on the date they are due and completion will be recorded, but they will not be graded. Since the primary purpose of weekly assignments is to build understanding, the substance may be discussed with others in the class, but the assignments must be individually completed. The final exam counts for 85% of the final grade. The remaining 15% will be based on completion of regular assignments and class contributions.

Assigned Text:

Introductory Accounting, Finance and Auditing for Lawyers
by Lawrence A. Cunningham
Fifth Edition, 2010
West Group

Suggested: Subscribe to Wall Street Journal and read daily

Readings for First Week:

Cunningham, pp. 2-30

Class 1: Tuesday, August 23

Distribute Statement for signature
Introduction to the Course; its purpose and scope.
Why do lawyers need to know this stuff?
Who uses accounting information?
What is Accounting? What is Finance? How are they different?

Class 2: Thursday, August 25

Business in Society.
Basic business concepts and terminology.
Financial accounting and other kinds of accounting.

Readings for next week: Cunningham, pp. 31–53
Assignment for next Thursday: Cunningham, Prob. 2A (p. 41)

Class 3: Tuesday, August 30

Introduction to Bookkeeping.
The Balance Sheet.
The Fundamental Equation.
Assets; Liabilities; Owner's Equity.
Debits/Credits (Left side/Right side).
Journal entries.
T accounts.
The major Balance Sheet accounts defined.
Work with entries and T account examples.

Class 4: Thursday, September 1

Do Problem 2A in class.
The Income Statement.
Relation of Income Statement to Balance Sheet.
Work with Revenue and Expense entries and T accounts.
Recap Balance Sheet and Income Statement.
Extraordinary items; Other Comprehensive Income.
Statement of Changes in Owners Equity - introduction.

Readings for next week: Cunningham, pp. 55–90
Assignment for next Tuesday: Cunningham, Prob. 2B (p. 53).
Assignment for next Thursday: Prob. 3, (p. 67).

Class 5: Tuesday, September 6

Do Prob. 2B in class.

Revisit: how Accounting differs from Bookkeeping

Introduction to Accrual Accounting concepts.

Accrual Accounting: Deferral of Expense – Inventory.

Class 6: Thursday, September 8

Do Prob. 3 in class.

Accrual Accounting: Deferral of Expense - Depreciation.

Readings for next week: Cunningham, pp. 92–112, 114–119, 131–135.

Assignment for next Tuesday: Prob. 4B (p. 90).

Assignment for next Monday: Problem 5 (p. 112).

Class 7: Tuesday, September 13

Do Problems 4B.

Depletion, Intangibles, Goodwill.

Deferral of Revenue.

Class 8: Thursday, September 15

Do problem 5 in class.

Accrual Accounting: Accrual of Expense and Revenue.

Readings for next week: Cunningham, pp. 151–171, 214–232, handout (p. 163 of 3d ed).

Assignment for next Thursday: Cunningham, Prob. 7B; Prob. 9A (p. 239) Note: To do this problem, use facts from Prob. 6 (p. 147), F/S you developed in Prob. 4B, and Oct. 31 F/S supplied by me.

Class 9: Tuesday, September 20

Statement of changes in OE – discuss handout.

The “cash cycle”.

The Statement of Cash Flows.

Relation to Income Statement. (Work through examples in class.)

Class 10: Thursday, September 22

Do Problem 7B in class.
What Net Income does not show.
Cash flow – critical concepts.
Do Problem 9A in class.

Reading for next week: Cunningham, pp. 172–210
Assignment for next Monday: Cunningham, Prob. 8 (p. 210).

Class 11: Tuesday, September 27

Financial statement analysis.
Footnotes to the financial statements.
Ratio analysis: the common ratios; who uses them and why.
Common size analysis and industry standards.
“Leverage” – the double-edged sword.

Class 12: Thursday, September 29

Do Problem 8 in class.
Financial Analysis, continued.
What is “profit”? Introduction to the Cost of Capital.
The Auditors Report.
The M.D. & A.

Reading for next week: Cunningham, pp. 353–405
Assignment for next Tuesday: Prob. 9B (p. 238).

Class 13: Tuesday, October 4

Do Problem 9B in class.
History of Auditing
GAAS
Auditing: The process.
Internal Controls and Accurate Records – what and why
FCPA; SEC; Sarbanes-Oxley.

Class 14: Thursday, October 6

Duties of the Auditor
Can auditors catch fraud? Should they be required to?

Auditor Liability.

Sarbanes-Oxley and auditors, Board, corporate officers, attorneys.

The Lawyer's Role

Reading for Class 15: Cunningham, pp. 408–456

Reading for Class 16: Assigned Annual Report – read material up to F/S

Class 15: Tuesday, October 11

Common Accounting Shenanigans.

Red Flags.

Class 16: Thursday, October 13

Introduction to reading Annual Report: Auditor's report, President's letter, MD&A.

For class discussion: perform analysis of F/S per handout instructions.

Class 17: Tuesday, October 18

In class: Analysis and discussion of F/S in annual report.

Class 18: Thursday, October 20

Using accounting concepts in drafting and negotiation

Reading for next week: Cunningham, pp. 241–264

Class 19: Tuesday, October 25

Introduction to Finance – basic principles.

Time value of money.

Discount rates.

Introduction and basic calculations

Class 20: Thursday, October 27

The “Engineering Economics” variations on the time value of money theme.

ROI, IRR, amortization, annuities, sinking funds, payback periods.

Readings for next week: Cunningham, pp. 119–126, 267–293

Assignment for next Tuesday: Cunningham, Prob. 10 (p.264);
Assignment for next Thursday: Cunningham, Prob.s 11A, 11C (pp. 293, 294)

Class 21: Tuesday, November 1

Do Problem 10 in class
Valuation of Securities: introduction, with revisit to time value of money.
Accounting for securities, an exception to the rule of historical cost.

Class 22: Thursday, November 3

Do Problems 11A, 11C in class

Class 23: Tuesday, November 8

Money: What is it?
Credit.
The Banking System.
Interest rates.
Common financial instruments.

Class 24: Thursday November 10

Inflation: causes; effects; implications for accounting; valuation.
More on securities valuation.
Accounting for securities.

Readings for Classes 25, 26: Cunningham: pp. 233–238, 295–320.

Class 25: Tuesday, November 15

Financial Markets – overview and discussion of the major markets.
Market Regulation.
How well do markets value?
Efficient markets theory.

Class 26: Thursday, November 17

Some basic statistical theory.
Introduction to portfolio theory.

Readings for next week: Cunningham, pp. 126–130, 135–146
Assignment for next Tuesday: Cunningham, Prob. 12A (p. 320)

Class 27: Tuesday, November 22

Do Problem 12A in class
Risk.
Shifting and spreading risk: old and new techniques
Derivatives: concepts and uses.
Common derivatives.
Valuation of derivatives.
Regulation of derivatives.

[NO CLASS Thursday, November 24 – Holiday]

Class 27: Tuesday, November 29

[RESERVED for emergency day makeup]

Class 28: Thursday, December 1

LAST CLASS

Lease or Buy?

“Off–Balance Sheet Financing”: Equity accounting for ownership; operating leases
Variable Interest Entities (previously, SPEs) and other advanced concepts.

Final Exam: December 8, 9:00 am – Noon.