

**ACCOUNTING 5310
CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNTING ISSUES
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
SPRING 2022**

Instructor Contact Information

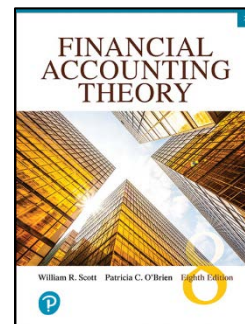
Instructor: Dr. David Folsom, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Accounting
 Office: 254 Business Administration Building (Main Campus)
 Telephone: (915) 747-7759
 Email (best): dmfolsom@utep.edu (Please note I do not check my email on Sundays.)
 Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm via Zoom, or by appointment as needed (email me for an alternate appointment).
 Office Hours [Zoom Link](#)
 Office Hours Meeting ID: 846 3267 3255
 Office Hours Passcode: Folsom22

Required Course Materials

Textbook: Scott & O'Brien, *Financial Accounting Theory* 8e, Pearson, 2020. ISBN 978-0-13-416668-1.

Technology:

- (1) Course Webpage on Blackboard (please check often).
- (2) Authorized Zoom account.
- (3) Computer with web camera and microphone.
- (4) Respondus Lock-Down Browser ([instructions](#)).
- (5) Basic computer software (word processing, spreadsheet, pdf reader, etc.).
- (6) Non-programmable calculator

**Course Description**

We will study:

- Development of accounting theory for financial reporting.
- Controversial issues involved in the measurement and reporting of enterprise periodic income.
- Authoritative pronouncements.

Course Learning Objectives

After completing this course, students will:

- Understand the basic theoretical foundations of corporate financial reporting in a market economy.
- Be able to discuss theories on how accounting information is reflected in security pricing.
- Understand how information asymmetry affects financial reporting.
- Be able to explain basic theories underlying earnings management behavior.
- Gain increased understanding of how academic research informs accounting thought and financial reporting standard setting.
- Show increased proficiency in critical thinking skills.

Grades

Final letter grades will be based on the following items (weighted as follows):

Final Exam:

Final Comprehensive Exam: Due Thursday, May 12th by 11:59 pm 400 points

Assignments:

Information Picture Sheet: Due Saturday, May 9th before class 25 points

Reading Discussion Boards (9): Due before most class meetings 225 points

Homework Assignments (4): Due before appropriate class meetings 300 points

In-Class Participation:

50 points

Total Possible Points

1,000 points

Grades are assigned using the following scale:

Grade Level	Achievement	Percentage of Points
A	Excellent	90.0 to 100.0%
B	Good	80.0 to 89.9%
C	Average	70.0 to 79.9%
D	Below Average but Passing	60.0 to 60.9%
F	Failure	< 60%

Please note that I reserve the right to relax these cut-off points depending upon class performance.

Final Exam (400 points)

The final exam will be offered online and will be available after the last class meeting (May 7th) and will be due by 11:59 pm on Thursday, May 12th. Students will be required to use the Respondus LockDown browser to take the exam via Blackboard. Additional information about downloading this tool is available on Blackboard. For the exam, students should use a computer with a camera for monitoring purposes.

Students may reference hard copies of their class notes, printed out papers, and the textbook while taking the final exam. Online materials, however, are not allowed and accessing online materials will be considered cheating on the final exam. The final will be a timed exam once students begin the exam and is to be completed in one session.

Re-grading Exams: All questions regarding exam grading must be submitted ***in writing*** to me ***within three days after the exam is graded.*** Students will have opportunity to examine graded exams via appointment. Re-grading requests submitted after the deadline will not be honored ***for any reason.***

Information Sheet (25 Points)

Students will create and submit a one-page pdf with a headshot picture and some basic information, along with a current resume. This assignment is to be turned in electronically on Blackboard and will be shared with the class via a discussion board. Additional information can be found on Blackboard.

Reading Discussion Boards (9 * 25 points each = 225 total points)

Before all class meetings (except the first class meeting), students will be asked to briefly answer questions about the assigned readings. Students will also be required to comment on other students' responses to these questions. The lowest discussion board score will be substituted with a perfect score (effectively dropping a student's lowest reading discussion board score). Each discussion board assignment will be worth twenty-five points and will be graded on a continuous scale between zero and twenty-five points. Approximate points in this scale are as follows:

25 points	Evidence of legitimate effort made to complete all assigned questions with reasonable answers and good writing; thoughtful responses to other students' ideas are given.
10 points	All questions are not addressed or answers suggest inadequate effort and/or poor writing; little or no apparent effort in responding to other students' answers.
0 points	Discussions are not submitted on time, or answers suggest little or no effort, or answers are obviously copied or similar to another student's answers; inappropriate responses are given to other students' answers.

Homework Assignments (4 * 75 points each = 300 total points)

Four homework assignments will be due at various times during the class and will be submitted via Blackboard. ***Homework will be due before the associated class period without exception (including absence or internet connection difficulties).*** The assignments are used to assess student understanding of what is covered in class. Homework must be done individually, though students may discuss the problems with classmates. Students will be graded on the accuracy, reasonableness, correctness, and clarity of their answers. Each homework assignment will be worth seventy-five points. No make-up assignments will be offered for any reason.

Class Participation (50 points)

All students are expected to attend class and actively participate. Participation credit will be given based on the *quality and quantity* of participation. Generally, the more a student volunteers answers or asks questions, the higher the participation credit will be. For full credit, students should average *two insightful* comments or questions per class meeting. The class will have ten meetings and students should average (at minimum) twenty *noticeable* comments or questions during the semester (worth about two and one-half points per comment). Participation should also be somewhat evenly spaced throughout the semester (rather than during just a few class meetings) for full credit. The top ten percent of students who have exceptional in-class participation may also receive participation bonus points and receive a participation score greater than 50 points (up to 75 points for the best participating student).

Unexplained absences/tardiness will result in negative participation credit. If a student cannot attend class or needs to come late for any reason, please communicate with the instructor the reason for the absence or tardiness *before* class. If a student is absent without proper communication, he or she will lose ten participation points per absence. Even if a student has justifiable reasons for an absence and has communicated these reasons with the instructor, the student cannot earn positive participation points for that class period because he or she is not in attendance. Due to the accelerated schedule of this course, if a student is absent for more than three class periods for any reason (except university-approved absences) or documented illness (i.e., a positive COVID-19 test), he or she will receive a failing grade (F).

Unprofessional behavior (such as unapproved cell phone use, texting, inappropriate discussions, and/or tardiness) will result in negative participation points. Please turn off cell phone notifications before class begins to minimize disruptions. Electronic devices are allowed in class if used for class purposes (e.g., accessing course materials, taking notes, using Excel to solve in-class problems, etc.).

Extra Credit

No extra credit (except for outstanding class participation described above) will be offered to any student, for any reason.

Course Timing

To receive a grade in this course, students must complete all course requirements within the term of the course according to the outline and schedule given in the syllabus.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Students are encouraged to discuss homework assignments with other classmates. However, copying work from any source, including classmates, homework files, the Internet, previous students of the class, etc. is NOT acceptable. **Submitting material that has been copied constitutes plagiarism and will be treated as cheating.** All students are expected to complete their own work and to abide by the [Handbook of Operating Procedures](#) available in the Dean of Students Office. The final exam should reflect students' individual efforts. **Any suspected cheating during the final exam or assignments will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.**

Two technologies will be used to ensure the integrity of student-submitted work. For uploaded assignments, the coursework will be submitted through SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality to ensure sources are properly attributed rather than paraphrased. The final exam will be administered using the Respondus LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitor, a UTEP-approved test proctoring software. Students will need a reliable internet connection and a web camera. These items can be checked out from UTEP's main library if needed.

Campus Carry

Because the Graduate Business Center is leased and not owned by UTEP, the Graduate Business Center is an exclusion zone for UTEP's campus carry policies. Therefore, no weapons are allowed at the Graduate Business Center facility at any time as per the lease agreement.

Academic Standing Rules (from UTEP Graduate Catalog)

Students admitted into graduate programs must remove all admissions conditions within one semester. Failure to meet conditions within one semester can result in dismissal from the Graduate School. Students admitted into a graduate program must maintain a 3.0 or better cumulative grade point average in all coursework including undergraduate courses approved for graduate credit.

A student admitted into a graduate program and whose cumulative grade point average drops below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation. The student must return the cumulative grade point average to a 3.0 by the next nine (9) hours of study. Failure to meet the 3.0 grade point average requirement during the probationary period will result in dismissal from the Graduate School.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If a student has or suspects a disability and need accommodations, he or she should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 as soon as possible. Students may also email the office at cass@utep.edu or visit the office in the Union Building East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>.

Course Calendar

A ***tentative*** course calendar with a class-by-class description of course activities can be found below. It includes the topics to be covered each class meeting, assignments, and all due dates. Be aware that the precise flow of the course may change based on learning needs and these dates may need to be adjusted slightly from time to time. Modifications to the schedule and changes in course requirements will be announced in class AND/OR through Blackboard. Please check Blackboard often to be abreast of these changes.

Date	What's Due?	Before-Class Readings	Topic(s)
Wed., 4/6		Textbook Chapter 1 Waymire & Basu (2008) through Ch. 3 (pp. 1-18) & Table 1 (pp. 113-119) FASB Conceptual Framework #8, Chapter 1 (2021) FASB Conceptual Framework #8, Chapter 3 (2018)	Course Overview History of Accounting Concepts Underlying Accounting Objectives of Financial Reporting
Sat., 4/9	<i>Meeting #2 Discussion Board Introduction Sheet</i>	Textbook Chapter 2 Paton & Littleton (1940) through Ch. 2 (pp. 1-23) FASB Conceptual Framework #8, Chapter 4 (2021) Introduction (pp. 1-7) to FASB Conceptual Framework #7 (2021)	Present Value Models Concepts Underlying Accounting (Continued)
Wed., 4/13	<i>Meeting #3 Discussion Board</i>	Textbook Chapter 3 Paton & Littleton (1940) Ch. 3 – Ch. 6 (pp. 24-117) FASB Conceptual Framework #8, Chapter 7 (2021)	Decision Usefulness Concepts Underlying Accounting (Continued) Presentation Concepts

Date	What's Due?	Before-Class Readings	Topic(s)
Sat., 4/16	Homework #1 <i>Meeting #4</i> <i>Discussion Board</i>	Textbook Chapter 4 FASB Conceptual Framework #8, Chapter 8 (2021) Gordon & Porter (2009) Li (2010), pp. 221-230	Efficient Markets Disclosure Concepts Reading Academic Research
Wed., 4/20	<i>Meeting #5</i> <i>Discussion Board</i>	Textbook Chapter 5 Nichols & Wahlen (2004) Beaver (1973)	Value Relevance of Accounting Information
Sat., 4/23	Homework #2 <i>Meeting #6</i> <i>Discussion Board</i>	Textbook Chapter 6 Watts (2003)	Measurement Approaches Accounting Conservatism
Wed., 4/27	<i>Meeting #7</i> <i>Discussion Board</i>	Textbook Chapter 7 FASB Ed. Paper (2021) SEC 2022-46 and Fact Sheet (2022) Karpoff et al (2022) WSJ ESG Opinion (2022)	Measurement Applications ESG Reporting – Omar Rodriguez (PwC) to lead discussion on ESG.
Sat., 4/30	Homework #3 <i>Meeting #8</i> <i>Discussion Board</i>	Textbook Chapter 8 Dichev & Skinner (2002)	Efficient Contracting
Wed., 5/4	<i>Meeting #9</i> <i>Discussion Board</i>	Textbook Chapter 9 Cheffins (2020) Core (2020)	Agency Theory
Sat., 5/7	Homework #4 <i>Meeting #10</i> <i>Discussion Board</i>	Textbook Chapter 11 Graham et al (2005)	Earnings Management
Thu., 5/12	FINAL EXAM DUE	Shakespeare (2020) (To be used for assessment on final exam.)	