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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | University of Hawaii at Manoa, Shidler College of Business **Accounting 625: Accounting and Tax Research, Spring 2015         Thursday 6:00 pm - 8:45 pm; Room C-102 and E--102 (Computer Lab).**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Thomas C. Pearson,** Professor [UH-Manoa,](http://www.hawaii.edu/) [School of Accountancy](http://www.cba.hawaii.edu/soa/)  2404 Maile Way  Honolulu, HI 96822 | Office: Shidler D-306 Telephone: (808) 956-7591 Secretary: (808) 956-7332 Email: [tpearson@hawaii.edu](javascript:main.compose('new','t=tpearson@hawaii.edu')) | | |

**OFFICE HOURS in Shidler Room D-306:** **Tuesday 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm**. Other times are by appointment or subject to availability. Before each exam additional hours are usually announced.

**COURSE MATERIALS:**  
1. Laptop or other portable internet enabled device

2. Accounting and Auditing Research: Tools and Strategies (8th ed.), by Weirich, Pearson, and Churyk (published by Wiley) (soft-cover or electronic license [just over half the cost])   
3. WEBSITES: laulima.hawaii.edu (acc 625 website)   
 IRS.gov, SEC.gov, FASB.org and *FASB Accounting Standards Codification,*TM,  
 IFRS.org, GASB.org, FASAB.gov, PCAOB.org, AICPA.org, IFAC.org …  
  
4. DATABASES: those available through [http://library.manoa.hawaii.edu](http://library.manoa.hawaii.edu/), include:  
 FINANCIAL or BUSINESS: S&P NetAdvantage, Mergent Online, LexisNexis-Academic …  
 TAX: Checkpoint (includes a financial accounting library)

5. OPTIONAL DATABASE: eIFRS access for all IFRS (International Financial Reporting   
 Standards), obtainable via IAAER.org academic membership (student cost $20).   
  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION** (University Catalog Summary Modified)**:**This course provides in-depth electronic accounting, auditing, and tax research, use of databases,   
practice in issue identification, reading and analyzing primary authority, and   
communicating results.  Cases and group projects are used.  Pre: Accounting 401.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:****1. Developing skills in reading and analyzing primary authorities for technical comprehension.   
2. Providing practice in writing sophisticated issue statements.  
3. Developing competence in locating and researching primary & secondary authorities.   
4. Acquiring working knowledge of electronic resources for resolving complex issues.  
5. Using the source and weight of authorities for creating strong, logical, analytical reasoning.  
6. Strengthening writing skills for client communications and research memos.  
7. Enhancing oral skills through classroom discussion, presentations, and simulations.  
8. Increasing knowledge about standard setters, authorities, hierarchies, and   
 various topics in research for professional practice.  
9. Understanding the professional environment and evaluation to prepare for management.  
10. Practicing effective teamwork and managing potential group dynamic problems.  
11. Acquiring an exposure to international sources for authorities and information.  
12. Handling time pressure, similar to the outside working environment.**

**TIME NEEDED:**This course requires considerable effort outside of class. The work is challenging and valuable.  
Take responsibility and speak to me, if you want to negotiate some alternative timing arrangement.

**COURSE GRADE GUIDELINES:**

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| A+ | 97.0% ─ 96.9% AND ONLY IF THE TOP STUDENT IN CLASS |
| A | 93.0% ─ 96.9% IMPRESSIVE GRADUATE LEVEL WORK |
| A- | 90.0% ─ 92.9% ABOVE AVERAGE GRADUATE LEVEL WORK |
| B+ | 87.0% ─ 89.9% TYPICAL GRADUATE LEVEL WORK |
| B | 83.0% ─ 86.9% SATISFACTORY GRADUATE LEVEL WORK |
| B- | 80.0% ─ 82.9% WEAK GRADUATE LEVEL WORK |
| other | Less than 80% NOT GRADUATE LEVEL WORK |

TENTATIVE **POINTS ASSIGNED FOR EACH COURSE ELEMENT:**

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| *Points* | *Topic* |
| 150  100 100   20   60   20  50 | Three Accounting or Tax research memos (50 each)  For the first memo, draft(s) and final submission (25-25 split) Midterm exam (taxation) Final exam (SEC, business and financial databases, accounting, & auditing)  Group Project  Other Homework (database Qs, etc)/ Class participation Oral presentation Quizzes (25 each) |
| 500 | TOTAL MAXIMUM POINTS |

**EXAMS:**The two exams are open book, open note, and completed on a computer.   
Save your work, such as on a thumb drive. Do NOT rely on the Shidler computer desktop.  
Each exam usually has ten questions. Most questions involve writing two paragraphs.   
 Several questions require research. Verify prof’s receipt of the electronic copy or print a hardcopy.

**QUIZZES:**   
The two quizzes are closed book. Each quiz consists of problems focused on professional knowledge for research: standard setters, sources of authorities, citations, hierarchies of authority, relevant databases, and search techniques.

**RESEARCH MEMOS:**Memos will require two or more single-spaced pages (with a blank line between paragraphs). Also include a one-page client cover-letter in a less technical style which emphasizes bottom line results and planning suggestions. The normal expectation for a high quality paper is about four pages.   
Submit one file with a maximum of six pages. Submit as a word or document, or web if needed.   
Please include your name in both the electronic file name and as a header for each page of the file.   
PhD students will have a different assignment substituting for the second memo.

**MEMO GRADING:** An ability to communicate effectively will affect the grade. The [AICPA](http://www.aicpa.org/)'s six characteristics of effective writing are: (1) cogent organization, (2) conciseness, (3) clarity, (4) use of standard English, (5) responsiveness, and (6) appropriateness for the reader. Tax memos require using a tax service (Checkpoint) annotations to locate relevant cases or rulings.

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS:** This course requires one or two oral presentations, often for just five minutes. Top scores requires strong eye-contact with the audience, clear organization, and maintaining the audience's interest. Use of technology is encouraged, such as capturing information from the internet.

**HOMEWORK**/ **CLASS PARTICIPATION:**You may work with other students on the homework assignments. However, you are not permitted to divide the work and just copy from each other. The grading for regular homework is primarily based on apparent effort. Completing the homework on a timely basis is expected.

Class participation points encourage active learning, assertiveness in class, and attentiveness.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**The classroom experience is a vital portion of the learning process for this course. Attendance is required to the same extent as if one was working for an accounting firm. This class is partially designed to provide experimental learning through classroom exercises for which there is sometimes no substitute.

**HONOR CODE:**

***“The University expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of this institution; to respect the rights, privileges, and property of others; and to observe national, state, and local laws and University regulations.”***  
Shidler has an Honor Code Policy. I’d emphasize do not copy from another person's memo, exam, or quiz. Please do not fail to cite sources of material that you have quoted or substantially paraphrased.   
Do not use unauthorized assistance. Don’t hesitate to ask questions.

**EXTENDED ASSISTANCE:**

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| ASSISTANCE DESIRED | UNIT |
| Computer Assistance | [Shidler Computer Labs](http://www.cba.hawaii.edu/netlab.htm) or UH Information Technology Services |
| Library Assistance | [Hamilton Library](http://www.hawaii.edu/lib/) (Online help or Reference Desk) |
| Writing / Learning Assistance | UHM; UHM Learning Assistance Center and UHM Department of English Writing Center;  Manoa Writing Program (see resources – Capital Community College for grammar and usage) |
| Advising (academic or MAcc) | Shidler Office of Student Academic Services; [SOA Director](http://www.cba.hawaii.edu/yang) |
| Careers | [Shidler or UHM Career Services](http://www2.hawaii.edu/career/), [Beta Alpha Psi](http://www.cba.hawaii.edu/bap/home.htm), [Accounting Club](http://www2.hawaii.edu/%7Eacctclub/), and Linkedin.com |
| Specialized Services | [Student Services for International Students](http://www.hawaii.edu/issmanoa/); and [UHM KOKUA](http://www.hawaii.edu/osa/) (reasonable accommodations for documented disabilities) |
| Safety Concerns on Campus | [UHM Campus Security](http://www.hawaii.edu/security/) (956-6911) |

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR TOPICS & READING ASSIGNMENTS:**Changes may be made in the course content as the semester progresses.   
\*Additional Homework will be assigned during the course of the semester.

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| **Wk** | **Date** | **Tentative Topics Due dates for** | **Reading** | **Homework Due** |
| 1 | Th 1/15 | Overview of Tax Research, Tax Treaties,  The Code, Regs, Practice. | CH 7 |  |
| 2 | Th 1/22 | Issue Spotting, Revenue Rulings, Writing a Client Letter, Writing a Tax Memo, & Practice | CH 7 again | HMWK from  1st tax class |
| 3 | Th 1/29 | Time for Group Project 1, Tax Services |  | mini-memo |
| 4 | Th 2/5 | Judicial Cases, Using a Citator, Practice |  | Memo1 draft |
| 5 | Th 2/12 | **QUIZ -** IRS, Audits, Penalties, Ethics, &  Professional Practice, and Catch-up |  |  |
| 6 | Th 2/19 | Possible Simulation and Negotiation |  | Memo 1 final |
| 7 | Th 2/26 | Practice and Review |  |  |
| 8 | Th 3/5 | **EXAM (TAX)** |  |  |
| 9 | Th 3/12 | Accounting Authorities – Sources and Locating Standards from FASB - SEC Authorities – Sources and Locating Statutes, Regs, Releases (AAER), SAB, … | CH 8 | Memo 2 |
| 10 | Th 3/19 | Other Accounting Authorities – Sources and Locating Standards from GASB and IASB | CH 4-6 | TBA |
| 11 | Th 4/2 | Auditing Authorities – Sources and Locating  Standards from PCAOB, AICPA, and IAASB; Inspection and Enforcement Reports |  | TBA |
| 12 | Th 4/9 | Issue Spotting and Group Case |  | TBA |
| 13 | Th 4/16 | **QUIZ** - Communication, Business and Financial Databases, and Oral Presentation Signup | CH 1-3 | GROUP Memo |
| 14 | Th 4/23 | Oral Presentations (6-8 minutes each)  (make relevant, useful, & interesting). |  | Database Qs |
| 15 | Th 4/30 | Practice and Review |  | Memo 3 |
| 16 | Th 5/14 | FINAL EXAM |  |  |

**COLLEGE CONCERNS:** Review Shidler College information for the last day to drop without a W and the last day to withdraw with a W. The emergency class site is on the steps down to George Hall out of the Shidler E-Tower.