

Course Syllabus

Course: 53:10:584:T1:5397: Advanced Taxation
Term: Summer 2024

Instructor Contact Information

Dr. Mitchell Franklin, Ph.D., CPA
School of Business, Rutgers University-Camden
Email: Mitchell.franklin@rutgers.edu

E-mail is my preferred method of communication. I check Email on a regular basis and reply as quickly as possible, but it may take up to 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends/holidays for a reply—specifically during busy times.

Course Description

Analysis of the federal tax laws as they apply to the income of partnerships, decedents, estates and trusts, and corporations. Focus on corporate distributions, especially taxed corporations, capital changes, liquidations, and corporate reorganizations.

Learning Goals/Course Objectives

Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate the below learning objectives:

- Description, Analysis and application of basic federal tax law as it applies to business entities.
- Demonstrate tax planning analysis through research of real-life tax situations (cases) and communication of recommendations through client letter and work paper documentation.
- Utilize understanding of the tax laws to complete tax compliance requirements. Communication of compliance requirements may involve the completion of tax returns both manually and/or using tax research programs commonly utilized by many CPA firms to conduct in-depth tax research.

2. Critical Thinking and Communication Skills

Students will develop and demonstrate critical thinking skills by completing:

- research tasks,
- written and oral communication tasks.
- various other assessments

COURSE SPECIFICS

Textbook:



Pearson's Federal Taxation 2024 Corporations, Partnerships, Estates & Trusts 37/e by Luke E. Richardson and Mitchell Franklin.

This book moves to a new edition annually, typically during the summer session as this course runs, you **MUST** have the proper edition of this book as stated herein to complete the course.

This is not the same edition that was used for the Summer 2023 edition.

There is no need to purchase a hardcover book for this course. For the course you must have the book bundled with PearsonMyLab, which is an online course management system. Details on how to purchase this product are located in Canvas. I suggest viewing the appropriate document in Canvas before making any purchase. Required homework, and exams will be administered using the PearsonMyLab platform. Purchase of the hard copy text is optional.

This course may use various periodicals and websites (Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, etc) as a supplement. These additional supplements will either be provided by the instructor, open access via the Internet, or available through the university library.

How to succeed in this course

The material presented in class provides the essential backbone of the course. You are expected to:

- Read all text material assigned for each class
- Follow instructions in all assignments
- Start assignments early and get feedback from the instructor
- Consult/meet with the professor immediately when you need help.
- Ensure that you can access and use Canvas appropriately.
- Participate in class discussions, whenever you can. These discussions are designed to be a collaborative learning experience for all involved.

- **Direct Interaction:** Although Canvas/MyLab provides good learning tools, oftentimes, a direct one-to-one professional interaction to resolve difficult issues is usually the most effective. For example, you may have a certain technical/mathematical problem that is frustratingly difficult to solve that you think is difficult to resolve in an open forum or elsewhere. In this case, please feel free to send me an e-mail and a contact number so that I can call you directly to resolve it.
- You **MUST** do homework and keep up throughout each module. There is considerable flexibility in the schedule built into the course. Though no late work is accepted, you cannot wait until the days before a module closes to complete assignments. Students who take this approach have a low probability for success and not see a helpful support structure. This course expects 8-10 hours per week and a commitment of several days per week completing readings and assignments. Based on prior experience in the subject area, it is possible that some students may meet requirements in a considerably lesser time commitment who have significant prior experience. Other students with limited experience in the area may need to plan for greater time commitments to complete required material.

COMMUNICATION

Canvas

Posted will be the syllabus, resources (articles and examples), announcements, guides, and any other useful information etc. To access this system, go to <http://canvas.rutgers.edu> log in, and click on the course on the dashboard. Many assignments and exams will be administered through Pearson MyLab. These assignments will not be directly linked to Canvas, but access information is within Canvas.

Rutgers email - USE YOUR RUTGERS EMAIL ADDRESS

All communications to students will be done using the Rutgers email address provided to you. Please forward your Rutgers email to your personal email if necessary. **Not checking your Rutgers email is not an excuse for missing any communications.**

Email is my preferred method of communication. All communication should begin with this means. If further discussion is needed, I will happily set up a Zoom meeting to discuss

Class Materials:

All class materials can be obtained via Canvas. Material is posted in the appropriate folder for each Module. You can imagine that the class seamlessly “runs” through from day 1 (Monday) to day 7 (Sunday). All modules and all assignments will be available and open (except for the final) by the second week of class. You are free to work ahead and complete the course at your own pace ahead of schedule but **MUST** meet the posted due dates of the assignments. As I open the entire course at the beginning and let you work ahead for flexibility, I provide no additional flexibility if you miss deadlines and fall behind.

Class Communication:

Since class attendance is not compulsory, a viable and reliable form of communication is vitally important. Note that all class communication will be via your Rutgers email. You are expected to check your Rutgers email at least three times every week. All class announcements can also be accessed via the ‘Announcement’ page in Canvas.

Professor Communication:

Note that during the week, from Monday until Friday, I will try to reply to all emails within under 24 hours. Please do not expect an immediate “on demand” response. If you do not hear from me within 48 hours, please resend your email as I may have overlooked or accidentally deleted your email. Unfortunately, outlook sometimes sends legitimate emails to spam boxes so I do not see them promptly. To avoid your email accidentally going to spam, I suggest NOT using the Canvas email system. Log into your Rutgers.edu email account to send all emails to my email address within this syllabus. If you send an email to me at any other email address not on this syllabus, or not from your Rutgers account, it cannot be responded to, and this is University policy.

Although I check my e-mails a few times daily, I may not be able to completely answer all emails immediately upon receiving them. Note that I may not monitor emails on many weekends or holidays and may not be able to respond to weekend emails until Monday. As you have extended periods to complete assignments, there should never be an emergency that requires an immediate response on an evening or weekend or any “on call” on my behalf.

Key Summer 2024 Dates:

Summer 2024 classes begin	Tuesday, May 28, 2024
Last day to withdraw with a W	Wednesday, August 7, 2024
Last day of classes	Wednesday, August 14, 2024

NOTE: no reading days or final exam week. All finals must be completed by August 14th.

GENERAL /ADMINISTRATIVE

Academic Integrity

The Academic Integrity policy can be found at

<https://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/processes/university-code-student-conduct>

<http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/student-conduct-processes/academic-integrity/>

Students are responsible for understanding the principles of academic integrity and abiding by them in all aspects of their work at the University. Students are also encouraged to help educate fellow students about academic integrity and to bring all alleged violations of academic integrity they encounter to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

Academic Integrity means that you (the student) must:

- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others,
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work,
- make sure that all work submitted as your own in a course activity is your own and not from someone else
- obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately
- treat all other students fairly with no encouragement of academic dishonesty

Adherence to these principles is necessary in order to ensure that:

- everyone is given proper credit for his or her ideas, words, results, and other scholarly accomplishments
- all student work is fairly evaluated, and no student has an inappropriate advantage over others
- the academic and ethical development of all students is fostered
- the reputation of the University for integrity is maintained and enhanced.

Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the University and the value of the degrees awarded to its students.

Please see the additional clarification on academic integrity for this specific course:

It is a violation of the policy to locate, purchase or use any textbook solutions manuals, instructor manuals or instructor ancillaries from this textbook or any other textbook. If it is suspected or observed these documents were used, you can be failed for the course as a violation of the policy. Using solutions from other students, either from prior semesters of this course or as may be available on the Internet is also prohibited. You are expected to refrain from using any websites not provided within this course to complete assignments, such as Chegg or any other website such as this that may provide prohibited information.

Be careful if using the Internet, because if you use any prohibited resource and ‘did not know’ it was a

prohibited resource, all sanctions for violation herein still apply without exception. Faculty may scan all written assignments to the Internet using various sources to check for copy of material and sanction per this policy accordingly. Due to the high level of trust expected within an online class, and fact that we are experienced graduate students, there are not second chances when a violation is detected. Sanctions awarded for violations will exceed any benefit from the policy violation had one not been caught, and not be “proportionate” punishment to the violation, as no violation is acceptable.

Use of ANY artificial intelligence (ChatGBT or any other AI product) is also prohibited within this course. Use of AI tools will be sanctioned with course failure per this policy.

Student Code of Conduct

Rutgers University-Camden seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community, including in classroom space.

As a student at the University, you are expected adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

To review the code, go to the Office of Community Standards:

<https://deanofstudents.camden.rutgers.edu/student-conduct>

Note that the conduct code specifically addresses disruptive classroom conduct, which means *“engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor’s ability to teach or student learning. The classroom extends to any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities.”*

If the violation is immediate and a potential threat is a concern, call the Rutgers-Camden police at 856-225-6111

Etiquette expectations from on-line students:

The following protocols on the codes of behavior reflect professional business norms on manners, courtesy, and respect. ***(In general, you should treat others as you would like others to treat yourself. Be mindful that what is acceptable in a text or chatroom with friends may not be appropriate in a classroom or in an online conversation with an instructor.)***

- When sending an e-mail, you can get better attention by using the following guidelines:
 - use descriptive subject lines, (I am sure you have received a lot of Spam e-mails and I have occasionally and accidentally deleted student e-mails that I thought was Spam.)
 - please be as brief as possible by going straight to the point, and if possible, limit the use of attachments

Never send offensive and insulting messages* (this is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct). If you disagree, say so and state your reasons. Social media is a very powerful tool for communication. However, it can be badly misused if it is not used correctly or professionally. For example, you may have personal and legitimate concerns with this course. However, other students, who do not have similar feelings, can be negatively influenced by your concerns. This will unnecessarily and negatively affect their overall experience of the course. Therefore, to minimize such an occurrence, please feel free to directly contact the instructor/tutor first to resolve any concerns that you may have to help ensure that everyone’s online experience of this course is beneficial.

- Always guard against inciting others when it comes to content, opinions, etc. That is, avoid blaming or accusing others of wrongdoing.
- Do not start a volley of back and forth emails, with copies distributed to every student in the class.

- Copy the minimum number of people. That is, send emails to only the people you think should receive and will benefit from it.
- Treat all emails and postings as permanent forms of written record and do not expect that any of your email communications to be private, unless stated otherwise. Instead, assume that all e-mail communications are public.
- Do not publicize your own or others' personal information (such as email, phone numbers, last names, etc.)

Disability Services/Accommodations

The University is committed to supporting the learning of all students and faculty will provide accommodations as indicated in a Letter of Accommodation issued by the Office of Disability Services (ODS). If you have already registered with ODS and have your letter of accommodations, please share this with me early in the course. If you have or think you have a disability (learning, sensory, physical, chronic health, mental health or attentional), please contact <https://success.camden.rutgers.edu/disability-services>.

Accommodations will be provided only for students with a letter of accommodation from ODS. Their services are free and confidential. Letters only provide information about the accommodation, not about the disability or diagnosis.

CLASSROOM POLICIES AND ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Late Work and Make Up Policy: by registering and continuing in this class, you acknowledge that you have the capacity and time to manage the commitment. A class should be treated like a job. Missing a deadline on an assignment without any PRIOR communication and serious reason for the missed deadline is no different than missing work without proper supervisor notification and/or ignoring a client/regulatory deadline. Neither of these behaviors are tolerated in the workplace. As we are professionals, the same principles apply here. All work is expected to be submitted timely, and all exams are expected to be taken as scheduled, and responsibility to meet these deadlines falls on the student. No late work is expected or accepted. In very limited emergency cases, where there is proper documentation, a limited exception **MAY** be made on **one** submission over the term, but these exceptions are very rare and at the 100% discretion of the course instructor. Any decisions that are made by the instructor as to whether or not to accept late work, and if a penalty will be granted is fully that of the instructor and will not be considered on an appeal. Pattern/routine late work submissions will never be accepted. If you feel that your schedule or personal commitments will interfere with your ability to routinely submit work timely, you should consider enrollment at another time.

Incomplete grades are typically not offered or an option. The decision to offer this option is 100% instructor discretion. To be considered for an incomplete, the student must have completed all assignments up until the final module of the term timely, and have a passing grade of all work completed in prior modules with no history of late work. Proper documentation will also need to be provided that supports any need for the incomplete.

The incomplete only serves a purpose to offer limited additional time to a satisfactory student who performs well up until the end of the term and has a sudden and unplanned issue to impact course completion. The incomplete will not be an option for students who have not timely submitted work on a routine basis in pursuit of a last-ditch effort to catch up and earn a passing grade.

Assessments/ Activities

This course is broken up into 5 modules. Each module is roughly two weeks in length and covers a

unique area of taxation consistent with the course description. Elements within each module as follows:

1. Optional live meetings. These meetings will be scheduled at the start of each module at times to be announced prior to each module. To allow maximum participation of all students across the term, some may occur during the day, and some will occur in evenings or even on a weekend. These meetings will last no longer than 1 hour and not be a formal lecture. These meetings serve as an opportunity to interact with each other as well as with me as your instructor. Typically, I will answer questions you have specific to the class and provide an overview of upcoming activities. For those who cannot attend live, they will be recorded and posted on Canvas. These live chats should not be used to dispute grades or discuss concerns with the course/class. Matters of this sort are to be addressed by private email to the instructor.
2. Homework assignments. As a graduate level course, the focus is beyond the mere completion of conceptual homework. The objectives of a graduate level taxation course expect students can thoroughly complete tax research, understand legal basis/theory and communicate in the same manner as one would to a client for dispute and tax planning purposes. To reach this objective, students must first demonstrate an appropriate conceptual foundation. Homework assignments are NOT graded, but required to ensure that all students have ample opportunity to reach the necessary skill set to master the high-level learning objectives of a graduate course. All homework assignments are expected to be fully completed to learn or refresh the key concepts of the module. One with significant experience in the discipline will find these assignments rather straightforward and quick. Those with limited experience in the area will need to spend time on these assignments to learn the requisite concepts. Though these assignments are not graded, they are required. If a student is struggling with content and in need of help, before offering help I will view your effort and access to homework assignments. Assistance will not be provided to students who have not been actively and properly engaging in assignments.
3. Exams. This course has two exams. The exams ensure that students at least have the needed conceptual foundation to master the lowest level learning objectives of a graduate level class. These exams will be given as noted in the class schedule and be a blend of multiple-choice questions and problems. Exams are open-book and open note, but are timed and ONLY available during the scheduled time. As the exams are administered online, each student will have a unique exam with separate questions balanced on the same topics.
4. Research and planning assignments. The highest levels of learning and application of a graduate level course comes from the research and planning assignments. Each module will have 1-2 of these assignments. Students will be required to use primary tax research materials to conduct research on client tax planning and compliance matters. Deliverables can be a combination of case briefs, client letters, workpaper memos and partial or complete tax returns. Any required tax form or return completion must be done manual without the use of software.

GRADING

For the assignment of final grades, the course requirements will be weighted approximately as follows:

First Exam	25%
Second exam	25%
Research and Planning Assignments.....	50%

Each module will have approximately 2 research and planning assignments, so across the course this 50% weight will be across approximately ten assignments.

APPROXIMATE Grade Ranges

Letter Grade scale

A	90% and above
B+	84.5% to 89.9%
B	79.5% to 84.4%
C+	74.5% to 79.4%
C	69.5% to 74.4%
F	Below 69.5%

There are no curves, and all grades are final and not subject to appeal or negotiation, unless the student can demonstrate that a clear error was made in the final grade calculation. Grades are not adjusted to help a student meet a minimum GPA, graduation requirement, employer reimbursement, or scholarship ability. Grades are awarded as earned by the student. Doing so would harm the integrity and purpose of grades.

If an error was made in the grade on a specific assignment, that must be addressed within 72 hours of **assignment** grade posting. Assignments will not be re-evaluated or grade modified in any way outside of this window, even if clear grading errors have been made.

Borderline grades may be adjusted upward or downward at the instructor's discretion. Factors including effort at homework assignment completion per PearsonMylab as well as overall professionalism and attitude during the term may be used as part of this evaluation. Upward or downward patterns and trends in overall performance may also be considered. The above distribution is APPROXIMATE and may be modified as overall class performance and effort is assessed.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Further information is provided within Canvas. Each module has its own folder with details and descriptions.

All Modules will be available by the second week of class. You are free to work as far ahead as you want, you just cannot fall behind. The date next to each Module is the DUE DATE of the module. ALL work within the Module must be complete and fully submitted NO LATER than that date. Though work MAY be graded as submitted, feedback might not be provided until after the posted due date of a module, even if work was submitted early. All grades for a module will be posted within 3 days of the module due date.

Module 1 (5/28-6/16)

Tax Research, Administration and Introduction to Corporations

Chapters 1, 15, 2, 3, 4

Module 2 (7/1)

Taxation of Corporations Part II

Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8

Exam 1: 7/8

Module 3 (7/14)

Taxation of Partnerships

Chapters 9, 10

Module 4 (7/28)

Taxation of S Corporations

Chapter 11

Module 5: (8/13)

Taxation of Estates, Gifts and Trusts

Chapters 12, 13, 14

Exam 2: 8/14