



ACCT 115-002: Fund of Financial Accounting
2025 Spring – 3 Credit Hours

Syllabus

TIME	MR 2:30pm-3:50pm
LOCATION	KUPF104
INSTRUCTOR	Dr. Ming F. Taylor
EMAIL	Through Canvas Inbox; Or to ming.f.taylor@njit.edu with “ACCT115” in the subject line
OFFICE	CAB 4015 (Library Building); Virtual Office
OFFICE HOURS	Thur. 12-2pm in office and on Zoom
COURSE WEBSITE	All materials and announcements can be accessed from the course webpage on Canvas (njit.canvas.edu)

Course Description

This is an introductory financial accounting course. The purpose of this course is to help you develop a view of what accounting is and how it provides information that is timely and relevant for capital providers to make decisions. The course will help students to develop skills in applying financial accounting principles to record business transactions, prepare financial statements, and provide students basic financial statement analysis tools and techniques. When you master the materials in this course, you will have a basic understanding of how the activities of an organization are reflected in financial statements.

The course is organized by weekly modules. Course materials can be accessed through <https://canvas.njit.edu/> with specific weekly tasks under each module. The course is designed following a half-flipped mode. Lectures will take half of the class time and will focus only on important and difficult issues. The other half of the class time will be student-lead hands-on learning including but not limited to exercises, projects and cases. Students are expected to preview the lecture notes before class. Students are responsible for all topics covered in the lecture notes and assignments. Extra materials in the textbook are not required but may be helpful for studying required materials.

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- Explain basic financial accounting concepts and principles
- Analyze transactions, apply them to the accounting cycle and compile financial statements.
- Implement ratio analysis, common-sized statement, and trend analysis

- Communicate Financial Statement Analysis highlights of a real company both orally and in written format
- Perform basic data analytics with Excel
- Critique ethical issues and responsibilities of accountants.

Textbook

Accounting: Tools for Business Decision Making (with WileyPlus Access Code) by Kimmel, Weygandt, Mitchell. 8th Edition.

NOTE: WileyPlus Code is required. Physical copy of the book is optional. This same text will be used for BOTH ACCT 115 and ACCT 215 (both required for MTSM students).

Prerequisites None

Grading and Evaluation

Two Exams	100 pts
Homework Problem Sets	100 pts
Data Analytics (DA) Case	40 pts
Financial Statement Analysis (FSA) Project:	60 pts
Attendance/Participation	<u>20 pts</u>
	300 pts

- Attendance is expected. Bonus boosts will be issued to students for active class participation.
- All submissions must be made by the deadline, and those submitted **late will receive 50%** of the score. In addition, no feedback will be provided for submissions after the deadline.
- Exams are **closed-book** but allow **one page (single-sided) of handwritten notes**. Exams are monitored by LockDown Browser + Respondus Monitor (requires a webcam). There are two exams during the semester and an optional final exam in the final exam week. If you choose to take the final exam, it will replace Exam 1 or 2, whichever has a lower grade.
- Homework Problem Sets are due weekly on Canvas for most weeks.
- The DA Case and FSA Projects will be completed in groups of 3-4 students.
- For the Financial Statement Analysis (FSA) Project, you will collaborate in groups to select a company, gather the necessary data, conduct analyses to address specific questions, and present your findings. Here's a breakdown of the milestones.

Milestone	Description of deliverables	
1	1. Form a team of 2-3 students 2. Select the project and company	10pts
2	1. Collect data 2. Analyze data with Spreadsheet 3. Meet with instructor to discuss findings and any questions	20pts
3	1. Presentation 2. Provide comments to your classmates 3. Incorporate feedback, revise and submit the final slides	20pts 5pts 5pts

Grading Scale

A	B+	B	C+	C	D	F
90%	87%	80%	77%	70%	60%	<60%

Grades are to reflect the level of understanding of course content.

Therefore, to achieve the grade of A or B in this class expect to:

- ***Attend 100% of the classes.*** During class new content is explained and then applied using in-class exercises and activities for better understanding.
- ***Come to class prepared 100% of the time.*** This means completing homework prior to class to the best of your abilities. To maximize learning and your competitiveness in the workplace ...

STUDY IT! WORK IT! Don't give up.

READ IT! COMPLETE IT! Bring your questions to class.

- ***Actively participate in class*** discussions, exercises, and activities to further understanding.

Expect the grade of C or lower with less preparation and participation.

Incompletes (I) are only given under special circumstances such as severe illness ... not for being unprepared for class or exams.

Learning Goals and Outcomes addressed in this course:

Analytical and Problem-Solving Skills	Information and Communication Skills	Interpersonal Skills and Team Dynamics	Ethical Reasoning	Technology Skills	Globalization
X	X	X	X	X	X

Analytical and Problem Solving Skills

Develop skills to critically analyze business problems.

Apply these skills to the Financial Statement Analysis Project, which requires critical thinking and strong problem solving skills.

Information and Communication Skills

Deliver an effective oral presentation using visual aids and answer questions pertaining to the presentation.

Develop skills to search databases, locate and use data to analyze firms' financial reports, and properly cite data sources.

Advance skills that enable effective business writing.

Practice articulating accounting concepts and gaining perspective on discussion questions through class participation.

Apply these skills to the preparation of a Financial Statement Analysis Project.

Interpersonal Skills and Team Dynamics

Demonstrate the skills of working in teams and achieving common goals.

Develop management and leadership skills.

Understand team roles and relationships that foster cooperation toward goals.

Learn how to manage expectations and deadlines.

Ethical Reasoning

Develop skills to identify ethical dilemmas. Develop a sense of ethical and professional behavior.

Technology Skills

Prepare effective Excel spreadsheets, graphs, and a PowerPoint presentation.

Perform basic data analytics with Excel.

Summarize common accounting software such as Quickbooks and SAP.

Use online learnings and collaborating platforms such as WebEx, Google Sheets, and Canvas.

Globalization

Understand the impact of globalization and the complexity it brings.

Statement About Disability Accommodation: Educational access is the provision of classroom accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. If you are in need of accommodations due to a disability please contact Scott Janz (oars@njit.edu), Associate Director of the Office of Accessibility Resources & Services (OARS), Kupfrian Hall 201, to discuss your specific needs. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the OARS authorizing your accommodations will be required. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively.

HONOR CODE regarding Academic Dishonesty: Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. **Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university.** If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu”

CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT

To maximize learning and help transition to a professional work environment.

Success in business depends on the combined performance of the professional team, not the self-centered interests of one individual. Similarly, a good learning environment is collectively created and requires the contribution of ALL students within the class. To maximize classroom learning:

- **Attend regularly.** Arriving on time and departing when class is dismissed.
- **Prepare for class.** Preview lecture notes and complete assignment if any before class.
- **Engage in learning.** Being attentive during class. Giving class your undivided attention and actively contributing to discussion, exercises, and projects.
- **Show respect.** Listening attentively to others’ thoughts and ideas.
- **Stay away from distractions.** Clear the desk, put away items such as cellphones that are unrelated to the class.

EXAM CODE OF CONDUCT

To minimize cheating during an exam.

NJIT policy requires that all midterm and final exams must be proctored, regardless of delivery mode, in order to increase academic integrity. Note that this does not apply to essay or authentic based assessments.

In this course you will be required to use the following proctoring method to ensure academic integrity for exams. Please see NJIT’s response to questions about online proctoring [here](#). See below for more information about how exams will be proctored in this course.

Respondus LockDown Browser

Respondus LockDown Browser is a locked browser for taking assessments or quizzes in Canvas. It prevents students from printing, copying, going to another URL, or accessing other applications during a quiz. If a Canvas quiz requires that LockDown Browser be used, students will not be able to take the assessment or quiz with a standard web browser. Students may be required to use LockDown Browser with a webcam (Respondus Monitor), which will record students during an online exam.

The webcam can be built into your computer or can be the type that plugs in with a USB cable. Watch this [short video](#) to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature. A student [Quick Start Guide \(PDF\)](#) is also available.

Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor does not work with Linux and Chromebooks at this time. Please visit the [Respondus Knowledge Base article on computer requirements](#) for additional information.

There are two quizzing engines currently available in Canvas, “classic” quizzes and “new” quizzes. Respondus works with both.

The LockDown Browser integration with *Classic Quizzes* still requires students to (1) manually start LockDown Browser, (2) log into Canvas, and (3) navigate to the quiz that requires LockDown Browser.

1. Download and install LockDown Browser from this link:
<http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=264548414>
2. Once your download and installation has finished, locate the “LockDown Browser” shortcut on your desktop and double-click it. (For Mac users, launch “LockDown Browser” from the Applications folder.)
3. You will be brought to the Webauth Authentication Service page, where you can log in with your NJIT UCID and password.
4. From your Dashboard or under “Courses”, click on the course in which you have to take the exam that requires LockDown Browser.
5. After you enter the course, find the exam and click on it.
6. Click the “Take the Quiz” button. Once a quiz has been started with LockDown Browser, you cannot exit until the “Submit Quiz” button is clicked.
7. If you are required to use a webcam (Respondus Monitor), you will be prompted to complete a Webcam Check and other Startup Sequence steps.

Questions or problems can be submitted via web form by going to: <https://servicedesk.njit.edu> and clicking on the "Report your issue online" link. You may also call the IST Service Desk with any questions at 973-596-2900.

Course Schedule

Module	Dates	Topic	Assignments
1	1/23 Th 1/27 M	Course Overview Introduction to Financial Statements	Read Ch 1 Problem Sets A FStmts B1 B2 Users/Acct Equation /FStmts
2	1/30 Th 2/3 M 2/6 Th	A Further Look at Financial Statements Lab Session: Financial Statement Analysis (FSA) Project – Kick-start	Read Ch 2 Problem Sets C Stmt of Cash Flows D Classified BS FSA Project Milestone I Form group Select Company
3	2/10 M 2/13 Th	The Accounting Information System	Read Ch 3 Problem Sets E Ratios/Concepts R1 R2 Transactions
4	2/17 M 2/20 Th 2/24 M	Accrual Accounting Concepts Lab Session: Data Analytics in Accounting	Read Ch 4 Problem Sets S Journal Entries T1 T2 AJE Data Analytics Case I
5	2/27 Th 3/3 M	Merchandising Operations and the Multi-Step Income Statement	Read Ch 5 Problem Sets V CJE F Multi-step IS
6	3/6 Th 3/10 M	Review/Catch up Exam 1	
7	3/13 Th 3/24 M (3/16-22 No Class)	Reporting and Analyzing Inventory	Read Ch 6 Problem Sets G Ratios H Inventory LIFO/FIFO/Average/Ratios
8	3/27 Th 3/31 M 4/7 M (4/3 No Class)	Reporting and Analyzing Long-lived Assets Lab Session: Data Analytics Case	Read Ch 9 Problem Sets J Depreciation SL/DDB K Ratios Intangibles Gain/Loss Data Analytics Case II
9	4/10 Th 4/14 M	Reporting and Analyzing Stockholders' Equity	Read Ch 11 Problem Sets L SEquity M Dividends/Ratios
10	4/17 Th 4/21 M	Financial Analysis: The Big Picture Lab Session: FSA Project – Spreadsheet Analysis	Read Ch 13 Problem Sets N Ver/Hor Analysis P Ratio Analysis FSA Project Milestone II – Spreadsheet Collect Data Preliminary analysis with spreadsheet Discuss your findings and any questions with the instructor

11	4/24 Th 4/28 M	Review/Catch up Exam 2	
12	5/1 Th 5/5 M	FSA Project Presentation	FSA Project Milestone III – Presentation Present in class Provide comments to your classmates Incorporate feedback, revise and resubmit slides
13	5/6 T (Th classes meet)	Guest Lecture or Statement of Cash Flows (Extra Credit)	Read Ch 12 (optional) WileyPlus W CF Activities X CF Ratios
	5/10-5/16	Final Exam (Time and Location TBD)	

Tentative schedule ... subject to change. Students will be notified in class of any changes to the Course Schedule.