CIEE Berlin, Germany

Course title: Introduction to Financial Accounting
Course code: (GI) ACCT 2001 BRGE
Programs offering course: Global Architecture and Design, Berlin Open Campus Block
Open Campus Track: Business
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring Block II 2021

Course Description
Once students see that accounting is the language of business, they are well on their way to academic and professional success. Financial Accounting translates the essentials of accounting to students so they understand why and when financially sound decisions are made in business today. Real-world examples from the local context will be discussed in class and students will have the opportunity to interact with invited guest speakers from the local business community.

Learning Objectives
By completing this course, students will:

- Understand what financial accounting is and why it is important.
- Describe concepts of financial accounting.
- Apply financial analysis of accounting for costs.
- Relate cost information to decision-making needs of the organization.
- Understand the role of capital investments and the time value of money.

Course Prerequisites
Uses of Accounting Information I/Introduction to Financial Accounting

Methods of Instruction
The course will be taught using lectures, seminars, problem set discussions, and field trips. Classroom activities will involve group work and discussions of the problem sets assigned as homework. Invited guest speakers will add to the learning objectives of this course.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Homework Assignments 20%
2. Quizzes 20%
3. Midterm Exam 15%
4. Final Exam 25%
5. Participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Homework Assignments

These online homework assignments will help students practice to master the course material. A total of ten assignments will be given in weeks two through to six (inclusive), with each homework assignment worth 2%. The homework problems will be administered and graded through Canvas.

Quizzes

From weeks two through to six (inclusive) students will complete a quiz on the Friday of each week. Quizzes will comprise of ten questions, totaling 50 questions throughout the entirety of the course. Each set of ten quiz questions is worth 4% of your course grade.
Midterm Exam

Final Exam

Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and problems that cover material discussed in class lectures, assigned readings, homework problems, quizzes and online activities. You can use these to assist in your study. Note that this course tests learning rather than rote memorization. Therefore, exam questions are often structured differently than problems you have seen before. This is not an attempt to trick you. Rather, if you understand the concepts, you should be able to apply those concepts in a variety of settings. If you have just memorized problem solutions, then you will have difficulty.

Students are required to bring a calculator that performs addition, subtraction, multiplication and division for use during examinations. Any device that is capable of storing text, facilitating communication, recording sound, capturing images and/or can be programmed will not be permitted. Financial calculators may be used. This policy will be strictly enforced. Please note that the instructor is not responsible for providing a calculator to students who do not bring a suitable calculator of their own to the examination sessions.

Once an examination session has started, students will be required to remain in the classroom until they have completed their exam. Leaving the classroom during the exam session will result in a student’s exam being collected and graded as it is at the time of their departure. During exam sessions, all personal effects are to be stowed under or next to the student’s seat in a closed backpack or briefcase. Candies and/or cough drops may be brought to exam sessions unwrapped in a clear plastic bag. Water may be brought to exams in a label-free, clear plastic bottle. These requirements are in the interest of maintaining a fair examination environment, where students can be confident that sufficient measures are taken to prevent anyone from gaining an unfair advantage in completing their exam.

Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.

Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:
N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, and local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Class: 1.1 Introduction to Class / Overview of Financial Accounting Concepts

Students will gain an initial understanding of the definition of business, fundamental operations and structures of a business, and the cost of money. Students will also be introduced to transaction analysis, stockholders’ equity, cash and accrual accounting, and international financial reporting standards.

*Financial Accounting*, chapter 1

**Week 2**

Class: 2.1 Analyzing and Recording Business Transactions

Students learn how to organize accounts, assets, and liabilities. Students will also apply transaction analysis, correction of errors, and preparation of financial statements.

*Financial Accounting*, chapter 2

**Homework assignment 1 due**

Class: 2.2 Adjusting and Closing Entries

Students will explore how a company accurately reports its income, the role of adjusting entries, accruing revenues and expenses, and adjusting deferred revenues and expenses. Students will review completion of the accounting cycle and the three closing entries.

*Financial Accounting*, chapter 3

**Homework assignment 1 due**

**Quiz assignment 5 due**

**Week 3**

Class: 3.1 Accounting for a Merchandising Business

Students will examine the relationships among manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and customers, and how periodic and perpetual inventory systems differ. Students will account for the sale of inventory, freight and other expenses, and the accounting of cash versus credit sales, returns, allowances, and discounts.
The topics of this class are cost flow versus physical flow of inventory; specific identification method; first-in, first-out and last-in, first-out methods, journalizing inventory transactions and inventory shrinkage.

Financial Accounting, chapter 5

Homework assignment 4 due

Week 4
Class:  4.1  Standards, Internal Control, Audits

Students will learn about the rules that govern accounting, including the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the United States and the world. Students will examine definitions of fraud, and elements of internal control systems.

Financial Accounting, chapter 6

Homework assignment 5 due

Class:  4.2  Fraud and Ethics

Students will visit a host environment organization involved in the work of fraud prevention and investigation.

Financial Accounting, chapter 6

Class:  4.3  Cash and Receivables

Students will explore in detail the reconciliation processes, accounting for receivables, identifying the maturity date, and accruing interest revenue.

Financial Accounting, chapter 7

Homework assignment 6 due

Quiz assignment 3 due

Week 5
Class:  5.1  Long-Term and Other Assets

Students will address questions on the different types of long-term assets, and how cost of a fixed asset is calculated including land, land improvements, buildings, machinery, furniture, and fixtures.

Financial Accounting, chapter 8

Homework assignment 7 due

Class:  5.2  Current Liabilities and Long-Term Debt

Students will address questions on the accounting of current liabilities of an uncertain amount, contingent liability, and long-term debt.

Financial Accounting, chapter 9

Homework assignment 8 due
Quiz assignment 4 due

Week 6
Class: 6.1  Paid-In Capital and Retained Earnings

Students will gain an understanding of the issuance of stock, the accounting of cash dividends, treasury stock, and stock splits.

Financial Accounting, chapter 10

Homework assignment 9 due

Class: 6.2  Statement of Cash Flows and Financial Statement Analysis

Students will examine cash flows from operating, investing, and financing activities. Students will also explore techniques in financial analysis.

Financial Accounting, chapters 11 & 12

Homework assignment 10 due

Class: 6.3  Final Examination

Quiz assignment 5 due

Course Materials
Readings