



## School of Business

### **ACCT 370-001 – International Accounting** (Spring 2020) Wednesdays 4:30p-7:10p, Planetary Hall 224

Instructor: Jenelle Conaway, PhD CPA  
Assistant Professor

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Office: Enterprise 225  
Office Hours: Mondays 10:30a-11:30a  
Wednesdays 3:00p-4:00p  
or by appointment

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This course provides an overview of the broadly defined area of international accounting from a financial statement user perspective, focusing on accounting issues uniquely relevant to multinational corporations.

#### **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have an understanding of:

1. The major factors that influence the development of national accounting systems and lead to cross-national diversity in financial reporting.
2. The consequences of diversity in accounting standards and company practices worldwide.
3. The arguments for and against international convergence of financial reporting standards and the current state of convergence efforts.
4. The differences in taxation and auditing regimes across countries.
5. Certain differences between International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and their impact on financial statements.
6. The accounting implications of foreign currency transactions.
7. Remeasurement and translation of foreign currency financial statements.

#### **Materials**

REQUIRED: 1. Material provided by instructor on Blackboard  
2. Cases - Link to purchase cases will be provided in-class  
3. Simple four-function calculator

OPTIONAL: International Accounting 4e or 5e, Douppnik and Perera (McGraw Hill)

#### **Blackboard**

Course information and supporting materials are available through Blackboard. Blackboard includes important announcements, the syllabus, lecture slides, practice problems, grades, and other relevant information. Printed copies of lecture slides will not be provided in

class, students should print these if they wish to use them in class. You should visit Blackboard regularly for the latest information.

### **Grading**

The grade you receive depends solely on your ability to demonstrate your mastery of the course materials. Grades will be assigned on the basis of the absolute number of points you earn during the semester. Final grades will be available from Patriot Web. There are no “extra credit” assignments. Letter grades will be assigned based on total points earned by students completing all course requirements as follows: A (90 – 100%), B+ (87 – 89%), B (80 – 86%), C+ (77 – 79%), C (70 – 76%), D (60 – 69%), and F (Below 60%). A- and B- grades may be assigned for borderline students. Assignments and their related points are as follows:

<b>Element</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Quizzes	40	12.5%
Midterm Exam	100	31.3%
Final Exam	120	37.5%
Assignments	50	15.6%
Class Engagement	10	3.1%
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### **Quizzes:**

There will be quizzes during the semester; the quizzes will be announced in advance in-class and on Blackboard. The quizzes have lesser coverage than exams (usually 1 or 2 lectures) and they are designed to help students develop and apply their knowledge on topics that may be tested in an exam setting. You are expected to be present for all quizzes. If an emergency arises that will prevent you from taking a scheduled quiz, contact your professor as soon as possible and be prepared to provide acceptable, official documentation supporting your case. An unapproved absence will result in a grade of zero.

### **Exams:**

There will be a midterm exam and a comprehensive final exam the dates of which are included in the schedule at the end of this syllabus. You are expected to be present for all examinations. If an emergency arises that will prevent you from taking a scheduled quiz, contact your professor as soon as possible and be prepared to provide acceptable, official documentation supporting your case. An unapproved absence will result in a grade of zero.

If you have a justifiable conflict with taking an exam on a scheduled date, contact your professor in advance to schedule a make-up exam. Exams must be taken within a reasonable time (no more than 3 days after the scheduled date). Note that it is a student’s responsibility to make required arrangements for alternative exam dates in advance.

Students are not permitted to leave the room during the examination period (without a documented and approved reason for doing so) unless they have completed and turned in their exam.

**Assignments:**

There will be homework assignments throughout the class that are intended to give students regular feedback on their understanding of the material prior to exams. The assignments and due dates will be announced in advance in-class and on Blackboard. The nature and number of homework assignments will depend on our course progress.

The graded assignments will be in one of two forms:

- (1) case studies, graded on both written communication skills and content.
- (2) homework problems to give students experience with the types of problems that will be on the exams.

**Class Engagement:** Engagement = Preparation + Participation

Participation in class is extremely important for several reasons. As your careers proceed, I believe that it will be necessary for you to have the ability and courage to express yourselves verbally. In addition, learning is enhanced by hearing, thinking about, and being challenged by different perspectives.

In this course, students are expected to be present, prepared, and proactive in class discussions. Class engagement will be recorded regularly to reflect the quality of your contributions. Attendance is the bare minimum and will not receive full class participation credit. Only students with consistent and high-quality contributions to class discussion will receive full credit.

Certain behaviors will detract from your class engagement grade (e.g. excessive unexcused absences or lateness, prolonged chattering, or other disruptive behavior).

*Guest Speakers*

There will be guest speakers throughout the semester. Students are expected to be present, actively engaged, and respectful of the professionals who visit our class. Being absent from a guest lecture will detract from your class engagement grade.

*Assigned Readings*

Additionally, there are cases and longer reading assignments throughout the semester. There will also be in-class reading and analysis of news articles, etc. The professor reserves the right to add a graded written component to the reading assignments if students are not adequately reading and preparing for class discussion. If this is the case, any additional assignments will be announced in class and on Blackboard.

**Schedule**

The *tentative course schedule* is included on the final page (*subject to change* depending on the progress of the class during the semester). Should a student miss a class, he or she is responsible for obtaining all material and information covered during that class.

## **Other Policies**

### *Academic Integrity*

Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. There is no justification for academic misconduct. Three fundamental principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own, or in the case of a collaborative assignment, names of all the participants should appear on the work; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. If you have any further questions about what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please see me.

### *Accommodation for Disabilities*

All academic accommodations must be approved by and arranged through Disability Services (<http://ds.gmu.edu>). After speaking with Disability Services, please meet with me to discuss your accommodation needs. Students must provide reasonable notice prior to an exam if they wish to take the exam at a Disability Services Testing Center; the earlier you provide notice, the easier it is to make adequate arrangements for your accommodation.

### *Digital Communication, Electronic Devices, and Recordings*

To comply with student privacy laws, students must use their Mason email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class, and when corresponding with me or fellow students. I will not respond to messages sent from or send messages to a non-Mason email address.

You are permitted to use laptops (or other electronic devices) to work on class material; however, please be respectful of your peers and your instructor. Do not use electronic devices to engage in activities that are unrelated to class. Such disruptions show a lack of professionalism and will negatively affect your grade.

Students are not permitted to record (voice and/or video) any part of the in-class lecture or activities without prior consent from the instructor.

### *Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, and Interpersonal Violence*

As a faculty member and designated "Responsible Employee," I am required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason's Title IX Coordinator per university policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the Student Support and Advocacy Center (<https://ssac.gmu.edu>), Counseling and Psychological Services (<https://caps.gmu.edu>), Student Health Services (<https://shs.gmu.edu>), or Mason's Title IX Coordinator (<https://diversity.gmu.edu/sexual-misconduct/where-turn>).

### *Respect for Diversity*

This course seeks to promote and maintain an equitable and just work and learning environment. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also

entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds, and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected. Students should give reasonable notice to faculty of any religious holidays and observations conflicting with course time; faculty will make reasonable accommodations to ensure that student success in the course is not penalized.

### **Proposed Schedule**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	Jan 21	Introduction to International Accounting Worldwide Accounting Diversity –Evidence of
2	Jan 28	Worldwide Accounting Diversity –Problems Caused by Worldwide Accounting Diversity –Reasons for Worldwide Accounting Diversity –Classifications of Accounting Systems
3	Feb4	Worldwide Accounting Diversity –Convergence
4	Feb 11	Worldwide Accounting Diversity –US GAAP v IFRS
5	Feb 18	Worldwide Accounting Diversity –US GAAP v IFRS
6	Feb 25	The Global Economy & MNCs
7	Mar 3	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
	Mar 9-13	Spring Break
8	Mar 17	MNCs – Foreign Currency Transactions
9	Mar 4	MNCs – Foreign Currency & Hedging
10	Mar 31	MNCs – Translation
11	Apr 7	MNCs – Consolidation
12	Apr 14	International Taxation Considerations
13	Apr 21	International Audit Considerations
14	Apr 28	Comprehensive Review
	<b>May 6, 4:30p</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> ( <i>tentative date</i> )

***Readings and Assignments will be posted to Blackboard in advance.***

*The professor reserves the right to make changes to this schedule and syllabus with appropriate announcements in class and on Blackboard.*