

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT DISCLOSURE AND ANALYSIS Online
MGMT 625**

**Fall 2013
September 4 - December 17, 2013**

**Westfield State University
Westfield, Massachusetts
Instructor: Rihab Alzubaidi**

Course Overview:

This course exposes students to the financial reporting and disclosure practices of U.S. companies in the contemporary operating environment. Topics include current issues in asset valuation, and measurement of liabilities and stockholders' equity. Student's skills in analyzing accounting information to make investment, credit, solvency, and other management decisions will be developed through the use of actual companies' financial information

Prerequisites:

MGMT 0316: (Intermediate Accounting II) or equivalent.

Textbook:

Easton, P., M. McAnally, G. Sommers, X. Zhang. Financial Statement Analysis and Valuation, 3rd Edition, (Cambridge Business Publishers, 2013). ISBN: 978-1-61853-009-7.

Course Format:

The content of the course will be presented online in Learning Units, which correspond to textbook chapters. Each Learning Unit will contain a wide variety of materials that will help you master the textbook chapter content. They include: lecture outlines and notes, audio or video lectures, power point presentations, additional problems, exercises for discussion forum and solutions, homework assignments, relevant and interesting web links, and chapter quizzes. For each Learning unit, you will read assigned materials and complete assignments and assessments by posted due dates.

In order to successfully complete the course, you are expected to read all assigned readings and take the chapter assessments for each Learning Unit. The assessments are provided to help you master the material and check your comprehension. They are not timed and you can take them multiple times until you achieve the grade you are satisfied with. The average of all of your assessment grades will be included in your final grade.

Learning Units will be available approximately every one and a half weeks over the course of the semester. You are expected to check PLATO on a regular basis (every two or three days) for new or changed course readings and assignments.

There will also be four online exams. These exams are timed and can only be taken once, but you will have a flexible exam window over which each student can select an exam time that best suits their schedule.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

SKILL OBJECTIVES

The teaching approach and nature of the course assignments should enable students to:

1. Cultivate and develop a capacity for life-long, self-learning.
2. Refine oral and written communication skills.
3. Refine problem-solving skills, including critical thinking and decision-making skills.

CONTENT OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this course is to advance the student's understanding of corporate financial reporting and analysis. The course will enable the student to:

1. Understand the information contained in financial reports.
2. Describe the implications of alternative accounting principles in financial reporting.
3. Develop and interpret financial reports including the use of ratio analysis to evaluate the performance of a company and identify areas of high audit risk.
4. Discuss ethical and legal conduct in financial reporting.
5. Use accounting information to prepare forecasted financial statements.
6. Use accounting information in the valuation of firms.

TEACHING APPROACH

I believe in getting you involved in the learning process to the maximum extent possible. For this reason, and because of the time pressures in this course, you may be reading, and completing assignments, before the material is discussed in the forum. I expect you to be prepared for each discussion questions by reading the assigned material and completing the assignments as best you can, to participate in the discussions of the various topics, and to be responsive when called on. I believe that you will find that this approach leads to a higher level of learning and deeper understanding.

Get Up to Speed with PLATO:

Before the semester begins, make sure you are ready for the online experience. Visit the following websites to learn everything from "how to login", to "checking your browser configuration."

http://www.wsc.ma.edu/plato/Seven_Steps_To_Logging_Into_Vista.html

http://www.webct.com/tuneup/viewpage?name=tuneup_start

http://www.webct.com/tuneup/viewpage?name=tuneup_browser_troubleshoot

GRADING

The course grade is composed of the following:

First Exam (include 5 chapters)	20 %
Second Exam (include 5 chapters)	20 %
Final Exam (include 4 chapters)	20 %
Homework	10 %
Class participation in discussion forum	10%
Chapters quizzes (14 quizzes)	<u>20 %</u>
Total	100%

Course topics

Week No.	topic
Week 1	Chapter 1: Framework for Analysis and Valuation/
Week 2	Chapter 2: Overview of Business Activities and Financial Statements
Week 3	Chapter 3: Profitability Analysis and Interpretation
Week 4	Chapter 4: Credit Risk Analysis and Interpretation
Week 5	Chapter 5: Revenue Recognition and Operating Income.

Week 6	First Exam (Chapters 1-5) Chapter 6: Asset Recognition and Operating Assets
Week 7	Chapter 7: Liability Recognition and Non owner Financing
Week 8	Chapter 12: Cost of Capital and Valuation Basics
Week 9	Chapter 13: Cash-Flow Based Valuation
Week 10	Chapter 14: Operating Income Based Valuation.
Week 11	Second Exam (Chapters 6,7,12,13,14) Chapter 15:Market-Based Valuation
Week 12	Chapter 8: Equity Recognition and Owner Financing
Week 13	Chapter 10: Off-Balance Sheet Financing
Week 14	Chapter 11: Forecasting Financial Statements
Week 15	Final Exam (Chapters 8,10,11,15)

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Academic Honesty:

Academic integrity is submitting one's own work and properly acknowledging the contributions of others. Any violation of this principle constitutes academic dishonesty and is liable to result in a failing grade and disciplinary action. Forms of academic dishonesty include:

- **Plagiarism** – submitting all or part of another's work as one's own in an academic exercise such as an examination, a computer program, or written assignment.
- **Cheating** – using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on an examination or assignment, such as using unauthorized texts or notes or improperly obtaining (or attempting to obtain) copies of an examination or answers to an examination.
- **Facilitating Academic Dishonesty** – helping another commit an act of dishonesty, such as substituting for an examination or completing an assignment for someone else.

I fully expect and trust that everyone taking this course will comply with the College's policy on academic honesty. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on the exam, quiz, paper, or project; failure in course; and/or expulsion from the College. Students who submit any assignment, assessment, or exam which has been completed by someone else will receive a failing grade for that work. The situation will also be referred to the appropriate dean for further action.

ATTENDANCE and TEACHING APPROACH

- You must have access to a computer. It should have high speed internet access. (The videos are almost impossible to download with a dial-up connection). If you do not have access or cannot get access to high speed internet you will be required to use the computers on campus in the computer lab's to do your work.
- You should plan on attending the orientation session previous to the start of class.
- You need to know how to add attachments to e-mails and discussions within Plato.
- You need to know Excel, Access and Word. You need to have access to these programs.
- You should be able to download files and plug-ins (and install them) from the web if needed.

- Know the basics about your operating system. I will not be teaching basic computer skills.
- You should know and understand what you have for firewalls, pop up blockers, spam software and which browser you are using.
- You should know how to disable some of the above software if it interferes with downloading some of our files.
- You should be able to carry on an educated conversation about your computer and your software with the people at the CIT HELP desk if you do encounter problems.
- You need to realize that technical issues do come up. Think about this when you are planning out your work schedule. Plan to get your work in early whenever possible in case your system goes down or you encounter some other technical issue.
- This course will probably take more time than a live course. You should be planning on at least three hours a week for any presentation coverage which is in place of the three classroom hours you normally have. You should then be planning on a minimum of six to ten hour a week for homework and studying. For most students this is the minimum amount required to be successful in this class. Some of you may need more time.

Additional Questions: Please drop me an email if you have any questions or concerns



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Looking forward to working with you soon!