University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
Bryan School of Business and Economics  
Department of Accounting and Finance  

ACC 420: Federal Tax Concepts  
Syllabus for SPRING 2017, T / R 9:30 - 10:45AM in Bryan 105

Instructor  
Mr. Erik M. Harvey

Office Location  
Bryan TBD

Office Hours*  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30 PM-3:30 PM; or, by appointment.  

*Anticipated changes posted to Canvas and/or announced in class.  

E-mail notice encouraged in case of unexpected, last minute changes.

Office Phone  
TBD; Can set up a time to talk at other times

Email  
emharve2@uncg.edu (do not use Canvas e-mail address)

Last updated  
January 16, 2017

Course Description
The goal of this course is for you to be able to recognize and to analyze issues that carry tax implications for individual taxpayers. This course will cover technical details of various tax laws. You will utilize tax research resources. You will prepare at least one individual federal income tax return.

Course Objectives
By the end of the course, you should be able to identify the tax reporting implications of the following issues.
1. Filing status, standard deduction, personal exemptions, dependency exemptions, filing the return, tax rates, tax rate tables/schedules, and tax rate computation.
2. Definition of gross income, year of inclusion, income sources, items specifically included in gross income.
3. Items specifically excluded from Gross Income.
4. Classification of deductible expenses, timing of expense recognition, and disallowance possibilities.
5. Personal casualty gains and losses, personal thefts.
6. MACRS depreciation, ACRS, amortization, and concepts relating to depreciation.
7. Transportation expenses, moving expenses, education expenses, entertainment and meal expenses, other employee expenses, self-employed expenses, retirement plan contributions, accountability of the reimbursement plan, and the 2% floor on certain itemized deductions.
8. General classification of expenses, medical expenses, taxes, interest, charitable contributions, and miscellaneous itemized deductions.
9. Tax policy considerations, individual tax credits, specific business-related tax credits, other tax credits, and tax payments.
11. Determination of gains or losses, basis considerations, concepts of nontaxable exchanges, like-kind exchanges, involuntary conversions, personal residence sale, and other nonrecognition provisions.
12. Rationale behind separate reporting of capital gains and losses, capital assets, sales/exchanges, capital gains and losses tax treatment.
13. Individual AMT.


GRADING

Participation: 5% (Class Discussion, In Class Problem Solving)

Quizzes: 20% (Lowest score dropped, can be given at any time)

Mid Term: 25% (Tuesday Feb. 28)

Tax Return 25% (Friday, April 14)

Final: 25% (After May 2)

Policy on Incompletes and Late Assignments:
No late assignments accepted. No incompletes allowed.

Use of laptops or other electronic devices:
Laptops and electronic devices are fine to use for learning purposes. Personal use (e.g. Facebook, checking email) is prohibited.

Cell Phone Policy:
It is preferred that cell phones be turned off during class times. If you need to keep your cell phone on during class, then please put it in vibrate or silent mode. DO NOT TEXT IN CLASS.

Canvas and Technology:
For those who are not familiar to Canvas, please consult the following resources:
- UNCG Canvas Resources (http://its.uncg.edu/services/service/canvas-learningmanagement-system)
- Contact 6-TECH: (336) 256-TECH (8324); ftech@uncg.edu

Policy on Academic Dishonesty:
As a more formal addressment of this issue: You and I are expected to abide by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy as well as by the UNCG Codes of Conduct. I respect and expect you to uphold the UNCG Honor Code that includes, among other things, that you complete your own work on your own to the best of your ability. Cheating in my class results in automatic failure of the course. I will report the incident to the Honor Court for full due processing. This ends up being a lengthy and stressful process for both the student and the
instructor. Please visit the following link to remind yourself of the full Code.
http://bae.uncg.edu/assets/faculty_student_guidelines.pdf

Policy on Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:
To request and receive accommodations at UNCG you must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). If you have any specific questions or concerns call ODS at (336)334-5440 or visit their website: http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/services/. Students with disabilities that affect their participation in the course and who wish to have special accommodations should contact ODS and provide documentation of their disability. ODS will notify the instructor that the student has a documented disability and may require accommodations. Students should discuss the specific accommodations they require (e.g. changes in instructional format, assignment format) directly with the instructor as well. Please visit http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/services/ for further information.

E-mail, Phone, and Open Door Policy
Please Email any issues or questions to EMHARVE2@uncg.edu. Email is the best method of communication with me. I have several offices and responsibilities throughout the state, but I am almost always online. I am happy to discuss topic ranging from class issues to professional issues during office hours or by appointment. Feel free to email questions and we can arrange a time to talk.

Class time and environment
We have very limited time together for class sessions. I will respect you and your time. In return, I expect you to do the same for me and for your fellow classmates.