

<b>Course Code &amp; No. - Section:</b>	ACCT 420 - Section 1
<b>Course Title (Credits):</b>	Federal Taxation (3)
<b>Term &amp; Year:</b>	Spring / 2014
<b>Course Ref. No. (CRN)</b>	10215
<b>Instructor:</b>	Daren M. McDonald
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<b>Email:</b>	dmcDonald@sierranevada.edu
<b>Office:</b>	
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment
<b>Class Meeting Time:</b>	Tuesday / Thursday 2:30pm - 3:45pm
<b>Location:</b>	Patterson Hall 213
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	ACCT 204, ACCT 205
<b>Corequisites:</b>	None

## Course Description

Federal taxation concepts are used in effective decision making; a working knowledge of the concepts of gross income, deductions, tax rates and property transactions as they pertain to C corporations, partnerships, S corporations, and individuals; and proficiency in the application of tax concepts as they pertain to business and individual taxpayers.

## Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Understand the organizational structures of C corporations, partnerships, S corporations and individuals and how that structure applies to taxation.
2. Understand basic tax terms and how they differ from Financial Accounting
3. Identify and discuss the basic framework of the Internal Revenue Code
4. Interpret and apply statutory and regulatory materials.

## Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Daily attendance and participation;
2. Homework;
3. Comprehensive case work.

## Instructional Strategies

This class will utilize lectures, small groups, and individual work in class, using laptop computers, inquiry learning, project learning and regular class assignments. The course will make use of the Moodle course management system.

## **Required Texts and Materials**

1. Principles of Taxation in Business and Investing 2013
2. Calculator (if using a computer in class, use a calculator with a tape such as Moffsoft's FreeCalc)
3. Laptop computer (one that meets the published SNC Laptop Requirements)
4. Word Processor and Spreadsheet Software (such as Microsoft Office, Open Office, or Google Docs). All assignments must be submitted in Excel or Word formats.

## **Attendance**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class session. Full attendance is expected and class participation and regular homework submissions are an important component of a student's grade. Subject only to exceptions for unusual and extenuating circumstances beyond a student's control as determined solely by your instructor, your grade will decrease by a third of a letter grade for each class you miss in excess of two weeks of class (4 class sessions). For example, if you earned 85% in the course and missed 6 class session, your grade will be 81.6%.

## **Class Requirements**

As business students in a business course, professional behavior and appropriate dress are required, and I expect you to behave and act accordingly. Before you come to class, turn off your cell phone. There will be no text messaging during the class period.

Arrive to class slightly ahead of the class time to get ready for the class. Turn off your cell phone. Set up your laptop if you use that to take notes. If there was homework due, pull that out at the beginning of class as we may discuss it. Frequently, you will be outlining coursework on a white board at the beginning of class.

Your dress should be professional while in class.

## **Prim Library Resources**

Using the library's resources effectively (not just Internet resources) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

Prim Library Resources for ACCT 420 include but are not limited to:

Electronic Databases (for peer-reviewed research articles, reviews, newspaper and magazine articles): Electronic databases more likely to include articles related to your course work topics are Lexus Nexus.

## **Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism**

### **The Honor Code**

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values

and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

### **Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code**

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

### **Grading Policy**

The grading system relies upon point accumulation to determine your grade.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Points</b>	
Homework	100	
Comprehensive Case 1	300	or VITA Program
Comprehensive Case 2	300	
Comprehensive Case 3	300	
Participation / Attendance	100	
Total points available	1,100	

Grades will be assigned based upon the points accumulated

800 - 1,100	A
700 - 799	B
600 - 699	C
500 - 599	D
Below 500	F

## **Homework**

Homework will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Homework must be turned in person or by email prior to the start of class. Late homework will be accepted, but is less likely to pass. Homework assignments are meant to practice and apply what was learned in class each day. Given your exams will have a strong degree of correlation to materials included in the Homework, you should endeavor to complete all assigned work on a timely basis.

## **Comprehensive Case**

Throughout the semester, you will be working through three Comprehensive Cases designed to assist and test your understanding of the material covered. Since most elements of tax law cannot be learned and applied in isolated matters, Cases help keep all the material covered current. The Case includes problems that will be developed and solved over the course of the term. During the semester, each student will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate the solution to a Case problem in class. Each completed Comprehensive Case is due as outlined in the course schedule below.

## **Alternative Case: VITA Program**

Complete the basic level certification of the IRS VITA program and volunteer 10 hours with a satisfactory rating from the VITA supervisor. This alternative will replace one case project, and provide you very useful real world experience on basic tax principles.

## **ADA Accommodations**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, [hconover@sierranevada.edu](mailto:hconover@sierranevada.edu) or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

## **The SNC Email System**

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

## **The Sierra Nevada College Mission Statement:**

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines liberal arts and professional preparedness through and interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

**The Core Themes:**

Liberal Arts

Professional Preparedness

Entrepreneurial Thinking

Sustainability

**Course Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic Covered</b>	<b>Homework (due the following class period)</b>
	<i>Reading for Class</i>	
Jan 21, 2014	Review of syllabus History and Structure of Tax Law Progressive, Regressive, Proportional	Current Event report on any tax news
Jan 23, 2014	Visit by VITA Program Coordinator What is and is not Income? What is Earned vs Unearned Income. SSI and Medicare Tax.	
Jan 28, 2014	Wages, Interest and Dividends Building a Model, Filing Status <i>Chapter 14 Individual Tax Formula</i>	
Jan 30, 2014	Capital Gains and Losses <i>Chapter 8, Property Dispositions</i>	
Feb 4, 2014	Property Transactions: Nontaxable Exchanges	
Feb 6, 2014	Property Transactions: §1231 and Recapture	
Feb 11, 2014	Itemized Deductions- Medical, Taxes, Interest, and 2%.	
Feb 13, 2014	Losses, Bad Debts, Involuntary Conversions	
Feb 18, 2014	Individual Credits	
Feb 20, 2014	Alternative Minimum Tax	
Feb 25, 2014	Self Employment Earnings and Expenses <i>Chapter 10 Sole Proprietorships</i>	Comprehensive Case 1 Due
Feb 27, 2014	Home Office and Special Expenses	
Mar 4, 2014	Depreciation and Cost Recovery	
Mar 6, 2014	Accounting Periods and Methods	
Mar 11, 2014	State Taxes and Nexus	
Mar 13, 2014	Case Review	
Mar 17 - 21	Spring Break	
Mar 25, 2014	Partnership Formation and Operations	

Mar 27, 2014	Partnership Taxation and Special Issues	
Apr 1, 2014	S Corporations Formation and Operations	
Apr 3, 2014	S Corporations Taxation and Special Issues	
Apr 8, 2014	Corporation Formations and Capital Structure	Comprehensive Case 2 Due
Apr 10, 2014	Corporate Income Tax: Book v Tax	
Apr 15, 2014	Non-Liquidating Distributions	
Apr 17, 2014	Liquidating Distributions	
Apr 22, 2014	Corporate Acquisitions and Reorganizations	
Apr 23, 2014	Consolidated Tax Returns	
Apr 29, 2014	Transfer Taxes: Gift and Estate	
May 1, 2014	Taxation of Trusts and Estates	
May 6, 2014	Final Review	
May 10, 2014	Final Session from 11:30 to 2:30	Comprehensive Case 3 Due

My Accounting Lab