# MBAD 6211 – Financial Accounting Course Syllabus

## Table of Contents

- MBAD 6211 – Financial Accounting Course Syllabus ............................................................. 1
- CONTENTS .............................................................................................................................. 1
- Instructor Information ............................................................................................................. 1
- Course Information .................................................................................................................. 2
- Course Objectives .................................................................................................................. 2
- Instruction Method .................................................................................................................. 2
- What We Expect of You .......................................................................................................... 2
- Required Materials .................................................................................................................. 2
- Class Website .......................................................................................................................... 3
- Session Preparation Guidelines ............................................................................................ 3
- Assignments and Grading ....................................................................................................... 3
  - Reading ................................................................................................................................. 3
  - Practice Assignments ........................................................................................................... 4
  - Case Briefs ............................................................................................................................ 4
  - Participation .......................................................................................................................... 4
  - Exams ................................................................................................................................... 4
- Assessment Overview ............................................................................................................ 5
- Course Schedule ..................................................................................................................... 5
- Course Policies ....................................................................................................................... 8
  - Academic Integrity Code Application .................................................................................... 8
  - Exam Policy .......................................................................................................................... 8
  - Late Policy ............................................................................................................................. 8
  - Grading Distribution ............................................................................................................ 8
  - Accommodating Disabilities .................................................................................................. 9
  - Netiquette .............................................................................................................................. 9
- Frequently Asked Questions ................................................................................................. 9
- Additional Resources .............................................................................................................. 10
- Schedule Changes ................................................................................................................ 10

## Instructor Information

Dr. Susan L. Kulp

Office: Funger 604  
Phone: (202) 994-3874  
Email: skulp@gwu.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment (encouraged)

Please Note: The instructor will read and respond to e-mail and discussion forums at least once per day during the work week (Monday through Friday). You may see the instructor online occasionally on the weekends, but please don't count on it! If you have a question regarding a writing assignment due at 11:55 any evening, the instructor must receive your question via Blackboard e-mail no later than noon Eastern time on that day. Queries sent after noon, Eastern time on the date an assignment is due may not be responded to, so please don't procrastinate!
Course Information
MBAD 6211 – Financial Accounting (3 cr)
We will cover the basic concepts and methods used in financial reports. By the end of the course, you should be an educated reader of financial statements; you should be able to read and interpret the income statement, balance sheet, and statement of cash flows as well as understand the underlying accounting procedures and choices and the impact of these choices on the statements.

Course Objectives
The objective of MBAD 6211 is to develop your ability to read, interpret and use accounting information. Our goal is to be able to analyze public financial statements from the perspective of an external user.

By the end of the course you should be able to:
- Explain and interpret the various financial statements.
- Understand the underlying accounting concepts employed by a company and the impact that these choices have on the company’s financial statements.
- Interpret the grey areas in accounting and how flexibility in accounting can be used to not only reflect company strategy but, potentially, to reflect company or employee incentives.

Instruction Method
Classes will be online, with several synchronous sessions to supplement the online material. The synchronous sessions will be run in an interactive format, consisting primarily of case discussions and interactive lectures/problem solving. We will consistently use real company financial statements to illustrate the concepts and become comfortable with the various reporting styles.

What We Expect of You
On average, most students spend eight to ten hours per week working on course assignments. Your workload may be more or less depending on your study habits.

We have worked hard to make this the most effective and convenient educational experience possible. The Internet may still be a novel learning environment for you, but in one sense it is no different than a traditional college class: how much and how well you learn is ultimately up to you. You will succeed if you are diligent about keeping up with the class schedule, and if you take advantage of opportunities to communicate with us as well as with your fellow students through office hours, on-line discussion boards and synchronous sessions.

Required Materials

Harvard Business Cases and Materials: https://cb.hbsp.harvard.edu/cbmp/access/43277517

All other materials will be distributed via Blackboard.
Class Website
This course will use Blackboard, GWU’s course management system. Go to http://blackboard.gwu.edu and log in. Please ensure that you check the website regularly for updates and announcements.

The main blackboard page (this one) will be used for all digital sessions, assignment (submission as well), course announcements and the syllabus. The individual synchronous section pages will be used to communicate section specific announcements, to access the synchronous sessions, and to respond to the discussion boards.

Session Preparation Guidelines
A quick note as we get started: This course is organized by episodes within each week’s session. I would like you to begin each Session by watching the first overview videos (episode). From there, you should view the InDepth materials and read the related text assignment (as needed). Finally, you should explore the optional, additional links and try some practice exercises (ungraded) to ensure that you understand all concepts. Accounting is a topic that takes practice; if you have never been exposed to financial accounting I strongly recommend that you attempt the practice problems. We will use the Practice Discussion Forum to talk about any issues you have with the concepts in the practice assignments. Please check this forum frequently – both to post any questions that you have and to help your classmates answer their questions.

For some of the synchronous session, we will use cases. Case-based learning means it is important be adequately prepared. I recommend that you prepare for these sessions by ensuring that you are keeping up with the course, doing the background reading in the text, working through the practice problems and preparing the case. To get the most out of the cases, it is necessary that you come to these sessions ready (and willing) to share your comments and criticisms.

Assignments and Grading

Sessions: 13 + midterm and final exam weeks
Practice Activities: Provided for each Session
Exams: Midterm and Final

The course has 13 sessions of one week each. In addition, there is a midterm exam week and a final exam week. In each of the sessions, to reach course objectives, students will read the textbook, watch the overview videos, view in depth materials, complete practice exercises, and prepare cases. Students will write their exams during the week of Session 7 and after Session 13; exams are due no later than 11:55 pm on the Sunday after they are opened.

Reading
Reading the text is critical to successfully complete this course. The text supplements the material in the In Depth pieces of the course and outlines the material that will be emphasized in the In Depth sessions.
Practice Assignments
There will be practice assignments in each session. These will be available in the Additional Resources area of Blackboard to allow students the ability to work on them throughout the session.

It is recommended that the first thing a student does after working through the online material and reading the session textbooks is to review the practice assignment questions to get a sense of the scope of skills that are required for competency.

Case Briefs
The case brief must be typed and written in a professional style. Your individual case brief is due by 11:55 pm on the Sunday after it is assigned in the appropriate Blackboard dropbox. Please check the Blackboard calendar for dates.

Four individual case briefs are the primary means by which you will prepare for most of the synchronous class sessions. These briefs count for a total of 12% of your final grade. You are required to write a formal case brief for 4 cases; we will discuss these during the synchronous sessions we will have during our time together. These are meant to enhance your learning and to help you better prepare for the exam. Please carefully check the course calendar for details regarding the dates the case briefs are due. Please note that you should be completing these cases briefs individually unless specifically noted.

The primary purpose of the case brief submissions is to show evidence of your case preparation, which may not necessarily correspond with perfect answers. As such, the points will be awarded for thoughtfulness, completeness, and clarity of your response in addition to the accuracy of your content.

Participation
In order for us to learn the fullest amount, it is necessary for everyone to come ready to participate regularly. This means thoughtful participation in discussion boards, beyond a mere “I agree.” Participation will be assessed after each Session, based on quality of your comments and questions in the case-based synchronous sessions, as well as participation in the discussion boards (note that participation is not given for discussions during office hours). To pull your weight, you should be participating regularly, be prepared, and contribute substantively to the discussions in the discussion boards and the synchronous sessions.

I will sometimes call on volunteers in synchronous classes, but I also might “cold call.” When called upon, I don’t expect that you necessarily have “the” answer. I do expect you to indicate a familiarity with the issues being discussed and a willingness to share your opinion with your colleagues. I encourage you to ask classmates to offer advice on how to improve your communication effectiveness. Additionally, I reserve the right to adjust your individual participation grade downward at the end of the semester to reflect absences in our online course space.

Exams
One midterm exam and one final exam will require you to integrate your knowledge of the topic areas and reading assignments for the course. All exams are cumulative and individually-completed. The exams (combined) are worth 73% of the course grade. The exams will be announced during the semester and will be located on the course calendar in Blackboard.
Assessment Overview

Your grade in MBAD 6211 will be computed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Element</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting Cycle Case</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Recognition Case</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingent Liabilities Case</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of Cash Flows Case</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1:</td>
<td>Session 1: Introduction to Financial Accounting and the Balance Sheet</td>
<td>Dyckman, Magee, and Pfeiffer, Chapter 1</td>
<td>Discussion: Class Introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/9 – 1/17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion board question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Practice Activities (see Additional Resources folder)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter end review, Chapter 1, E1-27, E1-28, P1-34, and C1-43, parts a and b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 2:</td>
<td>Session 2: The Financial Statements</td>
<td>Dyckman, Magee, and Pfeiffer, Chapter 1</td>
<td>Discussion board question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 3:</td>
<td>Session 3: The Accounting Cycle</td>
<td>Dyckman, Magee, and Pfeiffer, Chapter 2</td>
<td>Case 1: The Accounting Cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/23 – 1/31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Practice: Mid-Chapter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Session 4: 1/30 – 2/7 | Session 4: Revenue Recognition | Dyckman, Magee, and Pfeiffer, Chapter 6 | Synchronous Case Session: Case 1  
Case 2: Revenue Recognition  
Practice: E-6-33, E6-34, P6-44, C6-49, Mid-Chapter Review 2 (p. 277), E6-27, E6-28, E6-35, E6-36, E6-37, P6-36, and C6-48. |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Session 5: 2/6 – 2/14 | Session 5: Inventory          | Dyckman, Magee, and Pfeiffer, Chapter 7 | Discussion board question  
Synchronous Case Session: Case 2  
Practice: Mid-Chapter Review (p. 330-331), LIFO and FIFO Problem, E7-26, P7-34, C7-37, C7-38, M7-17, M7-18, M7-19, E7-29, E7-31, and P7-33. |
| Session 6: 2/13 – 2/21 | Session 6: Fixed Assets       | Dyckman, Magee, and Pfeiffer, Chapter 8, pp. 365 - 380 | Discussion board question  
| Session 7: 2/20 – 2/28 | Session 7: Intangible Assets  | Dyckman, Magee, and Pfeiffer, Chapter 8, pp. 380 - 400 | Practice: M8-11, M8-17, E8-31, C8-42, Intangible Assets Practice, Goodwill Practice, E8-34, and P8-37 |
| Midterm Week          | Midterm Exam                  |                                        |                                                                 |
| 2/27 – 3/6 |  |
|---|---|---|
| **Session 8:** 3/5 – 3/13 | Session 8: Long-term Liabilities–Leases | Dyckman, Magee and Pfeiffer, Chapter 10, pp. 453-466. |
| |  | Discussion board question |
| |  | HBS Tutorial – Buying Time |
| |  | Practice: Mid-Chapter Review 1 (p. 466), M10-14, E10-26, E10-27, P10-36, P10-37, C10-45. |
| 3/13 – 3/20 | Spring Break |  |
| **Session 9:** 3/19 – 3/27 | Session 9: Other Liabilities and Contingent Liabilities | Dyckman, Magee and Pfeiffer, Chapter 9. |
| |  | Case 3: Contingent Liabilities (HBS Case – Intel) – due in 2 weeks (Sunday, April 3) |
| **Session 10:** 3/26 – 4/3 | Session 10: Stockholders’ Equity | Dyckman, Magee and Pfeiffer, Chapter 11. |
| |  | Discussion board question |
| |  | Practice: Mid-Chapter Review 1, 2, and 3; M11-19, M11-22, M11-23, M11-26, E11-42, E11-52, E11-54 a,b,c, P11-58, and C11-63 |
| **Session 11:** 4/2 – 4/10 | Session 11: Statement of Cash Flows | Dyckman, Magee and Pfeiffer, Chapter 4. |
| |  | Case 4: Statement of Cash Flows |
| |  | Synchronous Case Discussion |
| |  | Practice: Mid-Chapter Review 1 (p. 158), Mid-Chapter Review 2 (pp. 166-167), Mid-Chapter Review 3 (p. 170), Mid-Chapter Review 5, M4-22, M4-23, M4-28, M4-29, E4-34, E4-35, E4-44, P4-48, P4-51, P4-56, and C4-59. |
Synchronous Case Discussion  
No need to calculate ROFL  
Practice: M5-14b, E5-26, E5-27, E5-28, P5-38, P5-41, and C5-48. |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
Practice: Review Practice Exercises from all prior sessions | |
| 4/23 – 5/1 | Final Exam | | |

**Course Policies**

**Academic Integrity Code Application**

The course will abide by the Code on Academic Integrity. A copy of this policy is available online at [http://studentconduct.gwu.edu/](http://studentconduct.gwu.edu/). Please take time to become thoroughly familiar with this policy. In the highly unlikely event of academic dishonesty, it is my policy to pursue the most severe sanctions available under the policy. Generally, the sanction is an F grade in the course. For this course, all exams, homework assignments, and case analyses are to be completed according to the description above.

**Exam Policy**

Exams will be given on the weeks scheduled in the course calendar. Make-up exams will be given only when prior approval is given by the instructor. Non-completion of an exam will result in an automatic failure (zero) on that exam.

**Late Policy**

Assignments are expected to be turned in by the posted due date. A late assignment turned in after that time, but prior to the first synchronous session of the week, will be graded with an automatic penalty of one letter grade per day. No assignments will be accepted after the synchronous session.

**Grading Distribution**

I plan on following the grading distribution recommended for all core classes. This aims for a class average between 3.2 and 3.4 with no more than 20% of the students receiving As.
Accommodating Disabilities
Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in Rome Hall, Suite 102, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/  

Special Considerations
If a student has a special need, University policy states that the student must co-ordinate with the Office for Disability Services and present the course instructor with the appropriate documentation detailing the fair accommodations for the student. This policy is intended to ensure fairness for all students and privacy for the student with special needs. If you have a special need, please do not wait until after an exam or assignment to present the instructor with evidence of your need as consideration may not be given retroactively. The instructor ensures your privacy will be protected when accommodating special needs. 

The University administration has accepted a resolution of the Faculty Senate regarding accommodations of religiously observant students and faculty. The requirements of this resolution state that students must notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance. Faculty member will extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations.

Netiquette
The term "Netiquette" refers to the etiquette guidelines for electronic communications, such as e-mail and bulletin board postings. Netiquette covers not only rules to maintain civility in discussions, but also special guidelines unique to the electronic nature of forum messages. Please review Virginia Shea's "The Core Rules of Netiquette" for general guidelines that should be followed when communicating in this course.

Frequently Asked Questions
Q: Can I prepare for case assignments working with classmates?  
A: I expect you to prepare your case write-ups independently. See the policy for academic integrity for more details. I do encourage you to work together and discuss basic concepts for the session via the online discussion boards, in office hours and in private communications. However, the cases must be prepared individually.

Q: What should I do if I don’t know how to do an individual case assignment?  
A: I recommend several courses of action. First, read through the textbook chapter and prepare and evaluate your responses to the practice problems. This should give you adequate preparation to work through the case assignment. Additionally, please do not hesitate to contact me for help.

Q: What should I do if I have a dispute over the grading of my work?  
A: Please don’t hesitate to send/give me a written description of your claim and I will happily re-grade the work. Please note that once you submit a request for a re-grade, the ENITRE assignment will be re-graded; your overall grade could change up or down.

Q: What should I do if I am experiencing difficulty in the class – either with the technical work or with participation?
A: If you are consistently having difficulty doing homework and understanding class concepts, let me know as soon as possible so we can develop an appropriate plan of action. It is best if we can work on addressing any issues as soon as possible. There are many resources available to you, including professor office hours, TA office hours, discussion boards, and your classmates.

**Additional Resources**

Additional Resources are available in the Additional Resources section of Blackboard. Please consult this area to access additional resources for the course.

**Schedule Changes**

This course outline is intended as a basic guide, but deviations from it are possible. Additional assignments may be given, and the order and emphasis of topics may be changed. Please ensure that you check the website regularly for updates.