

## MOS 3362B Introduction to Taxation in Canada

### Course Outline: Sections – 001 and 002 / Winter 2016

#### 1. Course Information:

Section	Instructor	Day	Time	Location
001	Robert Pilling – rpilling@uwo.ca	Tuesday	1:30 - 3:30pm	UCC-54B
		Thursday	1:30 - 3:30pm	
002	Jaclyn Cairns jcairns7@uwo.ca	Tuesday	6:00 – 8:00pm	SSC-3028
		Thursday	6:00 – 8:00pm	

DAN Management and Organizational Studies strive at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2111 ext. 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. More information about “Accessibility at Western” is available at: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca>

#### 2. Calendar Description

##### 2.1 Course Description:

An overview of the Income Tax Act (Canada) and its effect on business decisions. Covers both personal and corporate taxation including different sources of income, deductions and credits that are allowed under the Act. Includes coverage of the Goods and Services Tax system.

**4 lecture hours, 0.5 course**

Antirequisite(s): Business Administration 4479A/B

Prerequisite(s): MOS3360A/B and enrollment in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year of BMOS

##### 2.2 Senate Regulations

Senate Regulations state, “unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

### 3. Textbook

- 3.1 Byrd, Clarence and Chen, Ida.; **Byrd and Chen's Canadian Tax Principles 2015-2016 Edition**, Pearson Education Canada. Toronto.
- 3.2 Study Guide for the above text.

### 4. Course Objectives and Format

- 4.1 Course objectives  
To learn the principles of Canadian Income Tax
- 4.2 Course format  
Lecture, assignments and review

### 5. Evaluation

Requirements:	Percentage of Course Grade
Mid-term Examination ( <b>Friday</b> , February 6, 2016, 6:00 - 9:00 PM room TBA)	20%
Assignment (Due Friday, March 25, 2016)	20%
Final Examination (Date: April 11-22, 2016 TBA)	30%
Weekly in-class problems	20%
Participation – in class	10%

#### HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE:

This is not a class for sitting back and watching. You have to be willing to **do tax** in order to **understand tax**.

I will be teaching new material by working through problems, and you are expected to be actively engaged in this process. You will not merely copy down solutions; you will determine solutions to problems during class. Some of the in-class problems are listed on the course outline. Some are not. There will be additional problems to help you become more competent with the material. This will often involve collaborating with other students. Some in-class work will need to be submitted each week as part of your grade.

#### ***Please keep these things in mind:***

- 1) Come to class every class, no exceptions.
- 2) Read the PowerPoint slides **before** each class. Use the textbook when you need more detail than the PowerPoint slides contain. [It's actually well-written and rather interesting...]
- 3) Do the practice Exercises from the text book as you go through the PowerPoint slides. When doing the exercises, do not look at the solutions first. Please allow yourself to benefit from the process of making mistakes. After you complete an exercise, check the

Study Guide to see how you did, and make a note of anything that was confusing. Make sure that you understand the correct solution before moving on.

- 4) Attempt the Assignment Problems before the class in which they will be discussed.
- 5) Stay up to date with the material; you can't afford to fall behind.
- 6) Do as many extra problems as you possibly can find time for.

**Important:** This is not a course to take for easy credit. It is extremely challenging, and there is an incredible amount of information for you to learn and to remember. No two problems look alike. Watching me do tax problems in class might be fun (but probably isn't), however, it won't help you do tax problems on your own.

My number one hint is: Practice. That is also my number two and three hint.

## **PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE**

**Exam format:** Problems based, similar to problems assigned from the textbook. Each exam, in total, will be scheduled for 3 **hours** and you will be permitted to bring writing materials, a calculator and **2** sheets of notes (8.5" x 11" pages, double sided). . **YOU MAY NOT USE MORE THAN 2 SHEETS OF PAPER. Note sheets must be handwritten and personally created by you.** This means that material from another source must go through your eyes, into your brain, and then be transferred onto the page by hand writing it. The pages cannot be photocopied from some other source. Typed note sheets will be taken away at the exam. Under no circumstances can you use notes prepared by another student.

Should there be any concerns about your note sheets during an exam, they will be taken away from you.

No other items will be permitted at your desk in the examination room. This includes dictionaries, cell phones, PDA's, CD players, iPod's, etc. These rules will be strictly enforced as it is my responsibility to do everything possible to prevent cheating on examinations.

**Only non-programmable calculators will be allowed into the exams.** If you are unsure, please ask your professor to check your calculator.

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text. Exams will not be returned to students but may be reviewed in the instructor's office.

Students are **REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ALL COMPONENTS** of this course. There are no exceptions to this. Extra assignments to improve grades **will NOT** be allowed.

**Tax Assignment:** **You must complete all written components in order to pass the course.** There will be one hand-in assignment required for this course. The distribution and due dates are listed in the table below. The assignment will require you to research tax issues and develop an opinion on the appropriate treatment of a variety of situations for tax purposes. The assignment will also require you to complete personal tax calculations for a family. You will be required to submit your explanation of what you believe to be appropriate treatment for any issues described. Research materials you may use might include the *Income Tax Act*,

the textbook, and other CRA publications such as Folios, Information Circulars, and other tax related publications.

It is fine for you to work with another student or group (of up to 4 students in total) to complete the assignment. Groups must consist of students who have the same instructor. Groups may submit one assignment for all members. If agreement cannot be reached on the tax treatment of some items then some group members may wish to submit an individual assignment. In this case, please indicate the names of all people consulted in completing the assignment.

Beware of working in groups and using material provided by other students without proper referencing – this will be considered cheating if it is detected. **Plagiarism is a serious academic offence that can result in a penalty as severe as expulsion from the University.**

Whenever you take an idea or a passage from another author, you must acknowledge your debt by using quotation marks where appropriate, and by proper referencing such as footnotes and citations. Western has software available to check for plagiarism, and you may be required to submit your work in electronic form so that it can be checked by this software.

**Weekly Hand-In Problems: You must complete all written components in order to pass the course.**

For most weeks of the course there will be a problem, or several problems, assigned for completion during class. You will be able to work on these problems with other students in the class. At the end of the class, the problems will be handed in to the instructor, who will mark them and return them to you by the following class. These problems will not be scheduled in advance, although I expect to give at least one problem set per week, and there may be more than one. You are to come to class prepared to complete problems on the assigned chapter, in anticipation of having a problem to complete given to you in class. As it is recognized that on occasion some students may need to miss a class during the term, I will count your grade on your best 80% of the submissions. So, if I give the class questions to complete in 20 different classes, then I will count the best 16 submissions.

**Participation:** 10% of your grade will be based on your participation. The way to earn participation marks:

- Attend class
- Participate fully in discussions of chapter material
- Participate fully when working on in-class problems
- Complete all components

Marks will be awarded weekly as:

0 = 0% does not participate in any of the participation components (i.e. not present)

1 = 25% participates with excellence in any one of the participation components

2 = 50% participates with excellence in any two of the participation components

3 = 75% participates with excellence in any three of the participation components

4 = 100% participates with excellence in all four of the participation components

PLEASE NOTE: **Participation marks must be earned.** They are not negotiable, however it is important that you understand why you get the mark that you do, so I am always available to discuss matters like this, and I will provide feedback on how you are doing at least once during the term. If you wish to have more frequent feedback, please let me know.

Grades will **not** be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

## 6. Tentative Lecture and Examination Schedule

See course site for details.

## 7. University Policy Regarding Illness

### 7.1 Illness

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation supplied (see below for process) indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/general/privacy.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/privacy.pdf)

Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty.

Academic accommodation shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete his/her academic responsibilities. (Note: it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student was seen for a medical reason or was ill.)

A form to be completed by off-campus physicians is available at:  
[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

In the case of a final examination in the course, the student must arrange for a Special Examination or Incomplete through their Dean's office, for which you will be required to provide acceptable documentation.

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, you should contact your instructor and the Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. In general, retroactive requests for grade revisions on medical or compassionate grounds will not be considered.

## 7.2 Make Up Examinations

The student must write a make-up exam if the regularly scheduled exam is missed for reasons for which adequate documentation is received by the instructor (this documentation must be supplied by the Academic Counseling office).

## 7.3 Attendance

It is expected that students will attend all classes. The professor does not provide access to lecture notes. Students are encouraged to obtain missed lecture notes from a fellow student.

## 8. University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Cheating on exams will not be tolerated; students are referred to the university policy on scholastic offenses (see section 9.0 below). Looking at the test of another student, allowing another student to view your exam, or obtaining information about a test in advance are all examples of cheating. Students found cheating will receive a zero (0%) on that exam. A number of safeguards will be employed to discourage cheating. For example, examination supervisors (proctors) of the tests may ask students to move to another seat during the exam, cover their paper, avert their eyes from other students' papers, remove baseball caps, etc. This is not meant as a personal affront nor as an accusation of cheating, rather as vigilant attempts at proctoring. A copy of guidelines about how to avoid cheating can be obtained from the office of the Ombudsperson, Room 3135 WSSB, and (519) 661-3573.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offenses. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offenses in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offenses include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. If you are in

doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate, consult your instructor. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" will not be accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offense include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

## 9. Procedures For Appealing Academic Evaluations

In the first instance, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor (informal consultation). If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal must be sent to the Assistant Program Director or Designate of the BMOS program. If the response of the Assistant Director is considered unsatisfactory to the student, he/she may then appeal to the Dean of the Faculty in which the course of program was taken. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean, may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office.

## 10. Student Responsibilities

Material covered in lectures will not always be the same as material covered in the textbook. These two sources should be viewed as complimentary and not redundant. As such, students who want to do well in this course are **strongly encouraged** to attend lectures on a regular basis. Please note that the instructor will not be providing copies of lectures notes or overheads. Therefore, if you miss a lecture, you should try to obtain this material from another student.

In this class, some students may be unaware that their private discussions are distracting to other people. If you feel that students are distracting your attention from the material, then you should ask them to be quiet. If you feel uncomfortable doing this (or the problem persists), then please see the instructor. In addition, please avoid engaging in private discussions with other students during the lectures.

To avoid unnecessary distractions, please arrive to each class on time.

## 11. Support Services

### 11.1 Support Services

The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at

<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services (**including the services provided by the USC listed here**) can be reached at: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

## **12. Other Issues**

### **12.1 Grade Policy**

The DAN Program has a grade policy which states that for courses in the 3000-4000 range, the class average must fall between 70% and 75% for all sections of a course taught by the same instructor. In very exceptional circumstances only, class averages outside this range may be approved by the Undergraduate Chair or Chair. Class averages are not grounds for appeal.

### **12.2 Short Absences.**

If you miss a class due to minor illness or other problems, check your course outlines for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or exam. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow the missed lectures notes from a classmate.

### **12.3 Extended Absences.**

If you are absent more than approximately two weeks or if you get too far behind to catch up, you should consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses. The Academic Counsellors can help you to consider the alternatives. At your request, they can also keep your instructors informed about your difficulties.

### **12.4 Academic Concerns.**

If you are in academic difficulty, it is strongly recommended that you see your academic counsellor.

### **12.5 Important Dates:**

September 10, 2015 Classes begin

September 18, 2015 Last day to add a full course or first-term half course

October 29 - 30, 2015 Fall Study Break

November 5, 2015 last day to drop a first term half course.

November 30, 2015 Last day to drop full course.

December 9, 2015 Fall Session classes end.

December 10, 2015 Study Day

December 11-22, 2015 December examination period.

## **13. Other Information**

- Bring student identification to exams.
- Nothing is to be on/at one's desk during an exam except a pencil, an eraser, and the individual's student card
- Do not wear baseball caps to exams
- Do not bring music players, cell phones, beepers, or other electronic devices to exams

For The University of Western Ontario Senate Regulations, please see the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html)



## **14. E-mail Policies**

The following policies apply to all emails between students and the Professor. Please respect the fact that the Professor receives hundreds of emails from students and must deal with those emails in a fair and organized manner. Non-acceptable emails will receive a reply saying only "Please see Email Policies on the course outline".

### **14.1 UWO.CA Email Addresses Only**

For privacy reasons, students must use their Western email accounts to contact the Professor. The Professor will not respond to emails from non-uwo.ca addresses (e.g. hotmail.com, gmail.com, etc.).

### **14.2 Subject Line Must Include Course and Section Number**

The subject line of emails must contain the name or number of the course, and the section number in which the student is enrolled. The Professor teaches different courses and sections and cannot properly respond to questions if he does not know which course or section you are enrolled in.

### **14.3 Acceptable Emails**

- questions about the course content or materials
- asking to set up an appointment to ask questions or review an exam
- notification of illness or other special circumstances
- providing constructive comments or feedback about the course

### **14.4 Non-Acceptable Emails**

- questions that may be answered on OWL or on this course outline
- asking when grades will be posted
- asking what grade a student received
- asking where or when an exam is scheduled or the material covered on an exam
- requests for grade increases, extra assignments, or reweighting of course components

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question	Answer
How can I succeed in this course?	Do all the assigned readings, attend class, focus on understanding the principles in a way that lets you apply them to new fact situations, and <b>PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE</b>
I missed an assignment or exam because I was sick or there was a death in my family. What can I do about it?	See the section of the course outline on ILLNESS AND SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES
I have a lot of mid-terms or projects at once. Can I write the make-up exam?	Make-up exams for exam conflicts are not available unless you have <b>three</b> exams within a 24 hour period or a direct time conflict.
When will the exam grades be posted?	Mid-term grades are posted on OWL when they become available. Final exam grades and final course grades are not posted on OWL until the final marks have been approved.
Can I come and see my exam?	You can review your exam during office hours or at any other mutually convenient time.
Can I use an older version of the text?	You can use an older version of the textbook, but it is your responsibility to ensure that you are learning all of the assigned material. Be aware that different versions of the textbooks will be different and may cover different material or in a different way. Page numbers and rates will usually be different. Using an old income tax text book is like trying to start a car with instructions for a motorcycle. Things change a <b>LOT</b> in tax.
There is so much material. How can I possibly remember everything?	You do not need to remember everything in the book. You need to know how to apply the principles we have learned. You have exam aids which can be used to remember formats.
This mark is going to prevent me from getting accepted at Ivey/graduate school/NASA.	Grades are given based on actual performance, as set out on the course outline. In order to be fair to all the students in the course, grade adjustments, extra assignments, and the reweighting of course components are <b>not available. If you need a better mark, be sure to do better work during the term.</b>
<p>I need a certain mark to get or maintain a scholarship or my AEO status at Ivey, or for the CPA exemptions.</p> <p>I tried really hard, but I still got a poor mark.</p> <p>This is the lowest mark I have ever received.</p>	See box above.