



MGV 264V – Business Taxation

Course Description

This course has three objectives. The first is to provide you with the tools to identify and understand tax planning opportunities used by individuals and businesses. The second is to provide a framework for understanding modern political discourse regarding taxation. The third is to introduce you to the world of income taxation and its often-complex system of extracting funds from taxpayers. To accomplish these objectives, the course will consist of a general analysis of tax laws, economic theory, and practical applications. The course is not intended for those seeking to become tax professionals, but rather is designed to provide managers with the tools necessary to identify how tax issues affect individuals and businesses, and highlight opportunities to leverage tax issues to the advantage of those individuals and businesses.

Course Materials

Jones, S., Rhoades-Catanach, S., & Callaghan, S. (2021). Principles of taxation for business and investment planning 2021 Edition (24th ed.). McGraw Hill (Hereafter JRC). Earlier versions (i.e., 2020 or older) are not acceptable, as the textbook examples are different and tax laws change every year.

Course Assessments

Assignment	Week	Points Per Assessment	Total Points	Weight on Final Grade
Ten efficiency/equity questions	1-10	20	200	20%
Eight macro-tax exercises	2-5, 7-10	25	200	20%
Midterm exam	6	300	300	30%
Final exam (finals week)	11	300	300	30%

Graded Assignment and Assessment Information

Efficiency vs. Equity Questions

There are 10 efficiency vs. equity assignments. Each assignment consists of a series of six questions, and each question is worth 1.333 points each, for an assignment total of 20 points. The questions relate to a specific tax issue and ask you to identify and briefly discuss the efficiency and equity issues that are pertinent for the tax issue. Tools to help you identify efficiency and equity issues are included in your first weekly

lecture. The efficiency vs. equity assignments will be completed by you as part of your weekly asynchronous (pre-recorded) lecture. Your answers will be covered in your weekly live class sessions.

Macro-Tax Exercises

There are eight macroeconomic, policy-oriented homework assignments. This homework consists of individual assignments, not group work, and each student must turn in a copy of their answers. Duplicating someone else's work is a violation of the honor code, as well as a violation of UC Davis plagiarism rules. These assignments consist of a variety of questions and the exact number of questions varies across the assignments. In total, each assignment is worth 25 points.

Midterm and Final Exams

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm will be taken during your Week 6 live class session. The final will be taken during finals week. Each exam is worth 300 points. Both exams will be **very similar** to the assigned book homework problems—only the numbers will be different! The final exam will only include material on chapters covered since the midterm exam. The final is not intended to be cumulative, but the material does build on itself to some degree. If you complete and understand the assigned homework problems for each class, you will find the exams very easy.

Un-Graded Assignment and Assessment Information

Opening and Closing Quizzes

At the beginning of asynchronous content in Weeks 2–10, you will start with an opening quiz consisting of approximately four multiple-choice or true-false questions. You will re-take this exact same quiz at the close of your asynchronous class session. The purpose of these un-graded quizzes is twofold. First, they provide you a benchmark of your understanding of the material both before and after you watch your weekly asynchronous class. Second, they will calibrate the extent of your learning from the beginning to the end of the asynchronous classes.

Textbook Readings

Each weekly asynchronous lecture will (generally) follow the material in your textbook as outlined below in the weekly schedule. The weekly asynchronous lectures assume that you have already read the assigned book chapters. Thus, I strongly encourage you to read the textbook material before viewing the weekly asynchronous lecture; you will get much more out of the lectures if you read the book chapters first.

Homework Problems

You will be assigned a variety of homework problems from each book chapter we cover. These homework questions are found below in the weekly schedule. You will not turn these in and they are un-graded. The purpose of assigning these homework problems is to prepare you for your midterm and final exams. I take the questions for both exams directly from the assigned homework problems, but I change the numbers. If you can successfully work the homework problems, you will do very well on the exams. In order to assist you in completing the homework problems, I will post all answers to the homework problems to the LMS. If you are having problems working out a homework problem, I strongly encourage you to post your question to the other students, who are likely having the same difficulty you are. I encourage you to be each other's homework mentors. There will be time each week to work out selected homework problems in your weekly live sessions. You should let the instructor know which problems you want to go over in the live sessions so they can be prepared.

All homework below refers to the Application Problems in the text.

I encourage you to do the homework prior to your weekly asynchronous session. This will put you in a good position to actively learn the material as you work through the asynchronous class session.

Course Schedule

Week 0: Course Overview

Video of course philosophy, 3–5 minutes

Week 1: Tax Incidence, Efficiency, and Equity

Readings: JRC, chapters 1 and 2

Homework: JRC, chapter 1: 10, 12

Homework: JRC, chapter 2: 6, 10

Week 2: Tax Planning

Readings: JRC, chapters 3 and 4

Homework: JRC, chapter 3: 1, 16, 21

Homework: JRC, chapter 4: 5, 9, 19

Week 3: Corporate Taxation

Readings: JRC, chapters 6, 11, and 16 (only pages 13–19)

Homework: JRC, chapter 6: 28, 37

Homework: JRC, chapter 11: 5, 27, 29

Homework: JRC, chapter 16: None

Week 4: Property Tax Issues

Readings: JRC, chapters 7 and 8

Homework: JRC, chapter 7: 3, 17, 24

Homework: JRC, chapter 8: 23, 30, 49

Week 5: Multijurisdictional Taxation

Readings: JRC, chapter 13

Homework: JRC, chapter 13: 4, 5, 6, 27, 33

Week 6: Mergers and Acquisitions

Midterm Week

Readings: No pre-reading materials

Homework: None

Week 7: Pass-Through Entities

Readings: JRC, chapters 10 and 12

Homework: JRC, chapter 10: 19, 20, 25

Homework: JRC, chapter 12: 11, 13

Week 8: Individual Taxation

Readings: JRC, chapter 14

Homework: JRC, chapter 14: 6, 22, 30

Week 9: Miscellaneous Individual Tax Topics

Readings: JRC, chapters 16 (but not pages 13–19 and not pages 29–34) and 17

Homework: JRC, chapter 16: 16, 21

Homework: JRC, chapter 17: 19, 26, 32

Week 10: Retirement and Estate Planning

Readings: JRC, chapter 15 and 16 (only pages 29–34)

Homework: JRC chapter 15: 21, 35, 39

Homework: JRC chapter 16: 42, 44

Week 11: Final Exam—Live Session Only

Program Mission

The mission of the UC Davis Graduate School of Management is to be a global leader in management research and education. As part of the world's premiere public university system, we pursue significance, excellence, and scholarly rigor in our research, teaching, and service to the people of California. We emphasize curiosity, creativity, and high standards in the generation and transmission of theoretical and practical knowledge relevant for business.

Honor Code and Academic Integrity

Academic integrity exists when students and faculty seek knowledge honestly, fairly, with mutual respect and trust, and accept responsibility for their actions and the consequences of those actions. Without academic integrity, there can be no trust or reliance on the effectiveness, accuracy, or value of a University's teaching, learning, research, or public service activities. It is therefore key that we understand what academic integrity is, why it is important, and how to help it flourish on college campuses.

1. It is expected that all class members will treat each other with respect and dignity.
2. It is not acceptable behavior to insult, harass, or demean any member of the class.
3. Professional business behavior should be modeled in the classroom, including the use of appropriate language, jokes, or stories.

In general, students should adhere to the [UC Davis Principles of Community](#), copied below.

The University of California, Davis, is first and foremost an institution of learning and teaching, committed to serving the needs of society. Our campus community reflects and is a part of a society comprising all races, creeds, and social circumstances. The successful conduct of the university's affairs requires that every member of the university community acknowledge and practice the following basic principles:

We affirm the inherent dignity in all of us, and we strive to maintain a climate of justice marked by respect for each other. We acknowledge that our society carries within it historical and deep-rooted misunderstandings and biases, and therefore we will endeavor to foster mutual understanding among the many parts of our whole.

We affirm the right of freedom of expression within our community and affirm our commitment to the highest standards of civility and decency towards all. We recognize the right of every individual to think and speak as dictated by personal belief, to express any idea, and to disagree with or counter another's point of view, limited only by university regulations governing time, place, and manner. We promote open expression of our individuality and our diversity within the bounds of courtesy, sensitivity, and respect.

We confront and reject all manifestations of discrimination, including those based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs, status within or outside the university, or any of the other differences among people which have been excuses for misunderstanding, dissension, or hatred. We recognize and cherish the richness contributed to our lives by our diversity. We take pride in our various achievements, and we celebrate our differences.

We recognize that each of us has an obligation to the community of which we have chosen to be a part. We will strive to build a true community of spirit and purpose based on mutual respect and caring.

For more information, please review the Academic Conduct Booklet:

https://gsm.ucdavis.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/academic_conduct_booklet_fall_2014.pdf