



## ACC 430 - Financial Accounting Theory

Illinois State University  
Spring 2026



**Professor:** Hansol Yoon  
**Email:** [hyoon10@ilstu.edu](mailto:hyoon10@ilstu.edu) (preferred method of communication)  
**Phone:** (309) 438-7651  
**Office:** SFHB 332  
**Office Hours:** Mon, Wed: 2:30p.m.-3:30p.m. or by appointment

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### MISSION STATEMENT OF THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS:

Through our shared commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service, we prepare students to be skilled and ethical business professionals who will make significant positive contributions to organizations, to communities, and to our larger society.

### MISSION STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING:

The Department of Accounting's mission is to provide undergraduate students from the State of Illinois with high-quality, student-centered educational programs leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting or business information systems, a Master of Science in Accounting, or an integrated Bachelor of Science/Master of Professional Accountancy. We accomplish this by individualized, face-to-face instruction and interactions both in and outside the classroom. We support research and other scholarly activities and perform service activities for the department, the College of Business, the University, and other organizations consistent with these programs. Our mission also includes establishing and maintaining relationships with outside organizations and alumni that support our programs, students, and faculty.

### COURSE MATERIALS

- Required Textbook: Richard G. Schroeder, Myrtle W. Clark, Jack M. Cathey (2023). Financial Accounting Theory and Analysis: Text and Cases, 14th Edition. ISBN: 978-1-119-88122-3 (paperback version)
- Other material will be assigned throughout semester on *Canvas*
- Recommended Accounting Reading: [www.fasb.org](http://www.fasb.org), [www.ifrs.org](http://www.ifrs.org), [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), [www.pcaobus.org](http://www.pcaobus.org), [www.accountingtoday.com](http://www.accountingtoday.com), [www.journalofaccountancy.com](http://www.journalofaccountancy.com).

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the theoretical and conceptual foundations of financial reporting standards, including an overview of the development of financial accounting and the environment in which it operates. Current accounting practices are analyzed and evaluated in the context of the theoretical framework.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

*Primary objectives:* To broaden the maturity of the student's understanding of

- a) Theoretical and conceptual foundations of accounting theory and current financial reporting standards and practices;
- b) Factors affecting the historical development of accounting theory and financial reporting standards;

- c) Institutionalized arrangements and forces affecting the environment in which financial accounting and reporting takes place;
- d) Select topics in financial accounting and reporting.
- e) Rational, analytical, and integrative thinking skills in relation to financial accounting issues.
- f) Problem-solving and written communication skills.

*Pervasive theme:* build upon previous course work to assist students in passing the Financial Accounting and Reporting section of Uniform CPA examination.

## ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

You are responsible for attending class and completing all assigned academic work. You should familiarize yourself with University policy to understand [which absences are excused and which are not](#). You are responsible for making arrangements with me to complete missed coursework after an excused absence. Follow the instructions in this syllabus about any additional absences I excuse for this class. If you need advice on how to manage an extended absence or want notification of your absence sent to your instructors, contact the [Dean of Students Office](#).

Regular attendance is strongly recommended for this class. During class, we will engage in various in-class exercises and group activities. I will also emphasize the topics that are more important and challenging. Students will be held responsible for all information covered in class.

## GRADING

Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Becker Accounting Master (10 points × 8 chapters)	80
EYARC (25 points × 2 assignments)	50
AI Prompt Engineering Project	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>470</b>

The grading scale is:

A =	90%-100%
B =	80%-89%
C =	70%-79%
D =	60%-69%
F =	below 60%

## Exams (300 points)

The exams will be a combination of multiple-choice, short-answer questions, and problem-solving questions. You are responsible for all of the material in each of the assigned topics. As such, any and all of the material in the assigned topics is eligible for exam inclusion regardless of its coverage in class. The exams will be closed book. Make-up exams will be given only in rare circumstances. You must contact me (via email) at least two days prior to the original examination date to discuss the possibility of a make-up exam. **Please do not email the night before an exam and request an extension on the exam date.** In fairness to all other students, the expected answer is “no”, unless you can provide documentation to support your unique situation. Any student caught cheating on an accounting examination will be given a grade of "F" for the course. Additionally, anyone who takes a test out of the classroom (either during a test or during a review session) or out of the instructor's office will be given a grade of "F" for the course.

### **Becker Accounting Master (80 points)**

This course uses Becker Accounting Master™ platform for completing problem-solving assignments, which will be assigned for most of the main topics. Students will receive full credit on each assignment if a score of 75% or higher is achieved.

### **EYARC Assignments (50 points)**

Students will complete two EYARC assignments worth a combined total of 50 points. The first assignment, Digital Library 101, introduces students to essential resources and tools available through the EY Academic Resource Center. The second assignment, Counting Carbons, focuses on sustainability reporting and the role of accounting in environmental impact measurement.

### **AI Prompt Engineering Project (50 points)**

In this team project, students apply AI tools to analyze a company's 10-K and income statement, developing prompts to generate financial summaries and analyses of performance. Students then will reflect on what made prompts effective, how to identify inaccuracies, and how AI can assist or mislead in accounting work. The project emphasizes critical thinking, professional judgment, and ethical use of AI in financial reporting and auditing, aligning with core CPA competencies.

### **Due Dates & Late Assignment Policy**

The due dates for the assignments are listed on the weekly schedule below. For any assignment in this class, the late penalty is typically 10% of the points for each day late.

## **POLICIES & INFORMATION**

### **Absence for Bereavement, Active Military Duty, Serious Communicable Disease**

If you need to miss class due to the loss of a family member, active military duty, or required quarantine/isolation for a serious communicable disease, contact the Dean of Students Office to request that a formal excused absence notice be sent to your instructors. The Dean of Students Office can send a courtesy notice to your instructors about other absences, but many other absences (including routine illness for which isolation/quarantine are not indicated) are governed by the absence policy for this course and are not excused under university policy.

### **Absence for University-Authorized Activity**

If you need to miss class due to a university-authorized activity, as defined by [University policy](#), it is your responsibility to (1) inform instructors of scheduled absences in advance, (2) provide a schedule of all semester absences, as soon as you know, where possible, and, (3) arrange to complete missed class work. Ultimately, it is your responsibility for any material covered in missed class(es).

### **Professional Conduct**

All students in this course are expected to be familiar with the "College of Business Standards of Professional Behavior and Ethical Conduct". Students enrolled in College of Business classes are expected to maintain high standards of ethical conduct within the classroom and when completing assignments, projects, and exams.

### **AI Tools, Academic Integrity, and Plagiarism Policy**

Generative AI can be used in this course at specified times with proper attribution.

In this course, students can use generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT or Adobe Firefly) to complete specific assignments, given instructor guidance and permission, so long as the use of generative AI tools is properly disclosed through in-text citations, quotations, and references. Please refer to the style manual that aligns with your discipline for specific guidelines for attribution. Note that any use of generative AI must be both responsible and ethical. This means that students using generative AI are

required to comply with all privacy laws and research requirements to protect data and must have appropriate permissions to enter data into a generative AI tool. Students should clarify any questions on whether data or information may be entered into a generative AI tool with the instructor. You are expected to be honest in all academic work, consistent with the academic integrity policy as outlined in the [Code of Student Conduct](#) and any additional syllabus language. All work is to be appropriately cited when it is borrowed, directly or indirectly, from another source. Unauthorized and unacknowledged collaboration on any work, or the presentation of someone else's work, is plagiarism.

### **Campus Safety & Security App**

ISU is committed to maintaining a safe environment for the University community. Consider downloading the **SafeRedbirds app** on your mobile phone. The app contains useful information such as alerts and community updates, and toolkits such as campus map, Redbird Safe Walks, support resources, emergency contacting.

### **Student Counseling Services (SCS)**

Life at college can get complicated. If you're feeling stressed, overwhelmed, lost, anxious, depressed or are struggling with personal issues, do not hesitate to call or visit Student Counseling Services (SCS). These services are free and completely confidential. SCS is located at 320 Student Services Building, (309) 438-3655. If you are worried about a friend and don't know how to help, you can call SCS and ask to speak to a counselor. The Kognito simulation, available through SCS's webpage, can also help you learn how to assist your friend in connecting to services.

### **Getting Individual Help from Instructor**

Any time during the semester, if you feel that you need additional assistance with the material, I encourage you to see me during office hours. Or, if we need to meet outside of the time window, contact me to schedule an appointment. We can have virtual meetings via Zoom as well. You can expect a response to your emails within 24 hours during weekdays, and I will also make every effort to respond to your questions on weekends. If you have not received a response after 24 hours, kindly send a reminder.

### **Student Access and Accommodation**

Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability and/or medical/mental health condition should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 308 Fell Hall, Office Phone (309) 438-5853, Video Phone (309) 319-7682 or visit the website at [StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu](http://StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu).



## ACC430 Tentative Schedule – Spring 2026



Please note: This class may occasionally deviate from the course outline above. The instructor may make changes to the course syllabus as needed.

Date	Learning Objectives	Becker Due	Other Assignments Due Date
Jan 12	Introduction		
Jan 14	Chapter 2: The Conceptual Framework		
Jan 19	----- M.L.K Jr. Holiday (no classes) -----		
Jan 21	Chapter 2: The Conceptual Framework		
Jan 26	Chapter 6: The Income Statement		EYARC: Digital Literacy 101
Jan 28	Chapter 6: The Income Statement		
Feb 2	Chapter 6: The Income Statement	Due 11:45 p.m.	
Feb 4	Chapter 7: The Statement of Cash Flows		
Feb 9	Chapter 7: The Statement of Cash Flows		
Feb 11	Chapter 7: The Statement of Cash Flows	Due 11:45 p.m.	
Feb 16	<b>Exam 1</b>		
Feb 18	Chapter 10: Investments & Intangibles		
Feb 23	Chapter 10: Investments & Intangibles		AI Prompt Engineering Group Project: Company Selection
Feb 25	Chapter 10: Investments & Intangibles	Due 11:45 p.m.	
Mar 2	Chapter 11: Long-term Liabilities		
Mar 4	Chapter 11: Long-term Liabilities		
Mar 9	----- Spring break (no classes) -----		
Mar 11	----- Spring break (no classes) -----		
Mar 16	Chapter 11: Long-term Liabilities	Due 11:45 p.m.	EYARC: Counting Carbon
Mar 18	Chapter 12: Accounting for Income Taxes		
Mar 23	Chapter 12: Accounting for Income Taxes		
Mar 25	Chapter 12: Accounting for Income Taxes	Due 11:45 p.m.	
Mar 30	<b>Exam 2</b>		
Apr 1	Chapter 5: Revenue Recognition		
Apr 6	Chapter 5: Revenue Recognition	Due 11:45 p.m.	
Apr 8	Chapter 13: Accounting for Leases		
Apr 13	Chapter 13: Accounting for Leases	Due 11:45 p.m.	
Apr 15	Chapter 15: Equity & EPS		
Apr 20	Chapter 15: Equity & EPS	Due 11:45 p.m.	
Apr 22	<b>Exam 3</b>		
Apr 27	AI Prompt Engineering Team Project Prep Day		
Apr 29	AI Prompt Engineering Presentation		