I) Course Objectives
   1) The purpose of this course is to introduce the business student to a broad range of tax concepts and types of taxpayers. By the end of the course students should:
      i) Understand the development and rationale of the current Federal income tax system;
      ii) Comprehend the many ways in which the U.S. income tax laws influence both business and personal behavior;
      iii) Develop a tax intuition that will permit them to make a well-founded guess concerning the most likely income tax consequence of any business transaction;
      iv) Be able to locate pertinent authority to resolve actual disputes concerning the correct income tax treatment of any transaction.
      v) Understand the “mechanics” of the U.S. Federal income tax return.

II) Required Texts
   1) Murphy & Higgins, Concepts in Federal Taxation, 2015 edition
   2) Internal Revenue Code – I will be sending you relevant sections of the IRC via email. It is imperative that you read the Code sections that I assigned to you
   3) Newspaper articles – From time to time, I will send you relevant newspaper articles that covers interesting tax topics.

III) Grading
   1) Exams
      i) There will be two examinations during this quarter – one mid-term examination, and one final examination. The mid-term and final examinations will each count for 30% of the course grade.
2) **Class Participation**
   i) This class will require the solving of tax problems, so it is necessary for students to come to class prepared and ready to participate in the discussion and problem solutions. This means not only reading the assigned chapters but also working through the recommended problems. Class participation is worth **10%** of the course grade.
   ii) Students should complete the assigned problems before the class in which the topic will be discussed, but the presentation of these problems will occur at the beginning of the following class. Thus the format of this class will generally be as follows: we will cover a topic in-depth one week, and then review that topic the next week before going over the assigned problems for that topic, and then moving on to the next topic.

3) **Tax Research Project**
   i) One tax research problem will be assigned during the course, which will be worth **15%** of the course grade.

4) **Tax Return**
   i) Students will prepare an individual tax return, which is worth **15%** of the course grade.

IV) **Preparation**
As is noted above, it is essential that Taxation I students arrive prepared to each class. Tax, though a veritable thrill ride of academic discovery, requires practice in order to be absorbed. A key part of learning the materials requires students to determine the solutions to the problems themselves. Because this is likely your first tax class, the course has been structured to maximize your understanding of the topics. Thus, problems are assigned as “prepare” and “present.” It is recommended that you prepare the “prepare” the problems before the class, but you will not be responsible for presenting the answers until after the topic has been covered in class.

V) **Academic Honesty / Academic Integrity / Academic Grading Grievance Policy**
Academic integrity is expected in this class. Academic integrity means that you are expected to approach all assignments within the letter and the spirit of the class rules.

These rules exist to maximize the learning experience for all students, preserve the integrity of the class, and to help you practice the high level of integrity expected from business professionals. If you have any doubt about whether anything related to this class meets the standards of integrity, you are expected to disclose the particulars of the situation fully to me.

Academic dishonesty, as defined by university policy, will not be tolerated in any form. Activities that constitute academic dishonesty in this course include: (1) consulting those who have already taken ACCT-5150 (F.K.A. ACCT-536) about assignments before they are due; (2) working with non-team members on team assignments; and (3) handing in paper assignments that were copy-edited for you by a person other than your ACCT-5150 team member. If you observe instances of dishonesty, please report them to me immediately. University procedures will be used to investigate reported instances of dishonesty.
Seattle University is committed to the principle that academic honesty and integrity are important values in the educational process. Academic dishonesty in any form is a serious offense against the academic community. Acts of academic dishonesty will be addressed according to the Seattle University Academic Honesty Policy. The policy can be found at: https://www.seattleu.edu/WorkArea//DownloadAsset.aspx?id=78679

If you are not sure whether a particular action is acceptable according to the Academic Honesty Policy, you should check with your instructor before engaging in it.

For more information on the school’s Academic Integrity Policy, Academic Grading Grievance Policy, and Professional Conduct Policy, please visit the Academic Policies section of the Registrar Website at: https://www.seattleu.edu/registrar/academics/performance/

VI) Disabilities

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an “invisible disability” such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff in the Learning Center, Loyola 100, (206) 296-5740. Disability-based adjustments to course expectations can be arranged only through this process.

VII) Laptop Policy

The use of laptops, netbooks or cellphones/PDAs in class to take class-notes, view power point slides, or work on class projects is allowed and encouraged. However, please do not use laptops, netbooks or cellphones/PDAs in class for any other non-class related activity (including instant messaging, web-browsing, etc.) unless specifically permitted by the instructor.

VIII) Audio & Videotaping Classes

For protection of proprietary knowledge and for a variety of other reasons, audio and videotaping of any class session is strictly prohibited without prior approval of the instructor. Under extreme circumstances or for a pre-approved class absence, audio taping a class session will be allowed on a case-by-case basis with the express written permission of the instructor. The student will be responsible for making all necessary arrangements. Students will need to adhere to the appropriate agreed-upon use of the content material of all recordings.

IX) Office Hours

Office hours are from 4:00 to 6:00 on Wednesdays in Pigott Hall, room 507 or by appointment. PLEASE NOTE, though I will do my best to be available to meet during these hours, it may not always be possible due to work constraints. Thus, it is highly recommended that you contact me ahead of time to schedule an appointment to meet. Ideally, it would be best to meet during my office hours, but if for whatever reason you need to meet outside of that time, I am happy to arrange an alternate time to meet, either at Albers or at my office in Bellevue.
X) **TENTATIVE Class Schedule**

Classes meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:40 p.m. in Pigott Hall, room 201. We will cover the subjects listed below, but please note that the materials may change. Similarly, assigned problems are subject to change, and students will be advised in advance both in class and on the CANVAS system of any changes.

XI) **OUTLINE OF COURSE**

1) **April 1 – Part I: Overview**
   i) Students should have some knowledge of the history of U.S. taxation. They should be able to discuss the criteria of taxation and their applicability to tax policy decisions. They should be able to discuss what influences legislation of tax laws besides the raising of revenues. The legislative, administrative, and judicial sources of tax rules will also be emphasized.
   ii) Chapter 1 – Overview

2) **April 8 – Part II: Income**
   i) The student should have an understanding of the all-inclusive concept of gross income and the underlying realization requirement. He or she should be able to describe the cash and accrual methods of tax accounting for gross income. The student should be able to explain the principles applied to determine who is subject to tax on a particular item of income.
   ii) The student should be able to explain the statutory authority required for the allowance of exclusions from income. He or she should be able to analyze the sections of the Code that permit exclusions. The treatment, by both employers and employees, of fringe benefits will be emphasized.
   iii) Chapter 3 – Income Inclusions

3) **April 15 - (TAX DAY)**
   i) Chapter 4 – Income Exclusions
   ii) Chapter 16 – Tax Research

4) **April 22 – Special Topic (TBD)**

5) **April 29 – Part III: Deductions**
   i) The student must be able to explain the importance, as well as classify the deductions for and from adjusted gross income. He or she should be able to define the meaning of “ordinary”, “necessary”, and “reasonable” in relation to deductible business expenses.
   ii) The student should be able to discuss the factors that determine self-employed versus employee status, as well as various types of business expenses incurred by both, including travel, transportation, and reimbursed expenses.
   iii) Chapter 5 – Deductions
iv) Chapter 6 – Business Expenses
v) DUE TONIGHT: RESEARCH QUESTION

6) **May 6 – Mid-Term Examination**

7) **May 13 – Part IV: Property Transactions: Depreciation**
   i) Chapter 10

8) **May 20**
   i) The student should understand the tax accounting for depreciation of assets. The student should be able to define and calculate realized gain or loss. He or she should be able to define a capital asset and explain the importance of the characterization issue.
   ii) The student should have an understanding of the provisions for postponing the recognition of gains or losses in various types of transactions.
   iii) Chapter 9 – Tax Basis
   iv) Chapter 12 – Non-recognition Transactions

9) **May 27**
   i) Chapter 11: Character of Income
   ii) DUE TONIGHT: TAX RETURN

10) **June 3 – Part V: Forms of Doing Business**
   i) Chapters 13 & 14 – Corporations & Flow-Through Entities

11) **June 10th – Final Examination**