



SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
ACCT 3360 Section 1 Spring 2020
Federal Income Tax I

Instructor: Kathryn Troxel, CPA, MST

Email: ktroxel@seattleu.edu (*regularly check & response to email*)

Virtual Office Hours: By ZOOM or Skype by appointment, available Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to schedule time to talk between 9am-3pm and office hours right after class at 5pm-5:40pm.

Classroom: ZOOM 3:40pm-4:45pm, Canvas and other online tools

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this class is to give you basic understanding of Federal income tax for individual. Reduce taxable income, minimize your tax liability, increase refund, by understanding, apply and researching U.S. tax law....

- 1) **Identify** items of taxable income, deduction from tax and exclusions that are permitted.
- 2) **Develop intuition and understanding** of U.S. Federal tax law that will permit you to make a well-founded decision concerning the most likely income tax consequence of any transaction and become familiar with the deductions/exclusions component of the basic tax model.
- 3) **Gain Research Skills.** Demonstrate understanding of tax research in a client letter, on the tax forms and in a U.S. Court Case Zoom presentation.
- 4) **Confidently Complete** an Individual Form 1040 plus schedules and statements and understand why tax laws exist by the USA government.

Learning Outcomes/ Competencies:

Students will:

- *Use the tax formula, determine filing status and correct number of personal and dependency exemptions.*
- *Apply the taxation rules to determine whether items such as compensation, dividends, alimony, and pensions are taxable.*
- *Determine whether an item is income.*
- *Determine the realized gain or loss from the sale or disposition of property.*
- *Distinguish between deductions from and for AGI.*
- *Identify the different types of itemized deductions.*
- *Research primary sources including tax law, regulations, letter rulings and court cases.*
- *Discuss the tax treatment and requirements for Small Business/Sole Proprietor Schedule C.*
- *Prepare for the Regulation Section of the CPA exam.*

Tips to being successful in this class:

- Expect to spend at least **six hours** every week studying for this
- It is critical that you keep up with the material & do not attempt to “cram” the week before an exam
- It is also important that you be well-rested and attentive during both study and class
- Read assigned chapter of the text and work through tax problems before coming to class
- During class, ask questions about those areas you do not understand, and we walk through
- Review your class notes and textbook and write a summary in your own words.
- Quiz yourself and try to retrieve the information by putting it into practice.

Using Retrieval Practice in this course:

Retrieval practice is about recalling concepts, facts or events from memory.

The key is to use testing as a *tool* to retrieve learning from memory:

- As you learn something, pause & ask yourself what you've learned and how they relate to what you know.
- Instead of rereading materials, use quizzes (self-testing) to retrieve knowledge and skill from memory.
- Set aside time to quiz yourself regularly on past and new materials on a topic you wish to master. Remember to check your answers and so you can correct your mistakes.

Instructional Method for Online Learning:

We'll be starting out with a mix of what are called "synchronous" and "asynchronous" learning. Synchronous means we'll all be together at the same time, and we'll be doing that using Zoom. I've designed some asynchronous activities to reinforce and supplement what we do over Zoom, such as recall practice quizzes, assignments, tax research, independent study and completing a 1040.

I will regularly ask for your feedback on how the class format is working for you. Expect there to be a few changes as the quarter progresses; in any changes, I will be putting your learning first.

Textbook: "*Individual Income Taxes*" by James Young, Annette Nellen, William Hoffman Jr., William Raabe, and David Maloney. Publisher: Cengage, Southern Western Federal Taxation Year: 2020. 43rd version

Website: **Canvas** for lecture slides, homeworks/assignments posted and quizzes, and quiz solutions as well as posting grades and any additional online resources.

Grading Policy:

- Statement of assessment methods (retrieval practice thru exams, quizzes, presentations, assignments as proof you have master the subject matter)
- Late Assignments and Make-up Homework Assignments are not allowed and not an option.
- Grading policy, including the weight attached to any exercises, assignments or class participation in determining final grades.

Weekly Recall Retrieval Quizzes (5 points each)...7 total due on Wednesdays	35 points
3 Independent Tax Assignment Projects submitted (5 points each)	15 points
2 Team Projects, Tax Return Fed 1040 and Tax Court Case Presentation	10 points
Retrieval Exam A (mid-term) 25 multiple choice questions	10 points
Retrieval Exam B (final) 40 multiple choice questions +4 simulation questions	20 points
3 Surveys on Canvas (1 point each)	3 points
Participation/Discussion on Canvas and in Zoom meeting	7 points
Total	100 points

Students with Disabilities:

Accommodations for Students with 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 and I am happy to help.

Email: DS@seattleu.edu

Academic Integrity

As a Jesuit institution committed to *cura personalis*—the care and education of the whole person—Seattle University has an obligation to embody and foster the values of honesty and integrity. Seattle University

upholds the standards of honesty and integrity from all members of the academic community and important values in the educational process. Academic dishonesty in any form is a serious offense against the academic community. Acts of academic dishonesty or fraud will be addressed according to the Academic Integrity Policy.

To read the most up-to-date version of the Academic Integrity Policy, visit the [Academic Policies](https://www.seattleu.edu/academic-integrity/resources-for-students/) list on the Redhawk Service Center website. <https://www.seattleu.edu/academic-integrity/resources-for-students/>

Plagiarism— intentionally or unintentionally representing the words or ideas of another person as your own; failure to properly cite references; manufacturing references.

- Working with another person when independent work is required.
- Submission of the same paper in more than one course without the specific permission of each instructor.
- Submitting a paper written by another person or obtained from the internet.
- The penalties for violation of the policy may include a failing grade on the assignment, a failing grade in the course, and/or a referral to the Academic Integrity Committee.
- A student who cheats on Exam/Quiz/or Assignment, Paper/Letter, that student will receive a zero.

Attendance and Participation Expectations

Numerous research studies have shown that when students actively ask and answer questions, they take greater interest in the material, they clarify shared misconceptions, and they retain more information. I would like to see all of you actively participating in the learning process during lecture/discussion. At a minimum, active participation requires regular and attentive class attendance ZOOM meetings online.

I will not take formal daily attendance, but if you are regularly absent or if you regularly appear to be inattentive in class, it will concern me so I will contact you.

I reserve the right to “cold call” students who are not participating on Zoom online discussions. My intent is not to embarrass you; rather it is to help you get involved in the discussion where all of us can benefit from your comments.

Detailed Class Schedule Spring 2020:*

** Your learning is my primary concern in this course, so I may modify the schedule if, for instance, we discover we need to spend time on a certain topic and less on another.*

Due: Wednesdays by midnight, Recall Quizzes post on Canvas due during: weeks: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, & 9

4/7-4/9 Week 1

Topics: Overview Basic Individual Tax Return Federal Form 1040 and Intro, What are taxes?

Readings: Chapter 1

Assignment: *On Canvas upload your personal photo for your profile and review Syllabi, watch first week of Powerpoint slide lecture*

4/14-4/16 Week 2

Topic: Tax Research, RIA Checkpoint Tax Law

Readings: Chapter 2

Assignment: *work on Assignment 1, Tax research and understanding and summary write-up.*

4/21-4/23 Week 3

Topics: Tax Formula and Tax Determination

Readings: Chapter 3

April 23rd, Due Assignment 1: Tax Research

4/28-4/30 Week 4

Topics: Gross Income: Concepts and Inclusions

Readings: Chapter 4

April 30th, Survey #1 Due

Court Case Presentations on Zoom with your business partner in front of your peers in the class.

5/5-5/7 Week 5

Topics: Individual Deductions/Exclusions and Exam Review

Readings Chapter 5 and review prior chapters

May 7th, Due Assignment 2: Tax Calculations

5/12- Week 6

Topic: Review content, prepare for Recall

5/14 -THURSDAY MID-TERM 3:45pm-4:45pm

5/19-5/21 Week 7

Topics: Individuals Deductions, Losses, Business Expenses and Losses, Capital Gains & Losses

Readings: Chapter 7 and Chapter 16

May 21st, Survey #2 Due

5/26-5/28 Week 8

Topics: Sole Proprietor, Small Business, Schedule C, Deductions for Employed/Self-Employed

Readings: Chapter 9, review Schedule C

May 28th, Due: Client Tax Return Form 1040, complete with your business partner

6/2-6/4 Week 9

Topics: Alternative Minimum Tax, CPA Exam Review, Final Exam Review and briefly discuss Tax Credits and payment procedures

Readings: Chapter 12 and Chapter 13 (pages 12-18 and 32-34)

Study for Final Exam!

June 4th, Survey #3 Due

Due Assignment 3: Client Tax Letter

6/9-6/11 Week 10

FINALS Week – FINAL EXAM RETRIEVAL PRACTICE – June 11 (3:45pm-4:45pm)

We Are In This Together!!

1. Nobody signed up for this.
 - Not for the sickness, not for the social distancing, not for the sudden end of our collective lives together on campus
 - Not for an online class, not for teaching remotely, not for learning from home, not for mastering new technologies, not for varied access to learning materials
2. The humane option is the best option.
 - We are going to prioritize supporting each other as humans
 - We are going to prioritize simple solutions that make sense for the most
 - We are going to prioritize sharing resources and communicating clearly
3. We cannot just do the same thing online.
 - Some intended assignments are no longer possible
 - Some face-to-face class expectations are no longer reasonable
 - Some objectives are no longer valuable
4. We will foster intellectual nourishment, social connection, and personal accommodation.
 - Accessible asynchronous content for diverse access, time zones, and contexts
 - Optional synchronous discussion to learn together and combat isolation
5. We will remain flexible and adjust to the situation.
 - Nobody knows where this is going and what we'll need to adapt.

Everybody needs support and understanding in this unprecedented moment

from Brandon L. Bayne, PhD, UNC Chapel Hill

(<https://twitter.com/brandonbayne/status/1239336664176250880>; interview in The Chronicle of Higher Education at <https://www.chronicle.com/article/Nobody-Signed-Up-for/248298>)

(Note item 3 has been adjusted to fit our context)

P.S. Please feel free to reach out to me (Kathryn Troxel ktroxel@seattleu.edu)

if you need help or have concerns or are not feeling well.