

**University of Wisconsin Oshkosh  
College of Business**

**BUS 403 Federal Income Taxation**

**Fall 2009**

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<b>Web Pages:</b>	<b>D2L:</b> <a href="https://uwosh.courses.wisconsin.edu/">https://uwosh.courses.wisconsin.edu/</a> <b>West:</b> <a href="#">South-Western Federal Taxation: Comprehensive Volume</a> <b>RIA Checkpoint:</b> <a href="http://www.checkpoint.riag.com">http://www.checkpoint.riag.com</a>		

**Text:**

*South-Western Federal Taxation: Comprehensive Volume*, Willis, Hoffman, Maloney & Raabe. South-Western Cengage Learning, 2010 Edition (Required)

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the basic concepts of federal income taxation. An overview of the sources and basic framework of federal income tax law is provided followed by concepts of filing status, exemptions, income recognition, exclusions, business and personal expenses, and credits. The basics of property transactions and cost recovery are also covered. Tax research will also be introduced.

**Prerequisite:** BUS 301.

**Learning Objectives:**

In this course the student will learn:

1. The structure and primary sources of the federal tax law.
2. The organization and operation of the Internal Revenue Service.
3. The various concepts of income and exclusions.
4. The types of deductions available to individuals; including employees and sole proprietors.
5. The taxation of property transactions.

Additionally, students are expected to develop written communication skills and to demonstrate literacy in accessing and using on-line data. Writing skills will be developed through the tax case projects as described below. These cases are also intended to help the student develop analytical reasoning skills. The preparation of a comprehensive tax return will assist in understanding how the tax law is applied to specific situations. While formal presentations are not a part of the course, students will be called upon occasionally throughout the semester to explain their solution to a homework problem (as explained below). The syllabus and other data are available on the course web page. Students are expected to take the initiative in accessing this information. Additionally, students are expected to develop competency in the use of RIA Checkpoint®, an on-line tax research service provided by the textbook publisher.

**Grading:**

Exams (4)	80%
Tax return preparation (1)	5%
Tax Case Analysis (2)	10%
Participation / Homework	<u>5%</u>
Total	<u>100%</u>

**Distribution:**

Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	< 60

**Exams:**

There will be four exams scheduled and weighted as follows.

Exam	Date	Location	Duration	Weight
1	10/2	Testing Center	2 hours	25%
2	11/6	Testing Center	2 hours	25%
3	12/2	Classroom	1 hour	15%
4	12/18	Classroom	1 hour	<u>15%</u>
				80%

While the exams will not be cumulative formally, the nature of the material is such that some material is based upon material covered in earlier chapters. The first two exams will be administered at the Testing Center. These exams will be limited to two hours. Students may take the exam at any time on the scheduled day, but must take into account the limitations of the testing center. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have sufficient time to finish the exam. There will be no regular class on these exam days. The third and fourth exams will be administered in the classroom during the regularly scheduled class period. Exams will be **CLOSED BOOK**; students will be allowed one page of notes (8 ½ by 11) per chapter. Notes must be hand written and not photocopied.

**Canceled Exams:**

Should the University be closed unexpectedly for any reason (snow!) on a day when an exam has been scheduled, the exam will be given on the next regularly scheduled class day. Should the final exam be interrupted, alternative arrangements will be made at that time.

**Make-up Exams:**

The time and place for taking an exam is not negotiable. Failure to take an exam on the regularly scheduled date will result in a grade of zero for that exam, unless prior arrangement has been made. It would be an unusual event that would justify not taking the exam as scheduled. A makeup exam is not a right, it is an exception granted only at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Tax Return Preparation:**

Students are required to prepare one individual income tax return during the semester. The data is provided in the textbook in Appendix E. It is Problem 1, *David R. and Betty N. Lee*. It is due on December 11. The return is comprehensive in nature and will cover material from the entire semester. We will discuss these tax return issues as the appropriate topics are covered in class. The return may be prepared using the *TaxCut* software provided with the text, by using any other tax software that you have access to, or by hand on forms downloaded from the IRS [web site](http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/article/0,,id=209563,00.html) (<http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/article/0,,id=209563,00.html>). Please note; this is a 2008 tax return. Parts of the return should be prepared throughout the semester and it should be started as early as possible. It is unlikely that this tax return can be completely and adequately prepared on the day before the due date.

### **Tax Case Analysis:**

Two tax case problems will be assigned during the semester. There are four goals for this assignment:

- 1 To aid in the development of writing skills, especially with respect to technical communications.
- 2 To aid in the development of analytical skills. Each case will require summarizing how the provisions of the tax law apply to a unique set of facts.
- 3 To help in understanding the tax law.
- 4 To develop skills in conducting tax research.

For each research case, the student is expected to:

1. Read and understand the assigned case,
2. Summarize and explain:
  - a. the relevant tax issues
  - b. briefly the arguments of the IRS and the taxpayer
  - c. the case decision and why the result was reached.
3. Provide responses for additional, case specific assignments which will involve using RIA Checkpoint ®, an on-line tax research service

Only one to two pages are required for each problem, but they must be word-processed and submitted in electronic format in the appropriate “drop box” on the course web site (D2L). Grades will be equally weighted for each tax case analysis (5% each). Grades will be based on writing and communication skills as well as on technical accuracy. Part of one class period, early in the semester, will be dedicated to instruction in the use of RIA Checkpoint ®. Use the following URL to initially register for the service: <http://www.checkpoint.riag.com> using the user id provided with your textbook.

The two cases and additional requirements will be posted on the course D2L site.

Students should be familiar with the resources available at The Writing Center in the basement of Radford Hall: <http://www.english.uwosh.edu/wcenter/index.html>

**Participation / Homework:**

Part of some class meetings will be spent discussing assigned problems. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the assigned problems and contribute to discussing and solving them during class. Additionally, tax cases related to chapter topics will be posted on the course D2L site. Students are expected to read these cases and be able to discuss the relevant issues in class. Students will be called on randomly and the participation grade will be based entirely on their performance in this portion of the class.

**Attendance:**

Students should be familiar with the campus attendance policy as described in the 2007-2009 Undergraduate Bulletin on page 31. I will take attendance for the first week of class and sporadically thereafter. I will not use attendance in determining grades. However, I anticipate that attendance will be required to perform satisfactorily in the course. Further, part of the grade will be based on participation which, necessarily, involves attendance.

**Incomplete:**

Students should be familiar with the campus policy on grades of incomplete (I) as described in the 2007-2009 Undergraduate Bulletin on pages 28 to 29. Failure to complete all course requirements by the end of the semester will result in a failing grade. A grade of "incomplete" will only be granted in emergency situations. Hardship or inconvenience is not an emergency situation. Please note repeating a course does not remove an incomplete.

**Academic Integrity:**

This course is governed by the Wisconsin Administrative Code, as well as specific disciplinary procedures duly adopted for the Oshkosh campus. The system guidelines state: "Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors." (Section UWS 14.01, WI Administrative Code)

Students are subject to disciplinary action for academic misconduct, which is defined in Section UWS 14.03, WI Administrative Code.

You are encouraged to review the procedures related to violations of academic honesty as outlined in Chapter UWS 14, WI Administrative Code. The system guidelines and local procedures are printed in the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Student Discipline Code. You can read these and other conduct guidelines online at <http://www.uwosh.edu/dean/conduct.htm>. Specific questions regarding the provisions in Chapter UWS 14 (and institutional procedures approved to implement Chapter UWS 14) are directed to the Dean of Students Office.

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
9-9	W	1	
9-11	F	3	
9-14	M	3	
9-16	W	3	28, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 45, 48, 49, 50
9-18	F	4	
9-21	M	4	
9-23	W	4	30, 35, 37, 40, 45, 47, 50, 52
9-25	F	5	
9-28	M	5	
9-30	W	5	28, 30, 32, 35, 37, 38, 41, 43, 48, 55, 56, 58
10-2	F	<b>Exam 1</b>	Two hour
10-5	M	6	
10-7	W	6	
10-9	F	6	34, 36, 37, 40, 47, 49, 51, 56, 57a&b
10-12	M	7	
10-14	W	7	
10-16	F	7	29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 43, 44
10-19	M	9	
10-21	W	9	
10-23	F	9	32, 34, 36, 41, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 56
10-26	M	10	First Tax Case Analysis assignment due
10-28	W	10	
10-30	F	10	24, 26, 27, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 45
11-2	M	8	
11-4	W	8	31, 35, 37
11-6	F	<b>Exam 2</b>	Two hour
11-9	M	11	
11-11	W	11	
11-13	F	11	36, 37, 42, 45, 50, 52, 53, 54, 57, 58
11-16	M	12	
11-18	W	12	
11-20	F	13	
11-23	M	13	Second Tax Case Analysis assignment due
11-25	W	Thanksgiving	
11-27	F	Thanksgiving	
11-30	M	13	45, 53, 58, 60, 75, 81, 86, 92, 97
12-2	W	<b>Exam 3</b>	One hour
12-4	F	14	
12-7	M	14	
12-9	W	14	45, 57, 58, 66, 72, 74, 77, 78
12-11	F	15	Tax return due
12-14	M	15	
12-16	W	15	33, 35, 38, 47, 48, 54
12-18	F	<b>Exam 4</b>	One hour