Why is this course important?
The practice of accounting affects individuals, not-for-profit organizations, for-profit corporations, government entities, and many other entities. Understanding how to create and use accounting information is critical to your future success as a strategic thinker and leader in any organization.

What can I expect to get out of this course?
The objective of the course is to help those of you who know little about accounting gain a basic understanding of accounting (the “language of business”), its role in society, and how accounting information can be used to make informed decisions. Many of you will find the material we will cover challenging. Success in this course will likely require significant out-of-class prep time.

What are the required materials?

- CANVAS.UW.EDU: The central repository of all information relating to this course.
- CONNECT PLUS ACCOUNT: The textbook’s companion website.
- HARVARD CASE PACK: http://cb.hsbc.harvard.edu/cbmp/access/66122736
- CALCULATOR FOR EXAMS: Any non-graphing calculator, including the HP-12C. No cellphones.

Below are your options for purchasing the textbook and Connect Plus.

1. Buy or rent a non-custom textbook and a Connect Plus access code.
   - Available on Amazon and elsewhere.

2. Purchase a new custom softcover textbook. This is nearly identical to the non-custom version
   - Available from UW bookstore for $193.50. Comes with Connect Plus.

3. Use only the eBook available in Connect Plus
   - Connect Plus is available from the bookstore ($124), publisher’s website ($131), and other sources

I will post on Canvas all Non-Harvard cases listed in the course outline at least a week prior to when we will discuss them.
How will the course be taught?
I have designed our course and every individual class based on the following principles:

- **Relevance.** I will demonstrate the relevance of the topics we will cover by associating them with current events and real firms. Doing so demonstrates the extent to which accounting permeates society.
- **Interaction.** Active participation facilitates learning; passive listening does not. I design each session to be an active learning experience. This approach only works if you come to class prepared and willing to participate.
- **Organization.** Well-organized content, both at the course and individual class session levels, facilitates your ability to link new information with your existing knowledge. I have put considerable thought into organizing the course and class sessions to make them relevant, interesting, and informative. Periodically I will step back to show you how the topics we have covered, and will cover, are related to each other.

How will the course be graded?
Your grade will be primarily determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creating Financial Statements Project</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Questions (team)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I view grades as a noisy, short-term measure of success in a particular class during a particular time period. I encourage you to de-emphasize grades and instead focus on John Wooden’s definition of success:

“Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to become the best of which you are capable...when you give your total effort—everything you have—the score can never make you a loser. And when you do less, it can’t somehow magically turn you into a winner.”

With the above in mind, it is important to remember that the accounting backgrounds of your colleagues vary widely. While I will not attempt to factor in these differences when grading, I highly encourage you to do so in interpreting your success in the course.

What is the purpose of the exams, quizzes, and course participation grade?
- The purpose of the Creating Financial Statements Project is to test your knowledge of recording transactions and using those transactions to create financial statements. This project is a take-home project that you will complete on your own.
- The purpose of the two in-class exams is to test your knowledge of accounting concepts and practices and to test your ability to apply your knowledge to specific transactions. Any assigned or covered material is fair game for the exams (including case discussions and guest speakers).
- The purpose of the quizzes is not to force you to prepare for class. I sincerely hope that your presence in the MBA program reflects your commitment to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned material. The purpose of the quizzes is to give you an indication of whether or not you understand the material, and if not, to formulate specific questions that we can discuss. Everyone must individually complete the quizzes on Connect. You may use the textbook, notes, and other resources, but may not consult other

---

people for help. Quizzes have a 15-minute limit once you begin.

- Cases are an integral tool for learning in MBA programs. Cases are to be completed in teams.
- The purpose of the course participation grade is to reward students who actively contribute to the course, both inside and outside the classroom. Much of the participation grade will be determined through a peer voting system.
- Attendance is required. You may miss one class without penalty, after which absences will reduce your grade. Excessive absences may result in failing the class.

**How do I submit assignments?**

- Our textbook comes with an online study guide manager called *Connect*. You will complete your quizzes on *Connect*. To begin using *Connect*, follow these steps:
  2. Select “Register Now” and enter your email address.
  3. Submit the *Connect Plus* code that came with your textbook.
  4. Follow the remaining on-screen instructions.

If you have any problems using *Connect*, visit `www.mcgrawhillconnect.com/support` or call 1-800-331-5094. The online support for *Connect* is pretty good; they are likely to solve any problems you have quicker than I can.

- One hard copy of the case responses should be turned-in at the beginning of class. All team members should also bring a copy for use during the class discussion.

**What if accounting does not come “naturally” to me and I need additional help?**

First, recognize that accounting (or any other discipline) does not come “naturally” to most people; you are not alone. Second, recognize that if you are willing to put in the time and deliberate practice you can learn the material. To facilitate your efforts, I have an accounting doctoral student (Rosh) who will run review/help sessions throughout the quarter as well as hold office hours.

Below is Rosh’s contact information and schedule for the quarter:

**Rosh Sinha**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office:</th>
<th>PACCAR Hall 546</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rksinha@uw.edu">rksinha@uw.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office hours:</td>
<td>Tuesday 9-10am; Thursday 12:30pm-1:30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Code of Conduct**

By being a student in this class you acknowledge that you are a member of a learning community in the Foster School of Business that is committed to the highest academic standards. As a member of this community, you agree to refrain from cheating, attempting to cheat, plagiarism, lying, and stealing in relation to academic work.

In addition, I ask that you stay offline during class sessions and only use your laptop for class-related activities. Research shows that being online (surfing the Web, checking email, texting, etc.) inhibits your ability to learn and distracts those around you (including me). Thanks for supporting this policy.