

University of North Texas
ACCT 4300.004 – Federal Income Taxation
Syllabus – Spring 2026

Instructor: Nikki Sharma, CPA
Section: ACCT 4300.004
Class: MW 2:00 pm – 3:20 pm, BLB 005

Office: BLB 387C
Office Hours: M/W 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm (Denton)
Tues 8:30 am – 9:30 am (Virtual) <https://unt.zoom.us/j/85680237401>
Or by appointment.

If available times do not work, please email to schedule for other day/time.

Email: Nikki.Sharma@unt.edu (preferred communication)

Required Text: McGraw-Hill's Taxation of Individuals and Business Entities 2026, Spilker, et al. **(Release: 2025)**. Please obtain access to McGraw-Hill Connect ASAP. Click on link in Canvas to register. This way you are automatically added to the correct course. Please note that you are not required to have a paper copy of the textbook but you are required to have access to Connect.

Prerequisites: A grade of C or better in ACCT 2010, ACCT 2020, ACCT 3110; May not be taken more than twice at UNT.

Forward provision: This course serves as a prerequisite for ACCT 4320, ACCT 5110, ACCT 5310, and ACCT 5340. It may also be a prerequisite for some non-accounting courses. Please discuss your course schedule with your advisor.

I. Access to Information – CANVAS

We will use Canvas (<https://canvas.unt.edu>) extensively in this course. I will frequently post announcements or send out messages via Canvas and/or to your UNT email addresses. **You are responsible for checking these daily so that you do not miss any communications.** If you are unfamiliar with this system, you should take advantage of available training resources early in the semester. Lastly, technical support for UNT is available at <http://it.unt.edu/helpdesk>

II. Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the Federal tax system while providing them with a skill set that will enable them to apply the appropriate tax law concepts to various tax situations. After successfully completing this course, you should obtain knowledge and skills to:

- Explain the Federal tax system including the different types of taxes and various tax compliance practices and procedures
- Evaluate individual taxation key concepts like gross income inclusions and exclusions, deductions for adjusted gross income, itemized deductions, and the calculation of individual tax liabilities.
- Evaluate business taxation key concepts like deductibility of business expenses, tax years, acceptable tax accounting methods, book/tax differences, depreciation/amortization methods, and self-employment income and taxation.
- Evaluate taxation of business and personal property transactions: including calculation of capital gains/losses and calculation of business property transactions, including those under section 1231 and related code sections.
- Compare entity choices, including the different methods used to tax different entities.
- Prepare federal income tax forms for individuals including form 1040 and related schedules.

III. Course Structure

This class is set up as “in person”. Supplemental course materials will be posted to Canvas. Refer to the course schedule for specific details. Please note that the instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course structure and schedule as needed.

IV. Participation/Professionalism/Attendance

A professional demeanor is an integral part of any business environment, especially in your preparation for a career in accounting. Professionalism in this environment implies respect and courtesy for others. I expect students to maintain the highest standards of professionalism. Your speech, appearance, and attitude impact your professional image in the eyes of those around you. Asking for concessions that would violate the syllabus (attempts at turning in homework late, not watching the posted lectures, asking me to fraudulently report your grade by adding or rounding points, etc.), are examples of unprofessional behavior that translated into a business environment could get you fired. Start good professional habits now!

Because attendance is so important for success in this class, 5% of your grade will be based on attendance. Each student will check in during class period and your grade will be based on a percentage of your attendance in this class—please note no attendance credit if more than 5 classes are missed. You must attend the entire class period to receive credit for attendance. The 5% is an all or nothing type of grade. Either you will receive all 5% or 0% depending on your absences. We will use iClicker to take attendance and course name to register with is located on our Canvas page.

A link to the University Attendance Policy may be found below:

<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039>

Early exits or late arrivals will be marked as unexcused absences because they tend to disrupt the class. Therefore, if you need to arrive late or leave early on any given day, please inform/check with me in advance so that I may try to accommodate your needs in the best manner possible. If you attend class and miss iClicker for any reason, you can come up to me after class and I will adjust your attendance for that day. I will not make any adjustments after that class day.

V. Smart Book Assignments and Quizzes

You are expected to read each chapter prior to attending the lectures. Smart Book assignments are self-paced adaptive learning assignments that will help you understand the concepts before you attempt homework or quiz. The SB assignments and quizzes for that chapter will be due after we complete the lectures. Please look at the course calendar for details. Late assignments will not be accepted for Smart Book assignments.

You will have 2 hours and 1 attempt for quizzes. Quizzes are open note, and you are encouraged to use class resources to complete them. Due dates are indicated in the course schedule. Since all assignments are open at the beginning of the semester, students are encouraged to attempt them early and a doctor's note (dated assignment due date) will not be sufficient to receive additional time to submit the assignment. If you expect to miss one whole week during the semester, you are required to notify me at the beginning of the semester. Unless specifically excluded, students are responsible for all material in the assigned chapters of the text, even if not specifically covered in class.

Late work: Due dates for quizzes and homeworks WILL NOT BE EXTENDED. If you do not complete the **quizzes** by the due date, you can submit the remaining problems for 70% credit through April 30th. This does not apply to the homeworks, only the quizzes. Technological issues such as computers/laptops crashing, internet not working, etc. are not legitimate reasons to re-open or extend assignments for a student. It is wise to have a backup plan in case of these issues, such as using a friend's laptop/going to an on-campus computer lab, or going on-campus or to a coffee shop for wifi.

VI. Examinations

There will be three mid-term exams and a comprehensive final exam during the semester. **Your grade will be based on the three best efforts in the exams and all exams are weighted equally.** All exams will be closed book and you are not allowed to use electronic devices such as cell phones, PDAs, or smartwatches during the exams. A basic, four-function calculator (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and perhaps square root) is all that is allowed on exam days. Cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc. cannot be substituted for a calculator. **The exams will be conducted in the testing center in Sage Hall during regular class times.** Please refer to the course calendar for exam schedule dates. You will launch Lockdown Browser first, then access your exam in Canvas.

You have a responsibility to appear for each examination at its regularly scheduled time. No make-up exams will be available except in the case of university-approved emergencies.

VII. Grading

Assignment	Percentage of Final
Exams (best three out of four)	60%
SmartBook Assignments	10%
Quizzes	10%
Project	15%
Attendance	5%
TOTAL	100%

Overall course grading scale

A	≥90%
B	≥80%
C	≥70%
D	≥60%
F	<60%

VIII. CPA Exam Preparation

This is NOT directly a CPA exam preparation course. Recognizing the importance of professional certifications (CPA, CMA, CFE, etc.) throughout the careers of our accounting graduates, however, the Accounting Department is committed to providing information about the process of obtaining these designations and the degree of difficulty of questions on the respective examinations.

While the integration of this material in upper-division undergraduate and graduate courses will be dependent on specific course objectives, examples may include:

- Assignment of AICPA adapted assignments which are included in most accounting textbooks.
- Use of CPA exam questions as discussion or written assignments.
- Designing class examinations to include CPA exam level questions.

IX. Academic Dishonesty

The G. Brint Ryan College of Business takes academic honesty seriously. Ethics and integrity are important business values, essential to building trust and adhering to both professional and legal standards. Academic dishonesty destroys trust, damages the reputation and the value of the degree and is unacceptable.

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions from admonition (a warning) to expulsion from the University.

Some of the most common examples of academic integrity violations include plagiarism or cheating, such as unauthorized assistance on examinations, homework, research papers or case analyses. Your work must be entirely your own. When working on assignments, you should not discuss your work with others unless approved by the course instructor. Group assignments should only be discussed with members assigned to your group, and all group members may be held accountable in some way for known academic integrity violations in a group assignment.

Another example of academic dishonesty relates to improper attribution. When preparing your assignments, you must cite all outside sources in the manner requested by your instructor. Copying or using material from any source prepared by or previously submitted by others, at UNT or other institutions, or downloaded from the Internet, is plagiarism. Unless directed otherwise in an assignment, large scale “cutting and pasting” from other sources, even if properly footnoted, is not appropriate. You should synthesize this material in your own words and provide a footnote.

Your instructor will specify what materials, if any, may be used on the tests and exams.

Using materials other than those permitted, talking with other individuals during the exam, individuals exchanging information about an exam when one has taken the exam and the other has not, or copying or using material from another individual's exam is academic dishonesty and will result in a meeting to discuss academic integrity violations and potentially issue sanctions mentioned above, and may result in ineligibility for academic scholarships. The use of online assistance, such as sites commonly used for finding homework solutions, group chat, cell phones, smart watches, and similar tools during exams is not allowed for any reason unless specifically permitted. No portion of an exam may be copied or photographed without permission.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the University's status as an institution of higher education. A student is responsible for responding to a request to discuss suspected academic dishonesty when issued by an instructor or other University official. If a student fails to respond after a proper attempt at notification has been made, the University may take appropriate academic actions in the absence of the student's participation.

Penalties: If you engage in academic dishonesty related to this class, you will receive a failing grade on the test or assignment **and** a failing grade in the course. In addition, the case will be referred to the Dean of Students for appropriate disciplinary action. Further information can be found at <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

X. Disabling Conditions:

The Department of Accounting, in cooperation with the Office of Disability Access, complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have an established disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act and would like to request an accommodation, please present your written accommodation request during the first two weeks of classes. My office hours and office number are shown on this syllabus. Further information can be found at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>

XI. Succeed at UNT

UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Here's how to succeed at UNT: Show up. Find support. Get advised. Be prepared. Get involved. Stay focused. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go to <http://success.unt.edu/>. The key to success is persistence.

XII. Emergency Notification & Procedures:

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at <http://www.my.unt.edu>. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas in the buildings where your classes are held, 2) determine how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and 3) identify where you will go if you

need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

XIII. Emergency Evacuation Procedures for Business Leadership Building:

- **Severe Weather:** In the event of severe weather, all building occupants should immediately seek shelter in the designated shelter-in-place area in the building. If unable to safely move to the designated shelter-in-place area, seek shelter in a windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest floor of the building. All building occupants should take shelter in rooms 055, 077, 090, and the restrooms on the basement level. In rooms 170, 155, and the restrooms on the first floor.
- **Bomb Threat/Fire:** In the event of a bomb threat or fire in the building, all building occupants should immediately evacuate the building using the nearest exit. Once outside, proceed to the designated assembly area. If unable to safely move to the designated assembly area, contact one or more members of your department or unit to let them know you are safe and inform them of your whereabouts. Persons with mobility impairments who are unable to safely exit the building should move to a designated area of refuge and await assistance from emergency responders. All building occupants should immediately evacuate the building and proceed to the south side of Crumley Hall in the grassy area, west of parking lot 2.

Ch. __ Due

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Ch. 10	2	3	4
5 Ch. 10 Due	6 Ch. 11	7	8 Ch. 11	9	10 AST DAY TO DRO	11
12 Ch. 11 Due	13 Ch. 12	14	15 Ch. 13	16	17	18
19 Ch. 12 Due	20 PROJECTS DUE! Ch. 13	21	22 Exam 3 Review	23	24	25
26 Ch. 13 Due	27 EXAM 3 Ch. 10,11,12,13	28	29 Final Exam Review	30		

Ch. __ Due

means the **homework** and **quiz** assignments for that ch

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 First Day of Class Intro + CH 1	13	14 CH 1	15	16	17
18	19 MLK Jr. Day No Classes	20	21 CH 2	22	23	24
25	26 CH 3	27	28 CH 3	29	30	31

Ch. __ Due

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Ch. 3 Due	2 CH 4	3	4 CH 4	5	6	7
8 Ch. 4 Due	9 CH 5	10	11 CH 5	12	13	14
15 Ch. 5 Due	16 Exam 1 Review	17	18 Exam 1 Ch. 1,2,3,4,5	19	20	21
22	23 CH 6	24	25 CH 6	26	27	28

Ch. __ Due

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Ch. 6 Due	2 Ch. 7	3	4 Ch. 7	5	6	7
8 Ch. 7 Due	Spring Break - No Classes					14
15	16 Ch. 8	17	18 Ch. 8	19	20	21
22 Ch. 8 Due	23 Ch. 9	24	25 Exam 2 Review	26	27	28
29 Ch. 9 Due	30 EXAM 2 Ch. 6,7,8,9	31				

Ch. __ Due

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 FINAL EXAM 12:30PM - 2:30PM	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30