

ACC1701B ACCOUNTING FOR DECISION MAKERS
National University of Singapore Business School
AY2024-25 Semester 2
COURSE OUTLINE

In-brief

The course provides an introduction to accounting from a user perspective. Financial reporting is covered from the viewpoint of an external investor or a manager. The focus is on how accounting can help investors or managers make better decisions. Book-keeping and preparation of financial statements are also covered at an introductory level, as investors need to be aware of how the financial statements are derived.

This course, together with other higher-level accounting courses, is accredited by the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants and other professional qualifications.

The course is a distinct and independent course from other courses with the codes ACC1701A and ACC1701C, and from ACC1701X for non-business students. The pedagogy, course requirements, sequence of topics and assessment patterns are different for each of these courses.

Instructor

Name: Stephen Lynn
NUS Email ID: `biz1sg`

Email policy: Please use email (or MS Teams messaging or Canvas Inbox) only for personal administrative matters. For content-related queries or general administrative queries, please post your query on the “Ask Questions Here” discussion on Canvas.

Classes

This information is correct as of December 2024.

SECTION	DAY	TIMESLOT	VENUE
B1	WED	0830–1130	BIZ2 0510
B2	THU	0830–1130	BIZ1 0203
B3	THU	1500–1800	BIZ2 B104

Learning outcomes

After successfully completing this course, you would be able to:

- LO1 Prepare the accounts for a small service- or merchandise-trading business (at an introductory level). We will start learning this in tutorials via a continuing problem assigned for homework.
- LO2 Read financial statements of listed companies with a view to making better investing decisions (at an introductory level). We will start learning this in class by referring to the financial statements of FJ Benjamin among other entities, and in homework by referring to the financial statements of The Hourglass, Cortina, and Emperor Watch and Jewellery Co.

Apart from these course-specific outcomes, we share some common desired outcomes with the BBA or BBA(Acc.) programs and especially the foundation courses. *Ethics* is prominent among these shared desired learning outcomes.

Ethics

Ethics is the ability to distinguish right from wrong. Ethics is particularly important in business, where strangers engage in transactions where all are seeking their own enlightened self-interest. Unless the stranger you are dealing with can trust you, and unless you can trust that stranger, the transaction will not happen. Survival in business therefore depends on being ethical and trustworthy and knowing when others are ethical and trustworthy. These qualities can be cultivated by studying ethics in BBA courses, including ACC1701B.

More specific to accounting, to quote from our optional textbook (Wild-Kwok-Shaw page 5), “Accountants face ethical choices as they prepare financial reports. These choices can affect the salaries and bonuses paid to workers. They even can affect the success of products and services. Misleading information can lead to a bad decision that harms workers and the business. There is an old saying: Good ethics are good business.”

In ACC1701B, ethics problems from the textbook are assigned as extra practice problems for self-study, as well as in homework and Canvas online discussion. Ethics will be tested in the midterm test and final exam.

Textbook (optional)

Wild, Kwok, Shaw, 2022, Principles of financial accounting (Asia Global Edition), Singapore:McGraw-Hill. Library catalogue: <https://linc.nus.edu.sg/record=b4327419>

Annand and Dauderis, 2021, Introduction to financial accounting, Canada: Lyryx Learning. (This is a freely distributable and open-source textbook. You can find a copy on the Canvas website for ACC1701B).

Assessments

ITEM	WEIGHT %
Final Exam	50
Midterm Test	30
Class participation	20

Final exam

The final exam is 2 hours in duration. It carries 100 marks and has a weight of 50% in the course total marks. It is an e-assessment using Exemplify. It is a closed-book examination, i.e., a secure assessment using Exemplify. A one-page A4-sized cheatsheet is allowed which can be double-sided. Three sheets of rough paper (and no more) would be provided for workings. NUS approved calculators are allowed. The scope is comprehensive. The exam will consist of four essay questions (longer problems), one requiring preparation of a classified balance sheet (possibly among other requirements), one requiring preparation of a statement of cash flows (possibly among other requirements), one on ethics, and a fourth wild card question. The ethics question is worth 10 marks and each of the other three is worth 30 marks. Mock exams will be provided by the reading week to provide practice and to familiarize classmates with the format.

Midterm test

The midterm test is 1.5 hours in duration. The marks for the midterm are 30, and it has a weight of 30% in the total course marks. It will be held in Week 8 (Tentative date and time: Saturday 15 March 2025, 10 am.). The scope includes all lectures up to and including Week 6, and all homework up to and including Week 7. Ethics will be tested in the midterm test. The midterm test is closed-book, i.e., a secure assessment on Exemplify. No cheat sheet is allowed. NUS approved calculators are allowed. Three sheets of rough paper (and no more) are provided for workings. Questions are objective type and will be automatically marked. These include 20 multiple choice questions (MCQ) worth 1 mark each, and fill in the blank (FITB) questions worth 10 marks. Examinees are warned that FITB questions are auto-scored, and answers should be entered *exactly* as prescribed in the question in order to get marks. Failure to follow instructions will lead to your being marked wrong even if calculations are correct, and no appeal will be allowed. Mock tests will be provided by the recess week to provide practice and to familiarize classmates with the format.

Midterm Test: Saturday 15-Mar-2025, 1000–1130 (TBC). Venue TBA.

Class participation

Class participation is broken up into 10 marks for group presentations, and 10 marks for individual class participation.

Groups are formed in week 3 and presentations of selected homework questions will start from week 5. The detailed presentation schedule is posted on Canvas.

Individual class participation is based on attendance, responding to calls to share solutions in in-class

exercises, responding to calls to share homework answers, participation in pop quizzes if any, and participation in any other instructor-created activities that the instructor may flag as counting for participation marks, such as some discussions on Canvas. Classmates who attend and participate in every class should get 10 out of 10, but missed classes (not attended, or, attended but did not participate) will attract a non-linear penalty based on the square of the number of missed classes. Classes missed for valid documented reasons such as illness with MC are not penalized. More details of the assessment rules for individual class participation are posted on Canvas.

Teaching and Learning Activities

The course will be conducted through seminar classes. These will typically step through guided exercises in class, as well as go through the solution to a homework problem for the week mostly based on the previous week's topic. Pop quizzes may be conducted in some classes.

Weekly schedule

(Subject to change. More details are posted on Canvas.)

Week 1:	The accounting equation
Week 2:	Debits and credits
Week 3:	Adjusting and closing
Week 4:	Merchandising accounts
Week 5:	Merchandising inventory
Week 6:	Cash and trade receivables
RECESS WEEK	
Week 7:	Notes (receivable and payable), warranty provision
Week 8:	Property, plant and equipment (PPE)
Week 9:	Accounting for corporations: Statement of comprehensive income, Statement of Changes in Equity
Week 10:	Accounting for corporations: Preference shares, treasury shares, bonus shares
Week 11:	Statement of cash flows: Cash flow from operating activities
Week 12:	Statement of cash flows: Investing and Financing activities
Week 13:	Homework only