### ACTG 615

**School of Business Mission Statement**
The University of Montana’s School of Business Administration is a collegial learning community dedicated to the teaching, exploration, and application of the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a competitive marketplace.

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**Masters of Accountancy Mission Statement**
The Masters of Accountancy program provides breadth and depth in accounting, taxation, and business to develop a high level of understanding, skill and leadership capability for advancement in the accounting profession and other related business careers.

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**MAcct Assessment and Assurance of Learning Goals**
As part of our assessment process and assurance-of-learning standards, the MAcct Curriculum and Assessment Committee has adopted five learning goals for MAcct students. MAcct students will:

1. Obtain a deeper mastery of technical accounting competencies
2. Understand the role of the accounting profession in business and the economy, along with the importance of professionalism and ethics in carrying out this role
3. Will be effective communicators
4. Will apply critical thinking skills
5. Be prepared for certification as a CPA.

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**Course Learning Goals**

1. Practice writing on complex accounting concepts
2. Demonstrate the ability to work in groups
3. Learn how to research a hot accounting topic
4. Demonstrate the ability to give a formal, professional presentation to regional CPAs
5. Understand the history and role of the FASB in the current accounting arena

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**Homework:**
- Homework points are based on homework turned in and credit received as a percent of total points received on all homework collected. For example, if you get credit for 80% of the homework, you will get 80 points (100 x 80%). No late homework will be accepted except for unusual circumstances that I determine are appropriate on an individual basis. HOMEWORK MUST BE TYPED AND SPELLCHECKED. It can be single-spaced or double-spaced. You do NOT turn in the extra questions, but certainly should do them for your own benefit!
- I will collect the homework every day and skim it. But, I will seriously grade only one or two of the assigned questions per class period. Your grade for the day will depend on the answer to the one or two I choose to grade, in comparison to the answers of others, and on your apparent completion of all questions asked. So, do a good job on all of them.
- Group papers will be used as homework assignments for the last two class days. Group term papers will also be the basis for the professional presentations.
Academic Conduct Code  All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student conduct code. The Code is available for review online at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php. Read the Code.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXAM I  (individual and group exam)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>There are no makeup exams due to the group nature of the exams.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXAM II (individual and group exam)</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXAM III (individual exam only)</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOMEWORK</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>DESC. AND BIBLIOG.</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>TERM PAPER</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Opinion - term paper</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEER GROUP EVALUATION (D &amp; B)</td>
<td>10 (By individuals)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEER GROUP EVAL (PAPER &amp; PRESENTATION)</td>
<td>10 (By individuals)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 GROUP HOMEWORK QSTS &amp; ANSWERS</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper/presentation ranking</td>
<td>10 (By classmates)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentation Ranking and Evaluation</td>
<td>50 (By Beed and guests)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total points possible</td>
<td>634</td>
<td></td>
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Free points - Attend at least three speaker presentations during the semester. They will be announced as dates/times are known. Some are on Friday mornings, some are during the day, and some are at night. You will earn 5 ‘free’ points for each of the three that you choose to attend. At the end of the semester, you will send me a list of the ones you attended based on an honor code.

FASB Codification online access for students. Go to http://aaahq.org/ascLogin.cfm. Username is AAA51783. Password is w2ZBP6z Use proper case in all cases. You may need this for your term paper topics and will need it for Prof. Premuroso’s Codification lecture in Prof. McNellis’s class.

This news service comes via e-mail every week day and you will need it to use it for your term paper topics.

Student Membership in MSCPA https://www.mscpa.org/join
ASSIGNMENT MATERIAL:
Each of you is allowed to make one copy of FASB Standards. The following standards will need to be copied for class and can be found at [www.fasb.org/st/](http://www.fasb.org/st/). You do not need to copy or read the appendices to the standards. Copy the amended version choice.
- FAS #34, #131, FAS #7
- APB No. 22 – handed out in class
- Material on Comprehensive Income, Derivatives, and XBRL – handed out in class or sent as e-mail attachments.

**There is no such thing as a late description and bibliography or a late term paper.**
Whatever your group has done by the required deadline on each is what I will grade. Substantial points are lost if either is turned in incomplete, however. Your group is responsible for these assignments as a group and no excuses regarding "whose fault it is" if the assignment is late will be accepted.

Group Presentation Ground Rules:
- You will use PowerPoint or Prezi to present your material.
- You will dress in professional attire – as if you were at an interview.
- The presentation must cover the material in your term paper, but you may add other material also.
- Each person must give approximately an equal part of the presentation, but it must flow. It must be evident that you built and worked on the presentation together and that each person did not just take one part and then the whole was pasted together. Each of you needs to work on building the PowerPoint – this 'skill' is expected in 'real life.' All of you will use it during your part of the presentation. Someone else will not 'run' it for you. You are ready to present when it is clear that all of you could give any part of the presentation. In other words, you are not prepared only to give 'your' small part of the talk. Practice is a must.
- Presentations need to be at least 35-50 minutes in length. You may not exceed 50 minutes. Presentations need to be at least 35-50 minutes in length. You may not exceed 50 minutes. Make sure you are presenting new material as you progress – do not be repetitive.
- Questions and answers will follow. I will request that all questions be held until the end of the presentation. All of you will answer questions and I will expect all of you to be able to answer questions over all of the talk, not just the section you presented. You must know the material that everyone presented. It is a group paper and a group presentation.
- Fancy PowerPoint items (such as shooting stars, music, and information entering from all directions) is O.K. but is not required. Remember, the medium must be used to increase the quality of the content. Fancy presentation with little or no content is a bomb.
- Since other faculty and accounting professionals from the area will be invited to all presentations, you must begin the presentation by introducing yourselves. Last year, one group had pictures and names and each person stood under his/her picture and name.
- Teams will prepare a handout of their PowerPoint presentations to give to each guest. Beed will let you know how many copies you need. The PowerPoint handouts can be duplexed.
- Other handout material is acceptable, but not required. And, again, it should be clear that it improves the presentation and isn’t just wasted paper.
- **For at least a good portion of your talk, you have to leave the back of the podium and move around a bit in front of the room. Do not end up having the audience say that you read your talk to them. Many groups do not set up a podium at all.**
- All visitors, CPAs and faculty, in attendance will complete an evaluation form after each presentation. These evaluations will be used to determine your final presentation score. Each person in your group might not receive the same presentation score.
TERM PAPER TOPICS

**Bitcoins – and other virtual currencies** - What are virtual currencies? Why do they exist? Who uses them? How are they accounted for? What have been some of the problems with them?

**Inflation/Deflation** - How has the US dealt with inflation over time? How does the US try to control its own inflation? What happens in countries where inflation is rampant? What happens in countries when they go through periods of deflation? Is inflation a good thing or a bad thing? Is deflation a good thing or a bad thing?

**Socially Responsible Investing** - What is socially responsible investing? What are some examples? For those who do invest based on socially responsible guidelines, do they have to take a ‘hit’ to their return on investment over time? What types of socially responsible investing choices are there?

**Dividends** – What is the history of companies that pay stock dividends and cash dividends. Why does a company pay a dividend? Has the trend changed over time? What types of companies historically paid dividends? What types of companies pay dividends today? What happens to dividends when the economy takes a dive?

Cover the following in your paper:

- History
- Problem and what caused it
- What has been done or is currently being done by the accounting profession with regard to your topic?
- Are other groups involved? If so, who, what, and why?
- What is the current status of the topic? Has the economic change affected it?
- What are future options or possibilities regarding your topic?
- **If possible, include how your topic affects Montana.**

**REMINDER:**

- Your paper will be read and graded by Beed and the entire class. The final term paper grade will be based on a combined evaluation.
- The presentations will be graded based solely on evaluations of the CPAs in attendance. Students do not evaluate each others’ presentations.