

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

UG Course Syllabus

Principles of Accounting I

ACCT 2010

3 Credits

Pre-requisites: Nil

Name of instructor: Kelvin P. MAK
Email: acmak@ust.hk
Office Hours: By email appointments

Name of TA: Nathalie TAM (up to 14 Oct)	Name of TA: Chloe TAY (starting 15 Oct)
Email: nathalie@ust.hk	Email: tba
Office Hours: By email appointments	Office Hours: By email appointments

Course Description

Accounting is conventionally known as “the language of business.” Accounting skills build a solid foundation for making business decisions in the contemporary business environment. Students will learn how to converse in this business language in this course. ACCT 2010 covers the essential concepts and principles of financial reporting. Emphasis is put on the accounting cycle, recording and summarizing data from transactions through the presentation of financial statements. Financial statement analysis basics are also covered.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Define basic accounting ledgers in assets, liabilities, equity, revenues, and expenses.
2. Explain the role of financial accounting in the decision-making process.
3. Prepare a statement of financial position, statement of profit or loss, statement of stockholders' equity, and statement of cash flows.
4. Interpret and analyze a set of financial statements.
5. Identify ethical principles and issues of financial accounting practices.

Textbook & supplementary readings

1. Libby, Libby, and Hodge. *Financial Accounting*, 11th edition (2020), McGraw-Hill Education. ISBN 978-1-265-08392-2 (Prescribed textbook – e-book plus McGraw-Hill Connect code are required).

- Handouts on the Canvas course web (<http://canvas.ust.hk>): you would get the soft copy of the teaching materials used in this course. You have to either print the notes and documents or bring your electronic device to access the files on Canvas to facilitate note-taking in the class throughout the course.

Assessment and mapping of course ILOs

Components	Assessment base	Loading	Mapped ILOs
Take-home exercises (Best 5 submissions)	individually	25%	ILO 1 – 5
Mid-term examination (22 October 2024)			
Tuesday evening, 19:30 – 20:30	individually	25%	ILO 1 – 5
Final examination	individually	50%	ILO 1 – 5
Total		100%	

Take-home exercises (25%):

Depending on the teaching progress, 6 to 7 take-home exercises are assigned to students. Each one yields 5% of the total course assessment. The best 5 scores of a student account for 25% of students. This assessment task commences right after the add/drop period.

The take-home exercises are done on the publisher's online platform, namely, McGraw Hill Connect. Students should get themselves ready to access the Connect platform by 14 September 2024 (the last day of this semester add/drop period). Ways to obtain the access code have been published on Canvas.

Note:

Late submission policy – to ensure fairness for students who submit assignments on time, a penalty for late submission is listed as follows:

- Late submission within 24 hours, 50% penalty will be applied; and
- Late submission for more than 24 hours will not be accepted.

Mid-term examination (25%):

It is a one-hour, in-person, closed-book midterm examination scheduled for Tuesday evening, 22 October 2024. The details, including seat plan arrangements and topics covered, will be released to students in due course.

Note:

Absence from the midterm examination without the instructor's approval will result in zero marks. Yet, when a student faces highly unusual circumstances that cannot be controlled and avoided, the instructor will make special arrangements (s) that are best and fair to meet the course requirements in each case.

Final examination (50%):

The final examination will be held on a date within the fall term examination period from 9 to 20 December 2024. It is not cumulative; i.e., it will not include topics covered in the midterm examination. All students are expected to sit for the final examination at the scheduled date and time.

Note:

No make-up exam will be given except for medical reasons supported by proper documentary proof. Students must observe the required procedures published by the Academic Registry, [https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/assessment-progressassessment & Progress](https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/assessment-progressassessment&Progress) | [HKUST - Academic Registry](#).

Communication and feedback

Assessment scores for individual assessed tasks will be communicated, if applicable, via Canvas. Feedback on take-home assigned exercises will be given upon request. Students who have questions about the course should approach course TA first.

Course AI policy

The use of generative AI is allowed to assist student's learning. It should be used ethically with proper caution and acknowledgment, as necessary.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to <https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/academic-integrity> for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.

Tentative course schedule

Week	Subject	Book chapter reference
1	Course outline & overview of financial accounting	1
2	Investing, financial decisions & balance sheet	2
3	Operating decisions & income statement	3
4	Adjustment, financial statements & quality of earnings	4
5	Sales revenue: receivable & cash	6
6	Cost of goods sold ("COGS") & inventory	7
7	Property, plant & equipment ("PPE")	8
8 – 9	Current liabilities	9
10	Accounting for bonds	10
11	Owners' equity	11
12 – 13	Statement of cash flows	12
	Study break from 2 December to 7 December 2024	
	Fall semester examinations: 9 December to 20 December 2024	

Grading rubrics

	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Adequate (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)
CILO1	Demonstrate an excellent understanding to define basic accounting ledgers in assets, liabilities, equity, revenue, and expenses.	Demonstrate a good understanding to define basic accounting ledgers in assets, liabilities, equity, revenue, and expenses.	Demonstrate an adequate understanding to define basic accounting ledgers in assets, liabilities, equity, revenue, and expenses.	Demonstrate a basic understanding to define basic accounting ledgers in assets, liabilities, equity, revenue, and expenses.
CILO2	Demonstrate an excellent understanding to explain the role of financial accounting in the decision-making process.	Demonstrate a good understanding to explain the role of financial accounting in the decision-making process.	Demonstrate an adequate understanding to explain the role of financial accounting in the decision-making process.	Demonstrate a basic understanding to explain the role of financial accounting in the decision-making process.
CILO3	Demonstrate an excellent understanding to prepare a statement of financial position, income statement, statement of stockholders' equity, and statement of cash flows.	Demonstrate a good understanding to prepare a statement of financial position, income statement, statement of stockholders' equity, and statement of cash flows.	Demonstrate an adequate understanding to prepare a statement of financial position, income statement, statement of stockholders' equity, and statement of cash flows.	Demonstrate a basic understanding to prepare a statement of financial position, income statement, statement of stockholders' equity, and statement of cash flows.
CILO4	Identify and analyze all basic financial accounting information relevant to making relevant business decisions.	Identify and analyze the most basic financial accounting information relevant to making relevant business decisions.	Identify and analyze some basic financial accounting information relevant to making relevant business decisions.	Identify a few basic financial accounting information relevant to making relevant business decisions.
CILO5	Identify all the relevant ethical principles and issues of financial accounting practices.	Identify most of the relevant ethical principles and issues of financial accounting practices.	Identify some of the relevant ethical principles and issues of financial accounting practices.	Identify a few relevant ethical principles and issues of financial accounting practices.