

University of Texas at Arlington
Department of Accounting
Fall 2013

COURSE TITLE: Tax Problems of Corporations and Shareholders
COURSE NUMBER: ACCT. 5342
SECTION: 001 (T 7:00 P.M. – 9:50 P.M., Room 150 Business)
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Becky Pierce
OFFICE: 406 Business
OFFICE HOURS: T 4:45 P.M. – 5:15 P.M., other times by appointment
PHONE: 817-272-3080 (direct) or 817-272-3481 (departmental office)
E-MAIL ADDRESS: bpierce@uta.edu (always include Acct. 5342 in the subject line of any e-mail to me if you want me to read it)
INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: <https://www.uta.edu/mentis/profile/?4670>
INSTRUCTOR WEBSITE: <http://www.uta.edu/faculty/bpierce/>

COURSE CONTENT AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is an analysis of the federal income tax rules governing corporations and shareholders. Subjects include corporate formation, capital structure, operations, distributions, redemptions and liquidations. The purpose of this course is to improve the student's understanding of corporate tax law and how this law impacts each shareholder. Students completing this course should be able to demonstrate a mastery of advanced technical tax knowledge as evidenced by the ability to: (1) comprehend the conceptual framework upon which the corporate tax system is based and (2) perform the necessary technical computations to determine the components of taxable income and tax liability.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

- ACCT 5314: Principles of Federal Income Tax (with a grade of C or better).
- ACCT 5339: Tax Research (with a grade of C or better)

Note that if you have not successfully completed the prerequisites you are unqualified for this class. If you are unqualified, you must drop this class immediately, following the usual procedure. This will allow a qualified student to enroll. All classes are subject to administrative audit at any time during the semester. Any student found to be unqualified will be administratively dropped from this class. Additionally, you must sign and return to me an affirmation of your qualification. This affirmation is on page 9 of this syllabus.

Also note that you cannot receive credit for both ACCT 5340 and ACCT 5342.

COURSE MATERIALS

- Prentice Hall's Federal Taxation 2014—Corporations, Partnerships, Estates and Trusts (Anderson, Pope, Rupert). **(REQUIRED)**
- Ancillary Materials--at times I will place items on my website which will be helpful in understanding the material for this course. **(REQUIRED)**
- Access to a current edition of the Internal Revenue Code and Treasury Regulations. You can have this through your work or through the UTA Library (RIA Checkpoint).
- Student Picture/Information/Affirmation of Completion of Course Prerequisite Sheet—Remove page 8 of this syllabus. Tape your student ID card (showing your name and photo) to the page and photocopy it. **Make sure it is a clear COLOR photocopy.** Once the photocopy is made print or type the information requested on the page. There are four additional items of information to be supplied (after the color copy is made). This is due no later than Tuesday, September 3, 2013. **(REQUIRED)**

WEBSITE

My website is located at <http://www.uta.edu/faculty/bpierce/>. This website contains copies of various documents (notes, syllabus, etc.) and is best viewed in Microsoft Internet Explorer 9.0 (note that there are spacing problems in viewing with IE10). If you do not have Microsoft Internet Explorer you can obtain it as a free download from Microsoft.

To access my website you will need to supply your UTA logon ID (NetID) and password when prompted. The NetID is to be preceded by UTA\as follows: UTA\NetID. Information regarding your NetID and password is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit>. Under university procedure student passwords automatically expire after six months. If your password has expired you can reset it through the OIT address given in this paragraph.

Access to certain documents on this website may also require an instructor-supplied password.

GRADE DETERMINATION

Each student completing the course will be awarded a letter grade based on my judgment as to that student's performance in the course. Possible grades and their meanings are as follows.

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>COURSE PERFORMANCE</u>
A	Excellent
B	Good
C	Fair
D	Poor
F	Inadequate

To form a judgment as to each student's mastery of the course subject matter, I will gather various types of evidence. This evidence will include, at a minimum, the following components.

1. In-class examinations (3) [See page 8 for exam dates]
2. In-class comprehensive final examination (1) [See page 8 for exam date]

At the end of the semester, I will calculate a numerical class average for each student using the following weights:

<u>GRADE COMPONENT</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
In-class examinations (3 @ 250)	75%	750
Comprehensive final examination (1 @ 250)	<u>25</u>	<u>250</u>
	<u>100%</u>	<u>1000</u>

After reviewing the class averages, and, as appropriate, taking into account other factors (such as trend of performance, consistency in performance, etc.) I will form a judgment as to each student's course performance and assign a letter grade consistent with the standards discussed above. Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

I have been asked periodically about the possibility of being given an "incomplete" grade. In over 25 years of teaching at UTA I have given probably less than ten incomplete grades. An incomplete is given when a student is unable to finish any of his/her courses for the semester. In my experience it is usually given due to severe illness or call to active military duty during the semester. If given an incomplete the student will retain all grades already earned and will just finish the remaining work in a later semester. Then all grades will be averaged as indicated above. It is not a way to escape poor test scores for someone failing to drop prior to the drop deadline. Those test scores will stand even with an incomplete grade being given.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Students are required to attend class on examination dates. On other class days students are strongly encouraged (but not required) to attend class.

CONDUCT OF CLASS

The class will be conducted as a lecture. Your responsibility will be to read the text assignments and related Code/Regulation sections and prepare answers to assigned problems whether from the text, website or handed out in class prior to each class period. My responsibility will be to present the topic in a lecture format. I will supplement the material in the text with current rulings, cases, articles and other relevant information. I will present solutions to the problems as the lecture progresses.

STUDENT CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:

Thoughtful and courteous student behavior is critical to maintaining an effective learning environment. However, every class will have some students who are unaware of the fact that certain behaviors disrupt a class and interfere with the learning process. To ensure that all students understand what constitutes proper classroom behavior I offer the following guidelines.

1. Arrive at the classroom site on time.
2. Once class starts, remain in your seat until the instructor dismisses the class.
3. Do not converse with colleagues while the class is in progress.
4. Turn off beepers and telephones while the class is in progress.
5. Do not consume food or beverages while the class is in progress.
6. Do not use tobacco products while the class is in progress.

Regarding rule #1 above, I have observed that every class will have a small group of students who arrive at the classroom site after class has started. These late arrivals are a disruption to the class and, as a courtesy to other students and the instructor, care should be taken to minimize such occurrences. However, if your arrival on campus is unavoidably delayed please DO come to class.

Regarding rule #2 above, every class also seems to have a small group of students who leave the classroom while class is in progress and then return later. This is a disruption to the class and, as a courtesy to other students and the instructor, should be avoided unless there is a valid medical reason. If there is a valid medical reason why you must periodically leave your seat while class is in progress you should provide me with appropriate supporting documentation within the first week of class.

Regarding rules #3 and 4 above, please do not continually converse with other students while class is in session and please do not text or do other non-class activities while class is in session. Please be courteous so that others are not distracted from the class material by your behavior.

As a matter of courtesy, I ask that all students comply with these guidelines. If I observe a compliance problem I will first consult with the student(s) involved. If necessary, those students who continue to engage in disruptive classroom behavior will be referred to the University Discipline Coordinator and/or dismissed from class.

IN CLASS EXAMINATIONS

Three in-class examinations will be given during the semester. They will consist of multiple choice questions, problem(s) and short answers. All examinations will be closed book, closed notes unless otherwise instructed.

With regard to cell phones, calculators, and other electronic devices:

- You will be issued a calculator on exam day to be used on the exam. You MAY NOT use any other calculator on the exam. You will turn in your calculator with the exam.
- During the exam you may not use any electronic or communication device (cell phone, text-messaging device, etc.) or have an electronic or communication device on your desktop or on your person (other than the calculator provided by me). Place any of these items that happen to be in your possession on exam day in your backpack or purse and place your backpack, purse and all books under your desk (with NO papers visible). Be sure your cell phone is turned OFF.

You will be issued a pencil on exam day to be used on the exam. You MAY NOT use any other pencil than the one which I have provided. You will turn in your pencil with the exam.

Do not copy the work of other students or permit other students to copy your work. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a grade of zero for this exam.

The topics covered on each exam will be provided as the semester progresses. Each exam will be 150 minutes (2 ½ hours) in length. I will inform you of your exam score and we may review portions of the exam solution in class. Once we have completed our in-class review of the exam solution, I will take custody of the exams. Although you will not be allowed to retain a copy of any exam (in any form including photographic, digital, etc.), you may come to my office and review your exams during office hours or by appointment.

If class is **officially canceled by the University** (because of weather, power outage, etc.) any test scheduled for that day will **most likely** be given the next class period. Closure of the Business building due to a bomb threat will be covered later in this syllabus.

MISSED WORK

No make-up exams will be given. Failure to complete an exam at the scheduled time will result in a grade of zero. However, in cases where you have a proper reason **approved by me** and **supporting documentation**, I will increase the point value of your final exam to compensate for the missed exam. An absence is excused for serious illness, death of an immediate family member, or travel on university business. You must notify me by email or telephone of your absence prior to the exam. **Any absence on test day must be documented.** An absence is not excused due to oversleeping, car trouble, work responsibilities, vacation, wedding, inability to find a baby-sitter, not prepared for the exam, headache, etc.

A student who misses an examination due to the observance of a religious holy day will be given the opportunity to complete the work missed in accordance with the make-up policy in the previous paragraph. To be eligible for such a make-up, the student must notify me **in writing** of classes scheduled on dates he or she will be absent to observe a religious holy day. Notification must be made within the first 15 class days through either a written correspondence, personally delivered, acknowledged and dated by me or written correspondence sent certified mail, return receipt requested to me. Failure to follow the rules provided above within the time frames listed will result in the absence being considered unexcused.

FINAL EXAMINATION

The final examination will be comprehensive and is entirely multiple choice. Completion of the final exam is required for course credit. Unless stated on the face of the final examination or permission is specifically given by me, the examination will be closed book/closed notes.

FINAL REVIEW WEEK

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. **During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.**

We will have a normal class and be covering new material during Final Review Week.

MISSED CLASSES DUE TO WEATHER OR BOMB THREATS, ETC.

If class is officially canceled by the University (because of weather, etc.), I reserve the right to hold a make-up class either in the early morning, afternoon or on a weekend. Check my website on the afternoon of the cancellation to find out more information. Any exam scheduled for that day will most likely be given the next class period. Please see the COBA bomb threat policy detailed later in this syllabus.

QUESTIONS REGARDING CLASS GRADE

Grades are confidential and may be discussed only with the student enrolled in the class and earning those grades. I will, therefore, not provide grade information over the phone or via e-mail. After grade reports are issued, if you have a question about your grade, you must contact me within one month of the date your final exam was administered. Due to storage limitations, I normally discard exams, papers, etc. after one month has passed.

DROPPING CLASS

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

Neither a faculty member nor the departmental staff can process a student's drop. Only the Academic Advisor for their major (or designee) can complete the drop. This is done in the Advising Center on the 1st floor. No student may be dropped after the Drop Date.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION POLICY

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. **All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly.** There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364. Accordingly, if you are covered by the *Americans with Disabilities Act* you should arrange a meeting with me to: (1) submit authorized documentation which confirms your disability and (2) discuss your specific classroom needs.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS POLICY ON FOOD AND/OR DRINKS IN CLASSROOMS

College policy prohibits food and/or drinks in classrooms and labs. Anyone bringing food and/or drinks into a classroom or lab will be required to remove such items, as directed by the class instructor or lab supervisor.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS POLICY ON STUDENTS DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF TUITION

Students who have not paid by the census date and are dropped for non-payment cannot receive a grade for the course in any circumstances. Therefore, a student dropped for non-payment who continues to attend the course will not receive a grade for the course. Emergency loans are available to help students pay tuition and fees. Students can apply for emergency loans by going to the Emergency Tuition Loan Distribution Center at E. H. Hereford University Center.

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT POLICIES ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic (scholastic) dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include dismissal from class with a grade of F, suspension, or expulsion from the University.

As defined in the university *Handbook of Operating Procedures* (Section 2-202) -

"Scholastic dishonesty [includes], but [is] not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion on an examination or an assignment being offered for credit. Each student is accountable for work submitted for credit, including group projects;

A. *Cheating on an examination or an assignment* includes:

1. copying the work of another, allowing someone to copy, engaging in written, oral or any other means of communication with another, or giving aid to or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor;
2. using material during an examination or when completing an assignment that is not authorized by the person giving the examination or making the work assignment, including, but not limited to, electronic or digital devices such as calculators, cell phones, camera phones, scanner pens, palms, or flash drives, etc.;
3. taking or attempting to take an examination for another, or allowing another to take or attempt to take an examination for a student;
4. using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means, the whole or any part of an examination or work assignment that is not provided for your use by your instructor;
5. any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such an act;

B. *Plagiarism* means the unacknowledged incorporation of the work of another in work that is offered for credit;

C. *Collusion* means the unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing work that is offered for credit;"

For your information:

Taking a picture of an exam with a cell phone or other device for your personal use or the use of others is considered theft and will be prosecuted as such. Scholastic dishonesty also includes continuing to work on an exam after time has expired and the instructor has said to put all pencils down.

Accountants are invariably in positions of trust and responsibility. As such, the accounting profession demands that its members behave with the highest regard for ethical and moral conduct. You have elected to study accounting, and prepare yourself for a career in accounting. As such, the Faculty of the Department of Accounting at The University of Texas at Arlington must necessarily expect that you behave according to the same high ethical standards that are expected of the profession itself. Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated. **The Department will, as a matter of policy and without exception, seek disciplinary action against any person committing any act of scholastic dishonesty.**

In addition, each student should consider it their personal obligation to report any known or suspected acts of scholastic dishonesty. Failure to report a known act of scholastic dishonesty can be regarded as collusion with that act. Please advise me promptly of any known or suspected act of scholastic dishonesty.

University Student Honor Code:

With regard to this issue all students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

EVACUATION PROCEDURES

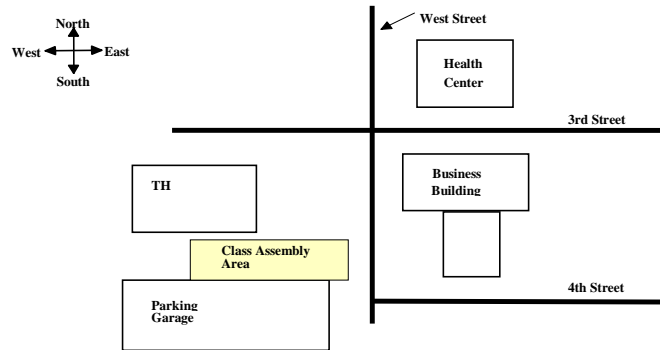
Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, **students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located to the left and then up the short stairs to the left.** When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS BOMB THREAT POLICY:

To reduce the number of class disruptions due to bomb threats, the College of Business has adopted the following policy:

1. Section 22.07 of the Texas Criminal Law Statutes governs terrorist threats and classifies bomb threats as Class A misdemeanors. Section 12.21 of the Texas Criminal Law Statutes states that a Class A misdemeanor is punishable by: (1) a fine not to exceed \$4,000, (2) a jail term of not more than one year, or (3) both such a fine and confinement.
2. If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that technology is available to trace phone calls and identify callers via the use of voice print techniques.
3. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by bomb threats to the Business Building. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. If a student who has a class with a scheduled test or presentation arrives and the building has been closed due to a bomb threat, the student should immediately check for the alternative class site notice which will be posted on/near the main doors on the south side of the Business Building. If the bomb threat is received while class is in session, your instructor will ask you to leave the building and reconvene at another location.
4. Students who provide information leading to the successful prosecution of anyone making a bomb threat will receive one semester's free parking in the Maverick Garage across from the Business Building. UTA's Crimestoppers will provide a reward to anyone providing information leading to an arrest. To make an anonymous report, call 817-272-5245.

On test days students should arrive at the classroom site at least 10 minutes before the beginning of class. If a bomb threat precludes entry into the Business Building, you should immediately proceed to our class assembly area between Trimble Hall and the Parking Garage (see diagram below). From there, at 5 minutes to the hour, we will proceed to an alternate test site. Because we will leave the assembly area at 5 minutes to the hour, you must arrive at the assembly area prior to that time.



CLASS SCHEDULE

Meeting	Date	Chapter	Suggested Problems
1	8-27	Course introduction	2-31,32,33,35,36,37,38,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,
2	9-3	2—Corporate Formations and Capital Structure	48,49,50,51,52,54
3	9-10	3—The Corporate Income Tax	3-32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,
4	9-17		46,47,48,49,50,51,52,56,57,59,60
5	9-24	EXAM 1	
6	10-1	4—Corporate Nonliquidating Distributions	4-26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,39,40,
7	10-8		41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,53,54,55,56,57
8	10-15	5—Other Corporate Tax Levies	5-35,37,41,45,50
9	10-22	EXAM 2	
10	10-29	6—Corporate Liquidating Distributions	6-32,33,36,37,38,39,43,44,45,46,47,48,52
11	11-5	7—Corporate Acquisitions and Reorganizations	7-42,45,46,50,51,52,54,55,60,61,62,63,64,66,
12	11-12	7/8—Consolidated Tax Returns	67,68,69,70,71,72,73
13	11-19	EXAM 3	
14	11-26	8	8-29,30,31,32,33,35,36,37,38,39,40,45,48,49,
			50,51,52,55,56,57,60,61,62,63,64,67
15	12-3	Accounting for Income Taxes	To be determined
		FINAL EXAM 8:15 PM to 10:45 PM	Note that the final exam is comprehensive.

NOTES:

- I will have web notes (posted weekly) on the topics listed above.
- I will also have additional supplemental problems on the web (posted weekly) for some of the topics.
- Look at the chapter in the text to see what code/regulation references should also be read.
- I reserve the right to rearrange the order of topics to be covered if deemed appropriate.
- Note that the chapters covered on each exam are tentative but the exam dates are not. Come to class each day to determine what will actually be covered on each exam.
- Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least (at a minimum) an additional 10-15 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.
- **As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.**

IMPORTANT DATES:

Aug.	22	First Day of Classes
Sept.	9	Census Date
Oct.	30	Drop Date (Last Day for Students to Drop or Withdraw)
Nov.	28-29	Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec.	4	Last Day of Classes
Dec.	10	Final Exam (Tuesday, 8:15 P.M. – 10:45 P.M.)

*****PLEASE PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IN STEPS (1)-(5) BELOW*****
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STUDENT PICTURE/INFORMATION

<p>(1) PLACE UTA ID HERE AND COPY THE PAGE</p> <p>IN COLOR.</p>

2) Fill in the table below.

Complete Name	Name You Wish to be Called	Phone Number(s)	E-mail Address	Degrees Earned (what, where, when)	Current Major	Current or Past Tax/Accounting Employment

(3) List the prior tax courses taken.

Course	University	Semester/Year

AFFIRMATION OF COMPLETION OF COURSE PREREQUISITES

(4) Read the statement below then fill in the table following it.

I understand that the prerequisite for this course is successful completion (a grade of C or better) of both Acct. 5314 and Acct. 5339. I hereby provide the following information with regard to my completion of these courses.

Course	University	Instructor's Name	Semester/Year	Grade Earned
Acct 5314				
Acct 5339				

(5) Read the statement below then sign and print your name affirming the accuracy of the information provided:
I affirm that the information given above is complete and accurate.

Printed name _____

Written name _____