

# MOS 3362B Introduction to Taxation in Canada

## Course Outline: Sections 001 and 002 / Winter 2018

### 1. Course Information:

#### 1.1 Class Location and Time:

Section	Instructor	Day	Time	Location
001	Robert Pilling	Tuesday and Thursday	9:30 - 11:30	SSC 2036
002	Ruth Ann Strickland	Monday and Wednesday	6:30 - 8:30	UCC 66

#### 1.2 Contact Information:

##### **Robert Pilling**

Office: SSC 4434  
 Office Hours: Posted on OWL  
 Email: [rpilling@uwo.ca](mailto:rpilling@uwo.ca)  
 Website Address: <http://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

##### **Ruth Ann Strickland**

Office: SSC 4307  
 Office Hours: Posted on OWL  
 Email: [rstrickl@uwo.ca](mailto:rstrickl@uwo.ca)  
 Website Address: <http://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

DAN Management and Organizational Studies strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available at: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca>

### 2. Calendar Description

#### 2.1 Course Description

An overview of the Income Tax Act (Canada) and its effect on personal and business (corporate) decisions. Covers different sources of income, deductions, and credits that are allowed under the Act. Includes coverage of the Goods and Services Tax.

4 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): Business Administration 4479A/B

Prerequisite(s): MOS3360A/B and enrollment in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year of BMOS

#### 2.2 Senate Regulations

Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

### 3. Textbook

- 3.1 Byrd, Clarence and Chen, Ida; Byrd and Chen's Canadian Tax Principles 2017-2018 Edition, Pearson Education Canada. Toronto.
- 3.2 Study Guide for the above text

### 4. Course Objectives and Format

#### 4.1 Course objectives

To introduce students to personal and corporate federal income tax in a Canadian setting. Students will gain an understanding of the underlying objectives and principles of income taxation. Regardless of career objectives, all students will have to deal with taxation in their lives. The task of this course is to ensure a thorough understanding of specific areas of the Canadian income tax system so that relevant information is considered in personal and corporate tax planning and in making business decisions. Students will become competent in analyzing, interpreting, and applying Canadian income tax regulations.

#### 4.2 Course format

*Class-Time:* Class time will consist of discussion, problem solving and in class assignments. Class discussion is encouraged so please be prepared for class by completing assigned material prior to class.

*Solutions:* Official solutions to the Assignment Problems used in class will be made available on OWL after the relevant material is covered by all sections.

*Assignment and Examinations:* The assignment and the examinations will test the student's comprehension of both the technical and conceptual aspects of the course.

#### **HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE**

**Come to class, do the problems, review your notes, and PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!**

This is not a class for sitting back and watching. You have to be willing to do tax in order to understand tax.

I will be teaching new material by working through problems, and you are expected to be actively engaged in this process. You will not merely copy down solutions; you will determine solutions to problems during class. Therefore, it is necessary to work through the Self-Study material before coming to class. These problems will help you become more competent with the material. During class you will often work collaboratively with other students.

#### ***Please keep these things in mind:***

- 1) Come to class, every class.
- 2) Work through the class PowerPoint slides, doing the Practice Exercises when recommended. When doing the exercises, do not look at the solutions first. Please allow yourself to benefit from the process of making mistakes. After you complete an exercise, check the Study Guide to see how you did, and make a note of anything that was confusing. Make sure that you understand the solution before moving on.
- 3) Complete the Self-Study Problems ***before*** each week's lecture.
- 4) Stay up to date with the material; ***you can't afford to fall behind***.
- 5) Do as many extra problems as you possibly can find time for. The online supplemental material provides additional problems to provide further practice in problem solving. The detailed solutions for the self-study problems can be found in the Study Guide.

#### **Final Thoughts**

This is not a course to register in if you are seeking an easy credit. For many students, this course is a difficult one. Part of this difficulty stems from a challenging subject matter, but the biggest difficulty comes from failing to devote enough effort to working with the material. Tax requires that you practice working with it over and over and over. You are unlikely to learn by merely watching

someone else do tax problems. My number one hint is: PRACTICE. This is also my number two and number three hint: PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE. Things will start to make sense as you do this.

These observations have a number of implications for you and me. First, you will have to spend many hours during, and after, class working on the course. During class, ask questions whenever they arise and continue asking until you are satisfied that you understand the explanations. This class contains a lot of new terminology and concepts so ask for clarification when needed. After class, review your class notes and the suggested solutions to the Assigned Problems to improve your understanding. It is absolutely essential that you keep up with the assigned readings and problems.

## 5. Evaluation

Students are **REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ALL WRITTEN COMPONENTS** of this course. There are no exceptions to this. Extra assignments to improve grades **will NOT** be allowed. **You must pass the final exam to pass this course.**

Grades will **not** be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

Requirements:	Percent
Quiz: Chapters 1, 2, 3 (Friday, January 26, 2018, 5:00 – 6:30 pm)	15%
Mid-term Exam: Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7 - (Friday, March 2, 2018, 5:00–7:30 pm)	20%
Assignment (Due: Thursday, March 29, 2018, by 9:30 am)	20%
Final Exam: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 21 (During final exam period, 3 hours)	35%
Participation – in class	10%

### 5.1 Exam Information

Exams may consist of a combination of multiple choice and problems, similar to problems assigned from the textbook. You will be given 2017 rate sheets that you may refer to during the examinations.

**All exams are closed book examinations. Dictionaries are NOT allowed into the examination. Only non-programmable calculators will be allowed into the exams.** If you are unsure, please ask your professor to check your calculator.

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters in the text. Exams will not be returned to students but may be reviewed in the instructor's office.

#### What to Bring / Not Bring to the Exams

- Bring student identification to exams.
- Nothing is to be on/at one's desk during an exam other than a pencil, an eraser, the individual's student card, non-programmable calculator, and 2017 rate sheets.
- Do not wear baseball caps to exams.
- Do not bring electronic devices to exams.

For The University of Western Ontario Senate Regulations, please see the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy at: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html)

### 5.2 Tax Assignment

There will be one hand-in assignment for this course. The assignment will require you to research tax issues and develop an opinion on the appropriate treatment of a variety of situations for tax purposes. You will be required to submit your explanation of what you believe to be appropriate treatment for any

issues described. Research materials you may use might include the *Income Tax Act*, the textbook, and other CRA publications such as Folios, Information Circulars, and other tax related publications.

For the Assignment, you may form a group of up to 4 students. Groups may submit one assignment for all members. If agreement cannot be reached on the tax treatment of some items, then some group members may wish to submit an individual assignment. In this case, please indicate the names of all people consulted in completing the assignment. Peer reviews will be required for all students that work in groups. These reviews will be due at the same time as the assignment.

Beware of working in groups and using material provided by other students without proper referencing – this will be considered cheating if it is detected. **Plagiarism is a serious academic offence that can result in a penalty as severe as expulsion from the University.** Whenever you take an idea or a passage from another author, you must acknowledge the reference by using quotation marks where appropriate, and by proper referencing such as footnotes and citations.

You will be required to submit your assignment through the Assignment tab on OWL. Turn-it-in will be used to check for plagiarism.

All late assignments will have up to 20% deducted from the assignment mark for each part of a 24-hour period that the assignment is late, regardless of the reason. Any assignments not submitted by Tuesday, April 3 at 9:30 am will receive a grade of zero.

### 5.3 Participation

10% of your grade will be based on your class participation. Participation marks are earned by:

- Attending classes
- Participating fully in work to be done during classes
- Completing self-study problems and handing them in at the beginning of class

PLEASE NOTE: Participation marks must be earned. They are not negotiable; however, it is important that you understand why you get the mark that you do. I am always available to discuss matters like this, and I will provide feedback on how you are doing at least once during the term. If you wish to have more frequent feedback, please let me know.

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: You are responsible for your grades in this course.

If you MUST miss a class for medical or emergency purposes, it is your responsibility to take documentation to academic counselling in order to receive an excused absence. It is also your responsibility to get any missed material from a class mate. The professors do not provide lecture notes. Office hours are not to be used to find out what was missed.

## 6. Lecture and Examination Schedule

Please refer to the weekly course schedule.

## 7. University Policy Regarding Illness

### 7.1 Illness

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation supplied (see below for process) indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/general/privacy.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/privacy.pdf)

Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty.

Academic accommodation shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete his/her academic responsibilities. (Note: it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student was seen for a medical reason or was ill.)

A form to be completed by off-campus physicians is available at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation *in advance of due dates, examinations, etc.* Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

In the case of a final examination in the course, the student must arrange for a Special Examination or Incomplete through their Dean's office, for which you will be required to provide acceptable documentation.

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, you should contact your instructor and the Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. In general, retroactive requests for grade revisions on medical or compassionate grounds will not be considered.

## 7.2 Make Up Examinations

The student must write a make-up exam if the regularly scheduled exam is missed for reasons for which adequate documentation is received by the instructor (this documentation must be supplied by the Academic Counseling office).

## 7.3 Attendance

It is expected that students will attend all classes and be on time for classes. The professor does not provide access to lecture notes. Students are encouraged to obtain missed lecture notes from a fellow student.

## 8. University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Cheating on exams will not be tolerated; students are referred to the university policy on scholastic offenses (see section 9.0 below). Looking at the test of another student, allowing another student to view your exam, or obtaining information about a test in advance are all examples of cheating. Students found cheating will receive a zero (0%) on that exam. A number of safeguards will be employed to discourage cheating. For example, examination supervisors (proctors) of the tests may ask students to move to another seat during the exam, cover their paper, avert their eyes from other students' papers, remove baseball caps, etc. This is not meant as a personal affront nor as an accusation of cheating, rather as vigilant attempts at proctoring. A copy of guidelines about how to avoid cheating can be obtained from the office of the Ombudsperson, Room 3135 WSSB, (519) 661-3573.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of, and avoiding the occurrence of, plagiarism and other academic offenses. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offenses in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offenses include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate, consult your instructor. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" will not be accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offense include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

## 9. Procedures for Appealing Academic Evaluations

In the first instance, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor (informal consultation). If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal must be sent to the Assistant Program Director or Designate of the BMOS program. If the response of the Assistant Director is considered unsatisfactory to the student, he/she may then appeal to the Dean of the Faculty in which the course of program was taken. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean, may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office.

## 10. Student Responsibilities

Material covered in lectures will not always be the same as material covered in the textbook. These two sources should be viewed as complimentary and not redundant. As such, students who want to do well in this course are **strongly encouraged** to attend lectures on a regular basis. Please note that the instructor does not provide copies of lectures notes or overheads. Therefore, if you miss a lecture, you should try to obtain this material from another student.

In this class, some students may be unaware that their private discussions are distracting to other people. If you feel that students are distracting your attention from the material, then you should ask them to be quiet. If you feel uncomfortable doing this (or the problem persists), then please see the instructor. In addition, please avoid engaging in private discussions with other students during the lectures. To avoid unnecessary distractions, please arrive to each class on time.

## 11. Support Services

### 11.1 Support Services

The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca> Student Support Services (**including the services provided by the USC listed here**) can be reached at: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

## 12. Other Issues

### 12.1 Grade Policy

The DAN Program has a grade policy which states that for courses in the 3000-4000 range, the class average must fall between 70% and 77% for all sections of a course taught by the same instructor. In very exceptional circumstances only, class averages outside this range may be approved by the Undergraduate Chair or Chair. Class averages are not grounds for appeal.

## 12.2 Short Absences

If you miss a class due to minor illness or other problems, check your course outlines for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or exam. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow the missed lectures notes from a classmate.

## 12.3 Extended Absences

If you are absent more than approximately two weeks or if you get too far behind to catch up, you should consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses. The Academic Counsellors can help you to consider the alternatives. At your request, they can also keep your instructors informed about your difficulties.

## 12.4 Academic Concerns

If you are in academic difficulty, it is strongly recommended that you see your academic counsellor.

## 12.5 Important Dates:

January 8:	Classes resume
January 16:	Last day to add a second term half course.
February 19:	Family Day. All offices closed.
February 19 – 23:	Reading Week
March 7:	Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty.
March 30:	Good Friday. All offices closed.
April 11:	Winter term end
April 12-13:	Study days
April 14 – 30:	Examination Period

## 13. E-mail Policies

The following policies apply to all emails between students and the Professor. Please respect the fact that the Professor receives hundreds of emails from students and must deal with those emails in a fair and organized manner. Non-acceptable emails will receive a reply saying only "Please see Email Policies on the course outline".

### 13.1 UWO.CA Email Addresses Only

For privacy reasons, students must use their Western email accounts to contact the Professor. The Professor will not respond to emails from non-uwo.ca addresses (e.g. hotmail.com, gmail.com, etc.).

### 13.2 Subject Line Must Include Course and Section Number

The subject line of emails must contain the name or number of the course, and the section number in which the student is enrolled. The Professor teaches different courses and sections and cannot properly respond to questions if she does not know which course or section you are enrolled in.

### 13.3 Acceptable Emails

- questions about the course content or materials
- asking to set up an appointment to ask questions or review an exam
- notification of illness or other special circumstances
- providing constructive comments or feedback about the course

### 13.4 Non-Acceptable Emails

- questions that may be answered on OWL or on this course outline
- asking when grades will be posted
- asking what grade a student received
- asking where or when an exam is scheduled or the material covered on an exam
- requests for grade increases, extra assignments, or reweighting of course components

## 13.5 Communication

Emails will be responded to within 24 hours during the week, and within 72 hours during the weekend. Please note that emails sent on Friday may not be responded to until Monday.

## 14. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question	Answer
How can I succeed in this course?	Do all the assigned readings and problems, attend class, focus on understanding the tax principles in a way that lets you apply them to new fact situations, and PRACTICE!
I missed an exam because I was sick or there was a death in my family.	See the section of the course outline on ILLNESS AND SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES
I have a lot of mid-terms or projects all at the same time. Can I write the make-up exam?	Make-up exams for exam conflicts are not available unless you have three exams within a 24 hour period.
When will the exam grades be posted?	Mid-term grades are posted on OWL when they become available. Final exam grades and final course grades are not posted on OWL. Final grades are released by the Registrar's Office.
Can I come and see my exam?	You can review your exam during regular office hours or at another mutually convenient time.
Can I use a different textbook?	If you use a different textbook or older textbook, it is your responsibility to ensure that you are learning all of the assigned material. Be aware that different textbooks are organized differently and may cover different material. Things change a lot in tax, therefore, older versions of the textbook will not cover recent tax updates.
There is so much material. How can I possibly remember everything?	You do not need to remember everything in the book. You need to understand the fundamental principles and how to apply them.
I tried really hard but I still got a poor mark.	Grades are given based on actual performance, as set out on the course outline. In order to be fair to all the students in the course, grade adjustments, extra assignments, and the reweighting of course components are not available.
This is the lowest mark I have ever received.	