Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

ACCT 441
CAPSTONE: ACCOUNTING

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is the capstone course for accounting majors. The course has two major parts that represent a blend of theory, practice, and research. Topics included in part one: theoretical, ethical decision-making models for the accounting profession; the nature of accounting theory and its development; and accounting standard setting and its chronological development. Part two evaluates contemporary financial reporting issues as they relate to the FASB’s Conceptual Framework. It specifically examines areas of contemporary financial reporting that are controversial. This course has a major research and group component.

**RATIONALE**

Theory emphasizes the why of accounting rather than the how. Professional accountants must cope with the increasing pace of the changes occurring in the world of business. New problems will warrant new solutions. Knowing the why of accounting can help guide in the development of new practices to solve future problems and understanding the theory framework of accounting can help in formulating creative solutions to new problems that emerge.

I. **PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. **REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: [http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm](http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm)

III. **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Word
   (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

IV. **MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Use an ethical decision making model that is compatible with a Christian world view to resolve accounting ethics dilemmas.
B. Summarize the development of accounting theory.
C. Evaluate controversial accounting issues, examine alternatives, and propose solutions using accounting theory.

D. Apply accounting theory to the practice of accounting.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes

B. Course Requirements Checklist

   After reading the Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Group Discussion Board forums (4)

   Students will be assigned to a specific group, in which they will participate in four Group Discussion Board forums throughout the course. The purpose of Group Discussion Board forums is to generate interaction among students in regard to relevant current course topics/assignments. Students are required to post one thread of 300–500 words by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Thursday of the module/week in which the forum is assigned. Students will post two substantive replies of 200–350 words each by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the same module/week, except for Group Discussion Board Forum 2, in which replies are due in the following module/week. Replies for Group Discussion Board Forum 4 are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.

D. Group Consensus Report

   Effective groups create shared assumptions and expectations about behaviors. Each group member will post an individual thread responding to the questions in the Group Consensus Report. The individual submission is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Thursday of Module/Week 1, with one final consensus submission due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the same module/week.

E. Individual Ethics Paper and Presentation

   Students will search for articles in professional accounting and business journals that pertain to their chosen ethics topic. Students must have their topic approved by their instructor, and will write a 7–9-page paper in APA format with at least seven scholarly resources. Students will also prepare a PowerPoint presentation based on their research. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 4.

F. Current Position Paper

   Students will research and select an article that has theory implications and submit the title and source of the article along with a written paragraph indicating the theory implications of the article to their instructor for approval. Students will then prepare their current position paper response by referencing the article and at least one other professional source. The paper must be 500–750 words and students will post it to the Discussion Board for peer response in the following
module/week. The paper is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 5, and the replies are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 6.

G. Group Theory Paper and Presentation

Students will choose a topic for their paper in their groups and seek instructor approval. The paper must be 10–12 pages in APA format with at least 10 scholarly resources. The group will also prepare a PowerPoint presentation to accompany their paper. All members of the group are required to participate; students will develop an Appendix listing who worked on each section. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 7.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Discussion Board forums (1 at 50 pts; 3 at 150 pts ea)</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Consensus Report</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Ethics Paper and Presentation</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Position Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Theory Paper and Presentation</td>
<td>175</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1010</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

B. Scale

A = 900–1010  B = 800–899  C = 700–799  D = 600–699  F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to
make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport
# COURSE SCHEDULE

**ACCT 441**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE/WEEK</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 presentations</td>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist, Undergraduate Level Business Program Assessment, Class Introductions, Group DB Forum 1, Group Consensus Report</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 presentation</td>
<td>Group DB Forum 2 Thread</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Schroeder et al.: chs. 1–2, 1 presentation</td>
<td>Group DB Forum 2 Replies</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Schroeder et al.: chs. 5–7, 1 presentation</td>
<td>Individual Ethics Paper and Presentation</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Schroeder et al.: chs. 9–11, 1 presentation</td>
<td>Current Position Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Schroeder et al.: ch. 12, 1 presentation</td>
<td>Group DB Forum 3</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Schroeder et al.: ch. 13, 1 presentation</td>
<td>Group Theory Paper and Presentation</td>
<td>175</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Schroeder et al.: ch. 14, 1 presentation</td>
<td>Group DB Forum 4</td>
<td>150</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL** 1010

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.