Instructor: John R. Cooper  
Office: SSE 2429 Monday 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
Email: jcooper@mail.sdsu.edu  
Prerequisites: Upper Division Business Major, Business Minor, or other approved Non-Business Major  
Course Material: *Income Tax Fundamentals 2014 Ed.*, (Whittenburg and Altus-Buller)

### Topic | Reading
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Introduction – Course materials | Chapter 1
The Individual Income Tax Return | Chapter 1
Gross Income and Exclusions | Chapter 2
**Exam #1** |  
Business Income and Expenses, Part I | Chapter 3
Business Income and Expenses, Part II | Chapter 4
**Exam #2** |  
Itemized Deductions and Other Incentives | Chapter 5
Credits and Special Taxes | Chapter 6
**Exam #3** |  
Accounting Periods and Methods and Depreciation | Chapter 7
Capital Gains and Losses | Chapter 8
Withholding, Estimated Payments & Payroll Taxes | Chapter 9
Tax Return Project |  
**Final Exam** |  

Chapters 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8 will be followed by a quiz. The tax return project will be completed in class.

Each exam, including the final exam, will consist of 50 multiple choice and true false questions and several computational problems. The Final Exam will be cumulative covering all Chapters with primary focus on Chapters 7 through 9. All quizzes and exams will be **closed** book. A calculator is required.

### Grade allocation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade allocation:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax Return Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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There is no makeup or extra credit work.
Learning Objectives

This course addresses the tax situation of individual taxpayers with some (or all) of the following characteristics:

1) Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of $100,000 to $500,000 per year
2) Is self-employed (e.g., a small business owner or a person in a professional practice)
3) Has a sizable salary (e.g. a MD, CPA, or corporate executive)
4) Owns material investments (e.g., rental property, collectibles, stocks and other securities)
5) Maintains significant amounts in pension plans and other deferred compensation plans.

BSBA Program Goals
BSBA students in Acctg 503 will graduate being:

- Effective Communicators
- Critical Thinkers
- Able to Analyze Ethical Problems
- Global in their perspective
- Knowledgeable about the essentials of business

MSA Program Goals
MSA students in Acctg 503 will graduate with:

- Communication Skills
- Group/Interpersonal Skills
- Ethics
- Research Skills
- Global/International Skills

Acctg 503 contributes to these goals of the BSBA and the MSA through its student learning outcomes

- **SLO4 Research**
  Desired level: Analysis (4)
  Students will be able to use relevant research tools and academic/professional literature to analyze or take a position in accounting and business situations.

- **SLO5 Problem Solving/Critical Thinking/Technical Competence**
  Desired level: Synthesis (5)
  Students will be able to address unstructured problems in the areas of accounting information systems, financial reporting, or taxation. Unstructured problem solving involves using discipline-specific technical knowledge and skills to anticipate issues, formulate hypotheses, problem solve, develop conclusions, or recognize the strategic role of accounting in business organizations and society

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Apply the individual tax formula and identify and compute the components of gross income, adjusted gross income, federal taxable income and ultimately, the federal income tax liability.
2. Show the compliance process and prepare basic individual federal tax returns.
3. Illustrate the effects of personal, investment, and business transactions – individually and collectively – on the federal income tax.
4. Analyze the economic consequences of tax law and tax policy and examine the factors and influences that led to policy choice.
5. Examine tax law sources and demonstrate effective individual tax planning.
Academic Honesty

The SDSU Standards for Student Conduct (http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html) states that unacceptable student behavior includes “cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty that are intended to gain unfair academic advantage.” Unprofessional conduct adversely impacts your fellow students, the accounting faculty, the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy, SDSU, and the accounting profession. The Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy takes academic honesty very seriously and vigorously enforces university policy related to any such infractions. Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the SDSU Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities; if found responsible, the student could receive an F on the assignment or an F in Acctg 503.