

<u>Section</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Time (CA Time)</u>	<u>Classroom</u>	<u>Professor</u>
14061R	T & Th	12:00 – 1:50 pm	ACC 236	Kling
14062R	T & Th	10:00 – 11:50 am	ACC 236	Kling

Professor Greg Kling
Office: Accounting Building, Room 232B
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Email: gkling@marshall.usc.edu

Office Hours (In Person) Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 pm to 3:30 pm in Accounting Building, Room 232B

Office Hours (By Appointment) [Use This Link to Schedule a Meeting](#)

Please use the above calendar link to schedule a one-on-one meeting, in 30-minute increments. Please note that students may select back-to-back meeting times, if available, if a meeting longer than 30 minutes is desired.

Textbook McGraw Hill's Taxation of Individuals 2023, Spilker, Ayers et al

Purchase this interactive, online textbook via McGraw Hill Connect. It is a requirement to use the Connect Textbook for reading, Smartbook assignments, discussion questions and other assignments. Please sign up for your Connect Account as soon as possible.

Please use the following link for instructions on using Connect:
<https://video.mhhe.com/watch/UZnyThhiZgbh3pKQFBIQUZ>

The 2023 edition covers 2022 tax law which is what we will study in this course.

Prerequisites BUAD 281 or BUAD 305

Communication In class, Blackboard, Marshall email, and Teams

Academic Conduct Students are expected to adhere to, and will be bound by, the University policies governing academic integrity as discussed later in this syllabus.

Course Description and Course Aspirations

This course is the first tax class offered in a half semester course for accounting majors. The focus of this course is basic tax issues for individual taxpayers. More specifically, in this introduction to the U.S. federal income tax system, we will address basic tax principles, income and expense definitions, property transactions, and fundamentals of individual taxation.

The materials used in this course include the tax law (the Internal Revenue Code), authoritative governmental regulations, and Internal Revenue Service rulings. We will learn to do basic research of tax issues using the sources.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Analyze tax issues relating to individual taxation, by a review of the relevant law.
2. Evaluate the federal tax impact to individuals based on various alternative scenarios.
3. Describe major basic principles of the U.S. federal income tax system as it applies to individuals.
4. Prepare basic tax research analyses.

Overview of Toolsets

Blackboard: Blackboard is the primary learning management system currently used at USC and may be accessed at the USC Blackboard Home Page. From the Blackboard Course Home Page, students can access their course syllabus, identify readings, submit assignments, take exams, and review grades at any time. They can also access links to the other platforms used in this course.

Teams: Online office hours will be conducted in Microsoft Teams.

IMPORTANT DATES (Session 431)

August 22	First day of classes
September 1	Last day to add course or drop course without a “W”
September 5	Labor Day holiday
September 15	Last day to change pass/no pass to letter grade
October 5	Last day to drop course with a “W”
October 10 through 12	Final exams for first half ACCT courses

Points Assigned to Assessments

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Points</u>
Professionalism and Participation (13 classes at 5 points each)	65
Smartbook Assignments (3 assignments at 15 points each)	45
Tax Research Projects (Team) (2 projects at 40 points each)	80
Tax Planning and Compliance Assignments (Team) (2 assignments at 40 points each)	80
Quizzes (3 quizzes at 30 points each)	90
Midterm Exam	300
Final Exam (cumulative)	<u>340</u>
Total points assigned to assessments	<u>1,000</u>

Course Design – 2 unit class

This course was designed in accordance with the Office of Academic Records and Registrar’s guidelines for contact hours for a 2 unit, half-semester course. Actual time spent may vary for each student, based on materials assigned during the week, student comprehension, etc. Students should contact Professor Kling if there are any questions or concerns about time commitments for this course.

Late Assignments

Assignments submitted late will not be accepted and will earn a score of zero, except in the case of a well-documented emergency or unforeseen circumstance to be approved by Professor Kling in his sole

and absolute discretion. Exams must be completed by the scheduled dates/times (there will not be make-up exams) and cannot be taken outside of the testing window, except when the exam time conflicts with a student's observance of a religious event.

Asking for an extension or requesting that a late assignment be scored without a valid reason is considered unprofessional and will negatively impact a student's Professional and Participation score.

Students will typically receive a system generated email when Blackboard receives a submission. Additionally, students will be able to see their submissions in the gradebook. Students have sole responsibility for confirming their assignment submissions were validly received by Blackboard on time and that the correct information was submitted.

Class Notes Policy

Students may not record any lecture, class discussion or meeting with Professor Kling without Professor Kling's prior express written permission. The word "record" or the act of recording includes, but is not limited to, any and all means by which sound or visual images can be stored, duplicated or retransmitted whether by an electro-mechanical, analog, digital, wire, electronic or other device or any other means of signal encoding. Professor Kling reserves all rights, including copyright, to lectures, course syllabi and related materials, including summaries, PowerPoint slides, prior exams, answer keys, and all supplementary course materials (collectively known as "Course Materials") available to the students enrolled in class whether or not posted on Blackboard or otherwise. **Course Materials may not be reproduced, distributed, copied, or disseminated in any media or in any form, including but not limited to all public and private file sharing websites by anyone other than Professor Kling or his designee without the express written permission of Professor Kling.** Exceptions are made for students who have made prior arrangements with the Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) and Professor Kling.

Notes made by students on a university class or lecture may only be made for purposes of individual or group study, or for other non-commercial purposes that reasonably arise from the student's membership in the class or attendance at the university. This restriction also applies to any information distributed, disseminated or in any way displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email or otherwise on the Internet, or via any other medium. **Course Materials (defined above) include student-prepared materials based on course content.**

Professionalism and Participation

Active class participation requires adequate preparation for each class session, which includes the timely (i.e., before class) completion of the relevant materials, such as reading the assigned portion of the textbook, attempting the class discussion questions, etc.

It is expected that students will act in the classroom as if they were in a professional setting. While laptops are permitted in class for note taking purposes, students are expected to focus on the classroom materials and stay on task. Accordingly, students should refrain from off task activities during class, such as checking email, accessing the internet, etc. during the class session.

Attendance and active class participation are important in achieving the learning objectives for this course and are expected in the classroom.

This is a residential class and in-person attendance is expected. Unless a student provides an accommodation letter from OSAS requiring remote attendance, there is no option to attend class via Zoom.

Any student with a remote attendance OSAS accommodation should submit their accommodation document to Professor Kling as soon as possible. Professor Kling will then provide regular access to a recording of the class and will discuss further what is required to earn professionalism and participation points.

Students who are experiencing illness should not attend class in person while they are ill. Additionally, students who have an unforeseen emergency or a religious conflict are excused from attending class in person. Students will not be penalized for not attending class in person under these circumstances, as long as proper notification was made to Professor Kling. Proper notification requires (a) an email to Professor Kling at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the class lecture session that will not be attended and (b) an explanation of the circumstances. Note that a notification is valid only for one class session. For example, if a student is experiencing illness for more than one class session, it is expected that the student will email Professor Kling for each class that is expected to be missed.

A portion of the grade in this course is assigned based on the extent to which students participate actively in class sessions and the quality of their contributions to the in-class discussion. This is done to encourage the building of a healthy “learning community.” Participation provides students with the opportunity to gain from the experiences and talents of everyone in the class. Class participation also helps students improve their oral communication skills, which are vitally important in the working world.

The class sessions will incorporate various active learning exercises, which will include reviewing the class discussion questions and addressing other relevant issues with respect to our course subjects.

While the class discussion questions will not be scored or turned in, it is expected that students will have attempted to answer the class discussion questions prior to class so that, if called upon, a student or team can contribute to the active learning exercise. The focus is preparedness to discuss/contribute, not whether or not the student answered a particular class discussion question correctly.

You are not able to make up the class activities if you do not attend the class section, except as discussed beforehand with Professor Kling, and approved by Professor Kling in his sole and absolute discretion.

Professionalism and participation will be scored based on various key elements, such as active participation, attention/professionalism, preparation, and initiative/analysis. A copy of the rubric that will be used to score professionalism and participation is in the Course Information folder in Blackboard.

Smartbook Assignments

The Connect book has a number of interactive learning features designed to help students master the subject matter and concepts of this course efficiently. The Smartbook Assignments are meant to help the students objectively measure their mastery of what they have read in the textbook.

The due dates and points for each Smartbook Assignment are listed in the syllabus. Students who do not score well on the Smart Book Assignments should intensify their focus on the reading and/or seek office

hours with Professor Kling. Late assignments will not be accepted and will earn zero points. Smartbook assignments are to be done individually with no outside assistance.

Tax Research Projects

There are two tax research projects to be submitted during the course by each team. The projects – videos submitted through Bongo – will generally involve a tax research question and the team is expected to answer the question based on its tax research. Each team member is expected to fully participate, including participating in the video presentation. The assignment of the various tasks to each team member will be left to the team's discretion. The due date/time for each project is indicated in the Course Calendar at the end of this syllabus. A copy of the rubric that will be used to score team projects is in the Course Information folder in Blackboard.

Tax Planning and Compliance Assignments

There are two Tax Planning and Compliance Assignments. The purpose of the assignments is to give each team an opportunity to analyze tax questions based on a set of facts for a hypothetical client and provide the answers in the live class session. It is expected that the projects will address the major topics that are expected to be on the upcoming exam and, as such, will also act as a review session. More details will be provided prior to the respective class session. A team member must be present in class and must participate in order to earn points for these assignments.

Quizzes

Quizzes are meant to help students objectively confirm their understanding of the course materials during the half-semester. There are three quizzes for this course. Quizzes are to be completed in Blackboard, and are open book and open note.

Because each quiz is being held during a time period outside of class, it is each student's responsibility to select a time to take the quiz and complete it by the deadline. Professor Kling will not assist students or clarify questions about a quiz once the quiz window is open and until after the quiz window closes.

There are no make-up quizzes or alternative dates to take any quiz. Quizzes are required to be completed individually. Communication, sharing information and/or texting with other students while taking a quiz is prohibited. Collaboration, cooperation, coordination and/or assisting other students is prohibited. This includes discussing a quiz with other students after you have taken the assessment, but before the other students have taken it. Students who engage in prohibited behaviors will earn zero points for that quiz and may be subject to further sanctions and penalties, including referral to the University in accordance with the USC Honor Code. The Course Calendar provides the due date/time for each quiz.

Exams

The exams are open book/open notes and will be submitted through Blackboard.

The Midterm Exam will be held in Class #7 during the regularly scheduled class time. The Final Exam will be held on the last day of class during the regularly scheduled class time.

If you have a conflict for any exam date, you must discuss with Professor Kling immediately and not later than September 6, 2022. After September 6, 2022, it will be assumed that there are no exam date conflicts for a student, unless proper notification was made. There are no make-up exams for this course.

Grading Policy

Final grades represent how a student demonstrates mastery of the materials in the class relative to other students. It is anticipated that this course is of sufficient challenge that the average grade will be approximately 3.5 (between B+ and A-).

Three items are considered when assigning final grades:

(1) Your average weighted score as a percentage of the available points for all assignments (the points you receive divided by the number of points possible); (2) the overall average percentage score within the class; and (3) your ranking among all students in the class.

Retention of Papers

According to the Guidelines on Documents Retention, University policy requires that “final exams and all other grade work which affected the course grade” be kept for one year. Other papers or work that instructors hand back but that students fail to pick up will be held for one month.

Undergraduate Accounting Program Student Learning Objectives

The six Student Learning Objectives developed for this program by the USC Leventhal faculty and administration and filed with the AACSB, the accrediting body for accounting and business schools, are shown below. This course will deal primarily with Learning Objective 1, *Technical Knowledge* (course emphasis: High) and Objective 4, *Communication* (course emphasis: High). To a lesser extent, this course will also touch on three of the other Learning Objectives: Objective 2, *Research, Analysis and Critical Thinking* (course emphasis: Moderate), Objective 3, *Ethical Decision Making* (course emphasis: Moderate), and Objective 5, *Leadership, Collaboration and Professionalism* (course emphasis: Moderate).

1. Technical Knowledge

Students will demonstrate technical proficiency in the accounting discipline, including the use of technical accounting knowledge to help solve problems and make decisions.

2. Research, Analysis and Critical Thinking

Students will demonstrate the ability to critically analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information for decision making in the local, regional and global business environment.

3. Ethical Decision Making

Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethics, ethical behavior and ethical decision making.

4. Communication

Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate ideas both orally and in writing in a clear, organized and persuasive manner.

5. Leadership, Collaboration and Professionalism

Students will demonstrate leadership skills and the ability to work cooperatively and productively to accomplish established goals.

6. Technology

Students will demonstrate an understanding of technology issues and utilize relevant technology tools and applications to gather and evaluate information, analyze and solve problems, work interactively with other people, and develop and present conclusions.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call

studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX) - (213) 740-5086
eetix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) - (213) 740-0776
osas.usc.edu

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710

campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

ombuds.usc.edu

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice - (323) 442-3340 or otfp@med.usc.edu

chan.usc.edu/otfp

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.

Open Expression and Respect for All

An important goal of the educational experience at USC Marshall is to be exposed to and discuss diverse, thought-provoking, and sometimes controversial ideas that challenge one's beliefs. In this course we will support the values articulated in the USC Marshall "[Open Expression Statement](#)."

COURSE CALENDAR

Class #	Date	Topic	Text Reading	Smartbook Assignment	Quizzes	Team Assignments
1	Tu 8/23	Introduction to Taxation				
2	Th 8/25	Tax Compliance, the IRS and Tax Authorities	Ch 2			
3	Tu 8/30	Overview, Dependents, and Filing Status	Ch 4			
4	Th 9/1	Gross Income & Exclusions	Ch 5	SA #1 – due by Sunday, 9/4 at 11:59 PM	Quiz #1 – due by Monday, 9/5 at 11:59 PM	
5	Tu 9/6	Deductions	Ch 6			
6	Th 9/8	Tax Planning and Compliance				TAX RESEARCH PROJECT #1 – due by 9/8 at 10 am
7	Tu 9/13	MIDTERM EXAM				
8	Th 9/15	Property Acquisition and Cost Recovery – Part 1	Ch 10			
9	Tu 9/20	Property Acquisition and Cost Recovery – Part 2	Ch 10 (cont)			
10	Th 9/22	Property Dispositions – Part 1	Ch 11	SA #2 – due by Sunday, 9/25 at 11:59 PM	Quiz #2 – due by Monday, 9/26 at 11:59 PM	
11	Tu 9/27	Property Dispositions – Part 2	Ch 11 (cont)			
12	Th 9/29	Retirement and Deferred Compensation	Ch 13	SA #3 – due by Sunday, 10/2 at 11:59 PM	Quiz #3 – due by Monday, 10/3 at 11:59 PM	
13	Tu 10/4	Home Ownership	Ch 14			
14	Th 10/6	Tax Planning and Compliance				TAX RESEARCH PROJECT #2 – due by 10/6 at 10 am
15	Tu 10/11	FINAL EXAM				