

**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***

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**ACCT 441**  
**ACCOUNTING THEORY AND ETHICS**

### **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. PREREQUISITES**

ACCT 404

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with Internet access (broadband recommended)
- B. Microsoft Word and PowerPoint  
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

**IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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 and relate theory to the practice of accounting.
- C. Use knowledge of accounting theory to evaluate controversial accounting issues, examine alternatives, and propose solutions.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Group Discussion forums (6)

Each student will be assigned to a specific group and will prepare and post six substantial threads in response to given topics/assignments. These assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of weeks 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7. Instructions for the group discussion assignments may be found in Course Content>Syllabus and Assignment Instructions>Assignment Instructions.

- C. Collaborative Learning Projects (2)

There will be two group projects in which all group members must participate in the research and writing process. All collaborative work and submissions of these projects will be done through the Group Discussions areas. The Ethics Research Paper is due in Week 4 and the Theory Research Paper is due in Week 7. (See Course Content>Syllabus and Assignment Instructions>Assignment Instructions for details regarding these assignments.)

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

- A. Points

Discussion Board Forums (6 at 100 pts ea)	600
Collaborative Learning Projects:	
Ethics Research Paper	200
Theory Research Paper	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

- B. Scale

A = 900–1000 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

- C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations.

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **ACCT 441**

Textbook: Schroeder et al.: *Financial Accounting Theory and Analysis* (2010).

<b>WEEK/ MODULE</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	3 Presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Group DB Forum 1	0 100
<b>2</b>	AICPA Code of Professional Conduct 3 Presentations	Group DB Forum 2	100
<b>3</b>	Schroeder et al.: chs. 1 – 2 2 Presentations	Group DB Forum 3	100
<b>4</b>	Schroeder et al.: chs. 5 – 7 3 Presentations 1 Weblink	Ethics Research Paper	200
<b>5</b>	Schroeder et al.: chs. 9 – 11 3 Presentations	Group DB Forum 4	100
<b>6</b>	Schroeder et al.: ch. 12 1 Presentation	Group DB Forum 5	100
<b>7</b>	Schroeder et al.: ch. 13 1 Presentation	Theory Research Paper	200
<b>8</b>	Schroeder et al.: ch. 14 1 Presentation	Group DB Forum 6	100
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1000</b>

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.