

# Course Syllabus: BUS 700

## Instructor Contact Info

Juergen Sidgman is member of the accounting faculty at UW Oshkosh. He can be contacted via email at [sidgmanj@uwosh.edu](mailto:sidgmanj@uwosh.edu). If you are interested in learning more about Professor Sidgman, read the [About Your Instructor](#) page in the [Course Information](#) section.

## Course Objectives

BUS 700, *Financial Reporting for Executives*, is a graduate-level introductory course in accounting. This course is designed to prepare a student for study in a Master's of Business Administration program. The focus of the course is on accounting concepts as they relate to reporting, analysis, interpretation, and decision making.

The UW Oshkosh College of Business has established a set of five learning goals (LG) for the Master of Business Administration (MBA). This course addresses MBA Learning Goal 5: Managing Organizational Resources. In accordance with MBA Learning Goal 5, at the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Describe rules, concepts, and principles that guide financial accounting practice.
- Demonstrate how financial statements and related industry information can be used to make business decisions.
- Apply financial accounting concepts to predict future organizational performance based on the past financial position and results of operations of an organization.

## Textbook Information

The required book for this class is [\*\*Financial Accounting for Executives & MBAs, 4e. by Simko, Ferris, and Wallace. ISBN 978-1-61853-198-8\*\*](#). Three options exist to gain access to this textbook: (1) purchase a new hard copy, (2) purchase a used hard copy, and (3) lease the online digital edition. When evaluating which option is right for you, keep in mind that only the **new** hard copy and the digital edition include the code necessary to access the myBusinessCourse website. In my experience, purchasing a used copy of the textbook **does not** guarantee that you will get an access code. **Be aware that if you decide to purchase a used textbook you will need to separately purchase such access code.** Access to the myBusinessCourse website is mandatory for successful completion of this course.

## Course Calendar

The Course Calendar is designed to provide a consistent schedule to keep you on task while minimizing the need for constant checking of due dates. All assignments, quizzes, exams etc. will be due at 11:55 P.M. CDT of the date provided in the calendar. Since several items may come due on the same date, you are advised to treat the due date on the calendar as the *final* day to submit an assignment rather than the date the assignment is due. Some material can be completed well in advance of the calendar due date.

## Communications

Be in touch by email, D2L, or phone as necessary. However, please use my email for personal/private matters. Questions regarding class material should be posted in the Raise Your Hand area of the discussion board (I prioritize these posts when deciding what to answer first). My answers to your questions help the entire class. In addition, I recommend that you do not only post questions but also post answers to questions formulated by other students. Sometimes, students are hesitant to answer other students' questions for fear to be wrong. However, in this case you do not need to worry about being 100% correct. I review all posts and if corrections are needed I proceed accordingly.

Although you can always call my office with questions, from experience I can tell you that unless I am in my office it is unlikely that I will "ever" get to your message. It is better that if you want to talk over the phone we first agree over email and schedule a call ahead of time.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** I understand that MBA students are balancing work, classes, family, and other responsibilities. Keeping a balance between work and life responsibilities is important. For me personally, weekends are my time to seek additional professional skills (like you are right now), to prepare class material for the upcoming week, or simply to disconnect from my professional activities and enjoy time away with my family. Because of this, although during weekdays you can expect a response to your emails and Raise Your Hand posts within 24 hrs., generally, I **DO NOT** review the D2L site and check my email during weekends. Further, depending on the number of students submitting requests for help over the weekend, the timing of my answers on Monday morning while catching up, may be slower than what you would like. For this reason, to avoid frustration, I strongly encourage you to use weekdays to do the heavy lifting of the individual portion of your studies.

I appreciate your understanding.

## Grading Scheme

The final grade earned on the course will be based on the final percentage of points earned in the class from the following categories:

Activity	Weight
Exams ( <i>In-class w/closed book</i> )	40%
Financial Analysis Summary Reports	30
Lesson Homework Assignments	20
Quizzes	10
<b>Total Possible</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Late Materials

Prompt feedback for all assigned homework, quizzes and exams is essential to facilitate learning within the tight time parameters of this two-credit course. For that reason, failure to meet the course requirements will be penalized as described next:

Action	Penalty
Late weekly financial analysis summary report	20% deduction for all corresponding members' group discussion summary report grade.
A late homework assignment on myBusinessCourse	Late homework assignments are <b>not</b> accepted.

## Final Letter Grades

Percentage	UW-Oshkosh
93-100%	A
90-92.9%	A-
87-89.9%	B+
83-86.9%	B
80-82.9%	B-
77-79.9%	C+
73-76.9%	C
70-72.9%	C
< 70%	F

NOTE: If you drop the course, please inform me and your teammates as soon as possible.

## Reading Assignments

Reading assignments will come from textbook material and Commentaries found within the **Content** area of the D2L site. Carefully read the description of assignments as chapter appendices will be required for some Lessons, but not for all. When reading through textbook chapters, be sure to read through all company scenarios provided in the chapter and review all supplemental company data. These features greatly enhance the understandability and applicability of the theory provided within the chapter. You are also encouraged to work through the Review Problem located at the end of most chapters. These problems will reinforce the concepts provided in each section of the chapter and provide feedback before you progress to the next lesson.

Additional study tools are also available through the myBusinessCourse content management website. **eLectures** and **Guided Examples** are available for each module within the textbook. Registration and access info for the myBusinessCourse site can be found in the **Content** area of the D2L site under Course

Information.

## Homework Assignments

The exercises and problems assigned in the homework section of each lesson will be graded. These exercises and problems can be found at the end of the corresponding textbook chapter. The homework assignments are meant to be worked through to develop a better understanding of the concepts introduced in the text material and in the lesson commentaries. Solutions to the homework will be made available after the homework due date. If you have questions regarding material, please post them in the **Raise Your Hand** area of the discussion board. Both my answer, as well as other student response(s), to your question in that area help the entire class to better understand the materials.

Homework should be completed on the myBusinessCourse website. Detail explanation of how to interact with the on-line myBusinessCourse homework management system **once enrolled**, can be found in the Content area of the D2L site under Course Information in the Homework Instructions document.

## Commentaries and Practice Quizzes

Most lessons have a commentary and a practice quiz. Commentaries are created to further explain the material studied in the lesson. I suggest that you read these commentaries after you have read the textbook material that they intend to clarify. Note that these commentaries are **NOT** intended to substitute the reading assignments.

Practice Quizzes and corresponding solutions are available at all times. You can test your knowledge once or multiple times. The results you obtain from taking these quizzes may provide a great source of feedback regarding your strengths and weaknesses. These are **NOT** graded.

## In-Class Quizzes

There are three in-class quizzes. You can earn up to 10 points on each quiz, up to a maximum of 20 quiz points that will count toward your weighted score. Quizzes occur on the days listed in the course schedule. The quizzes are “closed book” and consist of multiple choice, short answer, and calculation questions. You must take quizzes in class the day scheduled. There will be no make-up quizzes for any reason because there are extra points already built into the quiz component.

## Exams Information

Exams consist of multiple choice questions and problems. Questions and problems address financial accounting concepts, principles, vocabulary, and calculations.

## Financial Statement Analysis

An integral piece of the application component of the BUS 700 course comes from participation in a semester-long collaborative financial statement analysis. In this collaborative effort, you and your group will be assigned a publicly traded company. To this end, each lesson contains a set of questions involving a graded group summary report. In particular, your group will act as potential investors in this company and will analyze the financial health of the assigned company. The most recent annual report of the company with an

emphasis on the 10-K portion of that report will provide most of the foundation material for completing the analysis and report.

## Excused Absences

If you have work or emergencies that prevent you from completing course work, please communicate with me and your group members so that we can keep you on track in the course.

An absence will be considered excused or authorized according to UW-Oshkosh institutional policies found [here](#)

## Inclusivity and Accommodations

It is the policy and practice of UW Oshkosh to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion, please notify me as soon as possible. You are also welcome to contact the Accessibility Center at 920-424-3100 or [dean1@uwosh.edu](mailto:dean1@uwosh.edu). For more information, visit the Accessibility Center website at <http://www.uwosh.edu/deanofstudents/Accessibility-Center>.