

**BUSN3014**

**Principles of Tax Law**

**Course Description**
This course introduces students to the principles of tax law in Australia with a focus on income tax. The important provisions of the *Income Tax Assessment Acts 1936 and 1997* about the concepts of income, capital gains, and deductions are considered in detail. Other topics include international aspects of income tax, tax treatment of different entities, tax planning and goods and services tax.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester and Year</th>
<th>Semester 1, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course URL</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://wattle.anu.edu.au">http://wattle.anu.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mode of Delivery</strong></td>
<td>On campus, blended</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prerequisites</strong></td>
<td>BUSN1101 Introduction to Commercial Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incompatible Courses</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Course Convenor</strong></td>
<td>Alfred Tran</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Office Location:</strong></td>
<td>Room 3.31, CBE Building (26C)</td>
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<td><strong>Email:</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Alfred.Tran@anu.edu.au">Alfred.Tran@anu.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consultation hours:</strong></td>
<td>To be announced on the Wattle course site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bio and research interests</strong></td>
<td>Alfred Tran is an associate professor in the Research School of Accounting and Business Information Systems. He holds a doctoral degree from ANU. He is a Fellow of CPA Australia and a Chartered Tax Adviser. Alfred lectured at the University of Hong Kong before he joined ANU. Prior to his academic career, he worked for the tax offices in Australia and Hong Kong, and had industry experience in the accounting department of a large manufacturing company. He currently lectures on tax law and company accounting. His research interests include how taxes affect business strategy, tax compliance, and the relation between tax law and accounting rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tutor(s) (optional)</strong></td>
<td>Tutor’s name and contact details will be provided on the Wattle course site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Administrators</strong></td>
<td>HN 2037 Hanna Neumann Bldg 21 <a href="mailto:enquiries.ABIS@anu.edu.au">enquiries.ABIS@anu.edu.au</a> 6125 0025 or 6125 7968 Office hours : Monday -Friday 9am – 5pm</td>
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COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Recognise situations (business or otherwise in relation to individuals and other entities) that have income tax or goods and services tax implications;
2. Identify the tax issues involved;
3. Research for and apply the relevant tax law to those situations and issues;
4. Compute the quantum of tax base and tax liability;
5. Identify tax planning opportunities;
6. Analyse and evaluate the tax implications of alternative arrangements;
7. Communicate their reasoning, computation, conclusions and recommendations in a clear and concise manner with reference to relevant statutory provisions and case law.

Research-Led Teaching

Lectures and illustrative examples in this course are informed by the research findings of the lecturer. Tutorial problems and examination questions require students to research for the relevant statutory and case laws and apply them to hypothetical situations.

Continuous Improvement

We use feedback from students, professional bodies and staff to make regular improvements to the course.

With the objectives of engaging students in the learning process throughout the semester to avoid procrastination and providing students with prompt feedback to support their learning, the following two assessment items are adopted in this course:

- weekly tutorial participation, and
- weekly tutorial quizzes.

Positive and encouraging student feedback on these assessment items were found in the responses to Student Experience of Learning and Teaching surveys.

Student Feedback

All CBE courses are evaluated using Student Experience of Learning and Teaching (SELT) surveys, administered by Planning and Statistical Services at the ANU. These surveys are offered online, and students will be notified via email to their ANU address when surveys are available in each course. Feedback is used for course development so please take the time to respond thoughtfully. Course feedback is anonymous and provides the Colleges, University Education Committee and Academic Board with opportunities to recognise excellent teaching and to improve courses across the university. For more information on student surveys at ANU and reports on feedback provided on ANU courses, visit http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/selt/students/ and http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/selt/results/learning/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week [No.]</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Readings (Sadiq et al.)</th>
<th>Tutorial topic (Tutorial questions are on the Wattle)</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[1] 16 Feb</td>
<td>Basic taxation concepts; tax administration</td>
<td>Chapters 1 2, 3, 24</td>
<td>No tutorial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[2] 23 Feb</td>
<td>Income</td>
<td>Chapters 5, 6, 8, 9, 10</td>
<td>Research skills, tax administration</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[3] 2 Mar</td>
<td>Deductions</td>
<td>Chapters 12, 13</td>
<td>Income</td>
<td>Tutorial participation, tutorial quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[6] 23 Mar</td>
<td>Tax accounting; tax computation; tax offsets and Medicare levy</td>
<td>Chapters 16, 17, 15</td>
<td>Capital allowances</td>
<td>Tutorial participation, tutorial quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[7] 30 Mar</td>
<td>No lectures</td>
<td>No tutorials</td>
<td>Mid-semester examination</td>
<td></td>
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Mid semester teaching break – Friday 3 April to Sunday 19 April

| [8] 20 Apr | International aspects of income tax | Chapters 4, 22 | Tax accounting; tax computation; tax offsets and Medicare levy | Tutorial participation, tutorial quiz |
| [9] 27 Apr | Partnership | Chapter 19 | International aspects of income tax | Tutorial participation, tutorial quiz |
| [10] 4 May | Trust | Chapter 20 | Partnership | Tutorial participation, tutorial quiz |
| [12] 18 May | Tax planning | Chapter 23 | Company and dividend imputation | Tutorial participation, tutorial quiz |
| [13] 25 May | Goods and services tax (Tutorial questions are discussed in the lectures as examples) | Chapter 25 | Tax planning | Tutorial participation, tutorial quiz |

Semester 1 examination period – Thursday 4 June to Saturday 20 June
### Assessment Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description and details of assessment</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Linked to Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial participation</td>
<td>Participation in tutorial discussion (1% per tutorial)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>During weekly tutorial from Week 3 to Week 13</td>
<td>Outcomes 1 to 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial quizzes</td>
<td>Tutorial quizzes (1% per quiz); 5 multiple choice questions in each quiz</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Last 10 minutes at the end of each tutorial from Week 3 to Week 13</td>
<td>Outcomes 1 to 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-semester examination</td>
<td>Open book exam covering lecture topics up to and including Week 5 lectures (capital allowances); answer four questions in 1.5 hours</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Outcomes 1 to 4, and 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>Open book exam covering all lecture topics; answer eight questions in 3 hours</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Semester 1 examination period in June</td>
<td>Outcomes 1 to 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assessment Task 1: Tutorial Participation (10%)**

**Details of task:** In each tutorial from Week 3 to Week 13 (10 tutorials in total), each student must speak up at least twice during the tutorial discussion to gain 1 mark for that tutorial. A student can either provide a sensible answer to a question raised by the tutor, or ask a sensible question to request clarification from the tutor. The purpose of this assessment item is to encourage active participation in tutorial discussion: students can demonstrate their preparation for the tutorial and also have the chance to seek clarification on difficult points.

To ensure that the tutorial discussion proceeds in an orderly manner, please raise your hand when you want to speak, and speak only when the tutor calls your name. The tutor will ensure that everyone in the class has a chance to speak, and may pose questions to those who are quiet.

If you miss a tutorial occasionally for a good reason (e.g. due to illness – a medical certificate may be required), please attend another tutorial in the same week and inform the tutor of your presence.

**Assessment Task 2: Tutorial Quizzes (10%)**

**Details of task:** There will be a tutorial quiz in the last 10 minutes of each tutorial from Week 3 to Week 13 (10 quizzes in total). Each tutorial quiz consists of five multiple choice questions with four or five choices each. Two marks are awarded for a correct answer, and zero marks for an incorrect answer, to each question. The maximum score per quiz is 10, and the maximum total score over 10 quizzes is 100.

**Rules for tutorial quizzes:**
- The quizzes are open book examinations: you may refer to books and notes, but cannot use any electronic devices other than a non-programmable calculator.
- Examination conditions apply during the quiz: you are not allowed to communicate with each other in any form.
- You cannot share calculator and stationery with others – each student must bring their own.
- You are not allowed to look around at others' work.
- Failing to observe these rules will be regarded as misconduct in examination, and will receive a zero mark for the quiz.
- The tutor may ask you to move to another seat, if necessary.
- Make sure that only one alphabet (A or B or...) is clearly written in the answer box.
- The tutor will keep a record of tutorial attendance, and will control the number of quiz papers issued and returned for each tutorial class.

If you miss a tutorial occasionally for a good reason (e.g., due to illness – a medical certificate may be required), please attend another tutorial in the same week, inform the tutor of your presence, and attempt the quiz. As a last resort, make an appointment with your tutor for a make-up quiz in her or his office **by Monday of the following week**.

**Examinations**

**Assessment Task 3: Mid-semester Examination (20%)**

The mid-semester examination will be held in Week 7, covering materials up to and including the lecture topic for Week 5 (and the tutorial topic for Week 6), i.e. capital allowances. This 1.5-hour examination is open book and is worth 20% of the assessment. The examination date, time and venue will be scheduled by the Examinations Office.

**Assessment Task 4: Final Examination (60%)**

The final examination will be held in the semester 1 examination period in June, covering all lecture topics. This 3-hour examination is open book and is worth 60% of the assessment. The examination date, time and venue will be scheduled by the Examinations Office.

**Scaling**

Your final mark for the course will be based on the raw marks allocated for each assignment or examination. However, your final mark may not be the same number as produced by that formula, as marks may be scaled. Any scaling applied will preserve the rank order of raw marks (i.e. if your raw mark exceeds that of another student, then your scaled mark will exceed or equal the scaled mark of that student), and may be either up or down.
READING LISTS

Prescribed Text

References
1. Other textbooks include:
2. Practitioner guidebooks:
4. Legislation:
   (a) Barkoczy, S. et al., *Core Tax Legislation & Study Guide 2015*, CCH Australia.
5. Casebooks:


TUTORIAL AND/OR SEMINAR REGISTRATION

Tutorial and/or Seminar signup for this course will be done via the Wattle website. Detailed information about signup times will be provided on Wattle or during your first lecture. When tutorials are available for enrolment, follow these steps:

1. Log on to Wattle, and go to the course site.
2. Click on the link “Tutorial signup here”
3. On the right of the screen, click on the tab “Become Member of ……” for the tutorial class you wish to enter.
4. Confirm your choice
If you need to change your enrolment, you will be able to do so by clicking on the tab “Leave group...” and then re-enrol in another group. You will not be able to enrol in groups that have reached their maximum number. Please note that enrolment in ISIS must be finalised for you to have access to Wattle.

**COMMUNICATION**

Email is the preferred way of communication between the lecturer, tutors and students.

**Email**

If necessary, the lecturers and tutors for this course will contact students on their official ANU student email address. Information about your enrolment and fees from the Registrar and Student Services’ office will also be sent to this email address.

**Announcements**

Students are expected to check the Wattle site for announcements about this course, e.g. changes to timetables or notifications of cancellations. Notifications of emergency cancellations of lectures or tutorials will be posted on the door of the relevant room.

**Course URLs**

More information about this course may be found on:

- Programs and Courses (http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/2014/Catalogue)
- the College of Business and Economics website (http://cbe.anu.edu/courses) and
- Wattle (https://wattle.anu.edu.au), the University's online learning environment. Log on to Wattle using your student number and your ISIS password.

**POLICIES**

The University offers a number of support services for students. Information on these is available online from [http://students.anu.edu.au/studentlife/](http://students.anu.edu.au/studentlife/).

ANU has educational policies, procedures and guidelines, which are designed to ensure that staff and students are aware of the University’s academic standards, and implement them. You can find the University’s education policies and an explanatory glossary at: [http://policies.anu.edu.au/](http://policies.anu.edu.au/)

Students are expected to have read the **Student Academic Integrity** Policy before the commencement of their course.

Other key policies include:

- Student Assessment (Coursework)
- Student Surveys and Evaluations
- Copyright ([http://copyright.anu.edu.au/](http://copyright.anu.edu.au/))