

**Commerce 4SB3  
Introduction to Canadian Taxation  
Fall 2019 Course Outline**

**Accounting and Financial Management Services  
DeGroote School of Business  
McMaster University**

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b>Section 1:</b> Monday: 8:30 - 11:20	<b>Section 2:</b> Monday: 14:30 - 17:20	<b>Section 3:</b> Monday: 17:30 - 20:20	<b>Section 4:</b> Thursday: 8:30 - 11:20
<b>Class location:</b> T13 105	<b>Class location:</b> BSB 108	<b>Class location:</b> KTH 109	<b>Class location:</b> MDCL 1009

**Eric Bentzen-Bilkvist**  
Instructor  
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Office: DSB/418  
Office Hours: To be arranged  
Tel: (905) 522-6555

**COURSE ELEMENTS**

Credit Value: 3	Leadership: Yes	IT skills: No	Global view: Yes
Avenue: Yes	Ethics: No	Numeracy: Yes	Written skills: No
Participation: Yes	Innovation: Yes	Group work: Yes	Oral skills: Yes
Evidence-based: Yes	Experiential: No	Final Exam: Yes	Guest speaker(s): No

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is the first of two introductory courses in Federal income tax law which are designed to achieve the following objectives:

- (1) to explain the theoretical concepts behind the specific provisions of the law,
- (2) to apply the law in practical problems and case settings,
- (3) to interpret the law, taking into account the specific wording of the provisions, judicial decisions and Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) position, and
- (4) to introduce basic tax planning concepts through problem application.

## REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS AND READINGS

**TEXTBOOKS:** We will use the following reading materials, available from the McMaster bookstore. Both text books are required.

- R.E. Beam and S.N. Laiken, *Introduction to Federal Income Taxation in Canada*, 2019 - 2020, 40<sup>th</sup> edition with *Student Study Guide*, CCH Canadian Limited, North York, Ontario 2019.
- *Canadian Income Tax Act with Regulations*. (Current edition available in bookstore).

*Texts are available at the bookstore. Due to the volatile nature of the law governing the study of income tax, students should not attempt the course without current text materials.*

## EVALUATION

Students are expected to do the required readings and keep up with the exercises and assignments at the end of each chapter in the Beam & Laiken text. Class preparation is essential if the student wishes to obtain maximum benefit from class work.

The prime teaching method is class discussion and solving of assigned problems. During the discussion of an assigned problem the instructor will make overview comments, explain the underlying concepts or rationale of the material being applied and emphasize a systematic approach to problems. Extended lectures will not be given on materials that students can read and understand through application. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

## Components and Weights

The components of the course grade will be weighted as follows:

<i>COMPONENT</i>	<i>PERCENT</i>
Midterm ( <i>tentative, Sat, October 26 @ 8:30 am</i> )	50%
Final	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The mid-term examination will be graded on a numerical marking scheme. Students will be informed how the numerical marks can be interpreted in terms of the official letter-grade scale at the time the exams are returned.

There will be no makeups for the mid-term examination. If a student has a valid reason for missing the mid-term examination, as documented by a medical certificate, etc., this portion of the grade will be re-weighted to the final examination. The rules customarily followed by the School of Business will govern absence from the final examination.

The instructor reserves the right to adjust grades for class participation or in the event significant improvement is noted on the final exam.

If you have any specific questions in this regard, please ask.

NOTE: The use of a McMaster standard calculator is allowed during examinations in this course. See McMaster calculator policy at the following URL:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/UndergraduateExaminationsPolicy.pdf>

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at:

[www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity)

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations

### **REQUESTING RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC WORK**

Students may request relief from a regularly scheduled midterm, test, assignment or other course components. Please refer to the policy and procedure on the DeGroot website at the link below;

<http://ug.degroot.mcmaster.ca/forms-and-resources/misled-course-work-policy/>

### **STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES**

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca).

For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities;

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf>

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request, including the dates/times needing to be accommodated and the courses which will be impacted, to their Faculty Office normally within 10 days of the beginning of term or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

### **POTENTIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE COURSE**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and

communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme Circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COURSE POLICIES**

Your enrolment in Commerce 4SB3 will be considered to be an implicit acknowledgement of the course policies outlined above, or of any other that may be announced during lecture and/or on A2L. **It is your responsibility to read this course outline, to familiarize yourself with the course policies and to act accordingly.**

Lack of awareness of the course policies **cannot be invoked** at any point during this course for failure to meet them. It is your responsibility to ask for clarification on any policies that you do not understand.

<b>COURSE SCHEDULE</b>
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## Commerce 4SB3 Federal Income Taxation in Canada Fall 2019 Course Schedule

The outline of the course will follow, sequentially, the chapters 1 to 10 in the Beam & Laiken text. As indicated in the preface, which should be read by students, that book is designed to guide the student through the other required materials. Assigned readings are listed in each chapter at the start of each topic.

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Approximate Duration</b>
1 & 2	Introduction and Liability for Income Tax	1 week
3	Employment Income	2 weeks
4	Income from Business	2 weeks
5	Depreciable Capital Property and Eligible Capital Property	1 week
6	Income from Property	1 week
7	Capital Gains: An Introduction	1 week
8	Capital Gains: The Finer Points	1 week
9	Other Sources of Income and Deductions in Computing Income	1 week
10	Computation of Taxable Income and Tax for Individuals	2 weeks