



Course Syllabus
ALP 5301 – Accounting Basics
Spring 2026

Class: ALP 5301 – Accounting
Class Time: Asynchronous (1W1 – ALP)
Instructor: Dr Sellamuthu Prabakaran
Office: Amy Street Building.
Office 111. Eagle Pass, TX 78852.

Credits: 3
Location: Online Asynchronous
E-mail: Prabakaran.sellauthu@sulross.edu
Office Hours: Monday – 9.00 AM – 1.00 PM
Phone: 830 415 8440

Required Materials:

Textbook:

We are going to use an ebook and the **Connect** platform from McGraw-Hill.

1. Fundamental Accounting Principles by John J. Wild (Author), 13th Edition. McGraw Hill.

Students must Connect access through the link in Blackboard (click on Connect Registration).

Course Description: This course provides a foundational understanding of financial accounting concepts, principles, and practices essential for business decision-making. Students will learn how financial information is recorded, classified, and summarized into key financial statements, including the Balance Sheet, Income Statement, and Cash Flow Statement. The course introduces fundamental accounting terminology, the double-entry system, the accounting cycle, and the role of accounting in organizational planning and control.

Through practical exercises, real-world examples, and business scenarios, students will develop skills in journalizing transactions, preparing ledgers, reconciling accounts, and interpreting financial data. Emphasis is placed on accuracy, transparency, ethical considerations, and the use of accounting information for internal and external stakeholders. By the end of the course, students will understand how accounting supports strategic decision-making and contributes to overall business performance. (MBA Core Course).

Course Learning Outcomes – Accounting Basics (5 CLOs)

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Explain** fundamental accounting concepts, principles, and terminology used in financial reporting.
2. **Apply** the double-entry system to record, classify, and summarize business transactions accurately.
3. **Prepare** basic financial statements—including the Balance Sheet, Income Statement, and Cash Flow Statement—using systematic accounting procedures.
4. **Analyze** financial statements to evaluate an organization's financial performance and position.
5. **Demonstrate** the ethical use of accounting information in decision-making and communicate financial results effectively to stakeholders.

MBA Learning Outcomes – Financial Management Focus

Upon successful completion of the MBA, students will:

- Develop foundational knowledge of financial accounting concepts and principles.
- Understand and apply the double-entry system for recording business transactions.
- Learn the full accounting cycle—from journal entries to preparation of financial statements.
- Gain practical skills in preparing the Balance Sheet, Income Statement, and Cash Flow Statement.
- Interpret financial information to support managerial decision-making.
- Recognize the importance of ethics, transparency, and accuracy in accounting practices.
- Understand how accounting contributes to performance evaluation and business planning.

MBA Marketable Skills: Upon successful completion of the MBA students will have the following marketable skills:

1. The ability to use software to analyze and report data.
2. The ability to work with others to solve problems.
3. The ability to communicate effectively.
4. The ability to use the latest digital technology.

Academic Integrity: Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources *unless permission is expressly given* for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

Classroom Climate of Respect: This class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against other students.

Counseling: Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/356 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://www.timelycare.com/srsu). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and SRSU International students.

Libraries: The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu/. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and

password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123). No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu. Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and ScanIt to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartz, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email mary.schwartz@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Official Communication: All official communication by the University or me will be sent to your Sul Ross email account. As a result, you are required to activate your email account and check it from time to time for personal communication. I encourage you to email me if you have questions or comments, BUT PLEASE include your full name and the course for which you have questions. Even if you submit your email through the Blackboard site, I cannot tell which course you are in nor what your real name is (i.e., egar123) unless you put it in the body of your email.

Technical Support: The Support Desk is where you can direct your more technical questions. For example, the Support Desk can help you if you are having issues submitting a document, getting videos to play, or using BlackBoard. The support desk is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week for your convenience. You can reach the support desk by calling 888.837.8888 or by email blackboardsupport@sulross.edu. You may also reach the Support desk from the Technology Support tab within Blackboard by clicking the Support Desk graphic on the course homepage or calling 936.294.2780.

SRSU Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Directions for filing student complaints are located in the student handbook.

Assignments

Late Work: There will be a 10% penalty for assignments submitted late.

Course Requirements and Grading

Requirement	Points Possible	Grading Scale
Weekly Discussion Posts – Due Weekly	350 points	A = 900 to 1000 points
Assignment 1 – Due 25 th January 2026.	150 points	B = 800 to 899 points
Assignment 2 – Due 8 th February 2026.	150 points	C = 700 to 799 points
Assignment 3 – Due 22 nd February 2026.	150 points	D = 600 to 699 points
Final Essay Exam – Due 6 th March 2026.	200 points	F = less than 599 points
Possible Points	1000 points	

Course Assignments

Weekly Discussion Board:

1. I as a faculty member will post a weekly discussion board that will be available at 12:01 AM on Tuesday and have a due date of the following Monday at 11:59 PM.
2. Students will be required to respond to the question itself by Friday and reply to two other students by Sunday night.
3. The question will be designed to facilitate discussion by requiring students to offer their analysis, evaluation or design based on the course's weekly topic. (Blooms Levels 5-6).
4. The instructor will be active in the Discussion Board by responding to at least half of the student posts each week.

Discussion Board Rubric: (50 points)

Rubric 1: The student's main post responded completely and substantially to all of parts of discussion question. (30 points).

Rubric 2: The student's initial post was no later than Friday (5 points)

Rubric 3: The response was well-organized, clear and free of grammatical and mechanical errors. (5 points).

Rubric 4: The student posts substantially to two other students. 5 points each (10 points)

Assignment 1: – Accounting Basics

Questions:

1. Understanding Accounting and Transactions:

Explain the role of accounting in business decision-making. Discuss how analyzing and recording transactions helps maintain the accuracy and reliability of financial information. Provide examples of different types of transactions and how they impact assets, liabilities, and equity.

2. Adjusting Accounts for Financial Statements: Discuss the importance of adjusting accounts at the end of an accounting period. Explain how adjustments like accrued expenses, prepaid items, and depreciation ensure that financial statements reflect the true financial position of a business. Give examples of situations where such adjustments are necessary.

Submission Guidelines - Upload your essay as a 5 - 8-pages paper, exclusive of title page and appendices, in

Course Assignment Rubric (Total: 150 Points)

Criteria	Description	Points
Understanding of Concepts	Demonstrates a clear understanding of the role of accounting in business, analyzing and recording transactions, and adjusting accounts for financial statements.	50
Clarity and Organization	Answers are well-structured, logically organized, and easy to follow.	30
Application / Examples	Provides relevant examples of transactions, adjustments, and their impact on assets, liabilities, equity, and financial statements.	30
Depth of Analysis	Explains how accounting practices maintain accuracy, reliability, and reflect the true financial position; demonstrates critical thinking.	30
Mechanics and Presentation	Correct grammar, spelling, formatting; professional presentation of the assignment.	10

Assignment 2: Accounting Basics

Questions:

1. Completing the Accounting Cycle and Accounting for Merchandising Operations:

Explain the steps involved in completing the accounting cycle for a merchandising business. Discuss how merchandising transactions, including sales and purchases of inventory, are recorded and how they impact financial statements.

2. Inventories, Cost of Sales, and Accounting Information Systems:

Discuss the importance of proper inventory accounting and the calculation of cost of sales in a merchandising business. Explain how accounting information systems support accurate recording, reporting, and decision-making in managing inventories and overall financial operations.

Submission Guidelines - Upload your essay as a 5 - 8 page paper, exclusive of title page and appendices, in MS Word format, 12 point Times New Roman Font, double-space following APA Style Format.

Course Assignment Rubric (Total: 150 Points)

Criteria	Description	Points
Understanding of Concepts	Demonstrates clear understanding of completing the accounting cycle, merchandising operations, inventories, cost of sales, and accounting information systems.	50
Clarity and Organization	Answers are well-structured, logically organized, and easy to follow.	30
Application / Examples	Provides relevant examples to support explanations of concepts	30
Depth of Analysis	Demonstrates critical thinking, explains the importance and impact of accounting practices on financial reporting and decision-making.	30
Mechanics and Presentation	Correct grammar, spelling, and formatting; professional presentation of the assignment.	10

Assignment 3: Accounting Basics

Questions:

1. Cash, Fraud, Internal Control, and Receivables:

Discuss the importance of cash management and internal controls in preventing fraud within an organization. Explain how proper accounting for receivables, including monitoring and managing collections, supports financial integrity and operational efficiency.

2. Plant Assets, Natural Resources, Intangibles, and Current Liabilities & Payroll:

Explain how businesses account for long-term assets such as plant assets, natural resources, and intangibles. Discuss how accurate accounting for current liabilities and payroll ensures compliance, timely payments, and reliable financial reporting. Provide examples of challenges in managing these accounts.

Course Assignment Rubric (Total: 150 Points)

Criteria	Description	Points
Understanding of Concepts	Demonstrates clear understanding of cash management, internal controls, receivables, plant assets, natural resources, intangibles, current liabilities, and payroll accounting.	50
Clarity and Organization	Answers are well-structured, logically organized, and easy to follow.	30
Application / Examples	Provides relevant examples to support explanations of concepts.	30
Depth of Analysis	Demonstrates critical thinking, explains the importance and impact of accounting practices on financial reporting, fraud prevention, and decision-making.	30
Mechanics and Presentation	Correct grammar, spelling, and formatting; professional presentation of the assignment.	10

Final Essay Exam: A final essay exam consisting of four essay questions covering the material covered in the course. It will be available to students for at least one week before the end of class.

Final Essay Exam Rubric:

Comprehensive Course Final Rubric (Total: 200 Points)

- Content Quality & Accuracy: 70 points
- Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving: 50 points
- Financial Analysis & Modeling: 50 points
- Use of Evidence & Referencing: 20 points
- Organization, Grammar, & Mechanics: 10 points

Schedule for ACC5301 – Spring 2026 - 8 Week

Week	Topic	Readings
Week 1 – January 14 th 2026	CONCEPT - GETTING STARTED - Read the syllabus and get familiar with both Blackboard and Connect platforms. Objectives - Begin the course by introducing myself, reading the syllabus, and becoming familiar with both Blackboard and Connect platforms.	Chapter Reading - No chapter reading or homework is assigned, as this is only an introduction class.

	<p>CHAPTER 1 – ACCOUNTING BUSINESS - Accounting in business is based on key concepts such as the business being a separate entity, the use of the double-entry system, recording only measurable transactions, and preparing consistent, transparent financial statements. These principles ensure accuracy, reliability, and clarity in reporting a company's financial performance.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To introduce students to fundamental accounting principles and terminology. • To develop the ability to record and classify business transactions using the double-entry system. • To enable students to understand and complete the accounting cycle. • To provide skills to prepare basic financial statements for business decision-making. • To build the capacity to interpret financial information ethically and accurately. 	Textbook Chapters 1 – Accounting Business
Week 2 - January 21st 2026	<p>CHAPTER 2 – ANALYZING AND RECORDING TRANSACTIONS - Analyzing and recording transactions involves identifying their effects on assets, liabilities, and equity, and documenting them using the double-entry system. This ensures the accounting equation stays balanced and forms the basis for accurate financial reporting.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand how business transactions affect assets, liabilities, and equity. • To apply the double-entry system for accurate recording of transactions. • To prepare journals, ledgers, and trial balances as part of the accounting cycle. • To ensure the accounting equation remains balanced in all entries. • To develop accuracy and reliability in financial record-keeping. 	Textbook Chapters 2 – Analyzing and Recording Transactions
	<p>CHAPTER 3 – ADJUSTING ACCOUNTS FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Adjusting accounts ensures that revenues and expenses are recorded in the correct accounting period, following the accrual principle. It involves making end-of-period entries for prepaid expenses, accrued expenses, unearned revenues, and depreciation. These adjustments ensure that financial statements accurately reflect the company's financial position and performance.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the need for adjusting entries in the accounting cycle. • To record accrued revenues and expenses, prepaid expenses, and unearned revenues accurately. • To account for depreciation and other period-end adjustments. • To ensure financial statements reflect the true financial position and performance. • To develop accuracy and compliance with the accrual accounting principle. 	Textbook Chapters 3 – Adjusting accounts for Financial Statements
Assignment 1 – Due 25th January 2026.		
Week 3 - January 28th 2026	<p>CHAPTER 4 – COMPLETING THE ACCOUNTING CYCLE - Completing the accounting cycle involves finalizing all accounting records to prepare accurate financial statements. This includes making adjusting entries, preparing an adjusted trial balance, creating financial statements, and closing temporary accounts to retained earnings. The process ensures that all transactions for the period are properly recorded and that the books are ready for the next accounting period.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To finalize all accounting records for accurate financial reporting. • To prepare an adjusted trial balance and financial statements. • To close temporary accounts and update retained earnings. • To ensure all transactions for the period are properly recorded. • To maintain readiness for the next accounting period. 	Textbook Chapters 4 – Completing the Accounting Cycle

	<p>CHAPTER 5- ACCOUNTING FOR MERCHANDISING OPERATIONS - Accounting for merchandising operations focuses on recording and reporting transactions related to buying and selling goods. It includes tracking inventory purchases, sales, cost of goods sold, and returns. Merchandising accounting distinguishes between periodic and perpetual inventory systems and ensures accurate measurement of gross profit and net income. Proper accounting helps businesses manage inventory, control costs, and evaluate profitability.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the accounting process for buying and selling goods. • To record inventory purchases, sales, returns, and allowances accurately. • To differentiate between periodic and perpetual inventory systems. • To calculate and analyze cost of goods sold, gross profit, and net income. • To use merchandising accounting information for inventory management and profitability evaluation. 	Textbook Chapters 5 – Accounting for Merchandising Operations
Week 4 – February 4th 2026	<p>CHAPTER 6: INVENTORIES AND COST OF SALES - Inventories represent goods held for sale in the normal course of business. Accounting for inventories involves tracking their purchase, storage, and sale, and valuing them accurately using methods such as FIFO, LIFO, or weighted average. Cost of Sales (or Cost of Goods Sold) reflects the expense of inventory sold during a period and is deducted from revenue to determine gross profit. Proper inventory accounting ensures accurate financial reporting and effective inventory management.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the nature and importance of inventories in business. • To accurately value inventory using methods like FIFO, LIFO, and weighted average. • To calculate the Cost of Sales for determining gross profit. • To record inventory transactions and adjustments properly. • To use inventory and cost data for effective financial reporting and decision-making. 	Textbook Chapters 6 – Inventories and Cost of Sales
	<p>CHAPTER 7: ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS - Accounting Information Systems (AIS) are structured systems for collecting, storing, and processing financial and accounting data. AIS integrates people, processes, and technology to produce accurate and timely financial information for decision-making. It supports transaction processing, financial reporting, internal controls, and compliance with regulations. A well-designed AIS enhances efficiency, reduces errors, and provides management with insights to plan, monitor, and control business operations.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the role and importance of accounting information systems in business. • To learn how AIS collects, processes, and stores financial data accurately. • To use AIS for preparing financial reports and supporting decision-making. • To understand internal controls and compliance within AIS. • To enhance efficiency and reduce errors in accounting processes through technology. 	Textbook Chapters 7 – Accounting Information Systems
Assignment 2 – Due 8th February 2026.		
Week 5 - February 11th 2026	<p>CHAPTER 8 – CASH, FRAUD, AND INTERNAL CONTROL - Cash management is critical in business, requiring accurate recording, monitoring, and safeguarding of cash resources. Internal controls are processes and procedures designed to prevent errors and detect fraud, ensuring the integrity of financial information. Effective internal controls include segregation of duties, authorization of transactions, reconciliations, and secure handling of assets. Understanding these concepts helps businesses minimize fraud risk, protect cash, and maintain reliable financial reporting.</p>	Textbook Chapters 8 – Cash, Fraud, and Internal Control

	<p>OBJECTIVES –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the importance of cash management in business operations. • To learn procedures for safeguarding cash and other assets. • To identify and prevent fraud through effective internal controls. • To implement key internal control measures, including segregation of duties and reconciliations. • To ensure accurate and reliable financial reporting through controlled processes. 	
	<p>CHAPTER 9 – ACCOUNTING FOR RECEIVABLES - Accounting for receivables involves tracking amounts owed to a business by customers and other parties. It includes recognizing accounts receivable, estimating and recording bad debts, and managing collections. Proper accounting ensures accurate reporting of current assets, assesses credit risk, and supports effective cash flow management. Techniques such as aging schedules and allowance methods help maintain the reliability and integrity of financial statements.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the nature and importance of accounts receivable in business. • To record and manage receivables accurately. • To estimate and account for bad debts using appropriate methods. • To monitor and control collections effectively. • To ensure reliable reporting of receivables and support cash flow management. 	Textbook Chapters 9 – Accounting for Receivables
Week 6 - February 18th 2026	<p>CHAPTER 10 – PLANT ASSETS, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND INTANGIBLES - Plant assets, natural resources, and intangible assets are long-term resources used by a business to generate revenue. Plant assets include tangible items like machinery and buildings, which are subject to depreciation. Natural resources, such as timber or minerals, are depleted as they are used. Intangible assets, like patents or trademarks, provide long-term value without physical substance and are amortized over time. Proper accounting for these assets ensures accurate financial reporting and informed business decisions.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and classify plant assets, natural resources, and intangible assets. • To record acquisitions, disposals, and adjustments for these assets. • To calculate and account for depreciation, depletion, and amortization. • To understand the impact of these assets on financial statements. • To ensure accurate reporting for better business decision-making. 	Textbook Chapters 10 - Plant Assets, Natural Resources, And Intangibles
	<p>CHAPTER 11- CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PAYROLL ACCOUNTING - Current liabilities are obligations a business must settle within a short period, such as accounts payable, short-term loans, and accrued expenses. Payroll accounting involves calculating employee wages, withholding taxes, and recording benefits and deductions. Accurate accounting for liabilities and payroll ensures timely payments, compliance with laws and regulations, and reliable financial reporting. Proper management of these areas is essential for maintaining financial stability and operational efficiency.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the nature and classification of current liabilities. • To record and manage obligations such as accounts payable, taxes, and accrued expenses. • To calculate employee wages, deductions, and benefits accurately. • To ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements in payroll. • To maintain accurate financial records for liabilities and payroll transactions. 	Textbook Chapters 11 - Current Liabilities and Payroll Accounting
Assignment 3 – Due 22nd February 2026.		
Week 7 - February 25th 2026	<p>CHAPTER 12: ACCOUNTING FOR PARTNERSHIPS - Accounting for partnerships focuses on recording and reporting financial transactions for businesses owned by two or more partners. It includes the formation of a partnership, allocation of profits and losses, changes in ownership, and the</p>	Textbook Chapters 12- Accounting For Partnerships

	<p>admission or withdrawal of partners. Proper accounting ensures accurate tracking of partner capital accounts, fair distribution of profits, and reliable financial reporting for decision-making and legal compliance.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the nature and characteristics of partnership businesses. • To record the formation, capital contributions, and profit-sharing of partners. • To account for changes in ownership, including admission or withdrawal of partners. • To maintain accurate partner capital accounts. • To ensure reliable financial reporting for decision-making and compliance. 	
	<p>CHAPTER 13 – ACCOUNTING FOR CORPORATIONS - Accounting for corporations involves recording and reporting financial transactions for companies owned by shareholders. It includes issuing stock, recording dividends, preparing financial statements, and accounting for retained earnings. Proper corporate accounting ensures accurate tracking of equity, compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and provides shareholders and management with reliable information for decision-making.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the structure and characteristics of corporations. • To record the issuance of stock and other equity transactions. • To account for dividends, retained earnings, and treasury stock. • To prepare accurate financial statements for corporate reporting. • To provide reliable financial information for shareholders and management decisions. 	Textbook Chapters 13 - Accounting for Corporations
Week 8 – March 6th 2026	Final Essay Exam – Due 6th March 2026.	

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