

**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 614**

#### **ESTATE, TRUST, AND GIFT TAXATION**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the taxation of estates, trusts, and gift returns, with a focus on estate planning.

#### **RATIONALE**

Multiple times throughout Scripture we are encouraged to be good stewards of the gifts that God has given us, financial and otherwise. When it comes to being good stewards of financial gifts, and protecting the financial futures of our family and those non-profit organizations we care about, there is no greater tool than tax planning. Trust and Estate tax planning allows us to manage our financial giving in an orderly manner—both in life and in death—while wisely minimizing tax liability.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

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

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

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

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word and Excel

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Assess the various methods by which property is valued and transferred.
- B. Determine the ideal timing for gifts using basis and present/future value of investment.
- C. Demonstrate how to transfer wealth with a minimum of tax liability using planning techniques.
- D. Measure taxable income for Gifts, Trusts, and Estates.

- E. Prepare tax forms for Gifts, Trusts, and Estates.
- F. Evaluate the ethical implications of gift, trust, and estate tax scenarios, from a biblical perspective.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings

- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forum (2)

Discussion Boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 250 words, demonstrate course-related knowledge, and include a Biblical perspective. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 125 words. All posts must reference a minimum of 2 scholarly sources. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

- D. Homework Assignments (3)

Each homework assignment will cover the Reading & Study material for the module/week in which it is assigned and contain 5 primarily quantitative problems. Assignments must be submitted in a Microsoft Excel document, with each problem on a separate tab. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

- E. Case Studies (4)

The student will write a 1-page paper in current APA format that focuses on the tax case outlined in the instructions. Each case study must include a title page, running head, and at least 2 sources in a reference list from CCH Intelliconnect, in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E, F)

- F. Tax Returns (3)

The student will complete tax returns using each of the 3 major forms used in Estate and Trust tax preparation, for tax scenarios detailed in the instructions. Each tax return must be completed using the applicable tax forms and instructions provided in the course. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E, F)

- G. Quizzes (3)

Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned module(s)/week(s). Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 25 true/false, matching, and multiple-choice questions. Each test has a limit of 2 hours. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES****A. Points**

Course Requirements Checklist		10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 50 pts ea)		100
Homework Assignments (3 at 50 pts ea)		150
Case Studies (4 at 75 pts ea)		300
Tax Returns (3 at 100 pts ea)		300
Quiz 1	(Module 2–3)	50
Quiz 2	(Module 5–6)	50
Quiz 3	(Module 8)	50

**Total**    1010

**B. Scale**

A = 940–1010    A- = 920–939    B+ = 900–919    B = 860–899    B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839    C = 780–819    C- = 760–779    F = 0–759

**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. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **ACCT 614**

Textbook: Hoffman et al., *ACCT 614: Estate, Trust, and Gift Taxation* (2017).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Hoffman: ch. 1 1 presentation 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		Case Study 1	75
<b>2</b>	Hoffman: ch. 2 1 presentation	DB Forum 1	50
		Homework Assignment 1	50
<b>3</b>	Hoffman: ch. 3 1 presentation	Quiz 1	50
		Tax Return 1	100
<b>4</b>	Hoffman: ch. 4 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	50
		Case Study 2	75
<b>5</b>	Hoffman: chs. 5–6 1 presentation	Homework Assignment 2	50
		Case Study 3	75
<b>6</b>	Hoffman: ch. 7 1 presentation	Quiz 2	50
		Tax Return 2	100
<b>7</b>	Hoffman: ch. 8 1 presentation	Homework Assignment 3	50
		Case Study 4	75
<b>8</b>	Hoffman: chs. 9–10 1 presentation	Quiz 3	50
		Tax Return 3	100
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Module/Week 1 begins on Monday and ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.  
Modules/Weeks 2–8 begin on Saturday and end at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.