

Western State University College of Law
FEDERAL INCOME TAXATION - 250B

Spring 2014

Syllabus & Policies

Professor John J. “Jack” Veth, Esq.

Section 250B: Thursday 6:30 – 9:45 p.m.
Office Location: Third floor faculty office lounge
Office Hours: One hour before class or by appointment
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Course Objectives:

1. To introduce students to the substantive area of federal income taxation.
2. To introduce students to selected federal statutory code sections.
3. To develop the skill of statutory analysis in each student.
4. To increase student awareness of income tax issues in other areas of the law.
5. To introduce the social policy issues involved in income tax legislation.
6. To introduce students to selected federal tax forms.

Required Texts:

Casebook: Taxation of Individual Income, (10th Edition), J. Martin Burke and Michael K. Friel. Publisher – Lexis Nexis.

Codebook: Selected Federal Taxation Statutes & Regulations 2014 Edition, Edited by Daniel J. Lathrope, West Publishing Company.

IRS Publication: IRS Tax Guide – 2014 (IRS Publication 17)

Reference Texts:

Federal Income Taxation, David M. Hudson & Stephen A. Lind (Black Letter Series). West Publishing Company.

A Student’s Guide to the Internal Revenue Code, (5th Edition), I. Richard Gershon & Jeffery A. Maine. Publisher – Lexis Nexis.

Methodology:

This course will use four methods to assist the student:

1. *The problem method.* The textbook contains problems in each chapter. Specific problems will be assigned but may not be discussed in class. Students are required to prepare answers to all assigned problems.
2. *The case method.* The textbook contains cases, notes and questions. Students are responsible for reading and briefing the case material in all assigned chapters.
3. *The statutory method.* Federal Income Tax is a statutory intense course. Students will be dealing with selected sections of the Internal Revenue Code in each class. In order to assist each student develop statutory interpretation skills, statutes will be reviewed and discussed during class.
4. *The application method.* Problems will be presented during class that will require the application of student knowledge to the completion of applicable IRS tax forms.

Examinations and Grading:

Students will receive a numeric grade for the course. There will be a two-hour midterm examination worth twenty (20) percent of the final grade and a three-hour final examination worth eighty (80) percent of the final grade.

The examinations are open book and students will be permitted to bring to the examination the IRS codebook and a calculator. The codebook may be annotated, but annotations must be handwritten and pages may not be added. Cell phones may not be used during examinations as a timer or calculator.

Class Participation & Attendance:

Class participation is required of all students.

Success in Federal Income Tax requires attendance, preparation, and participation. A student who misses more than two class sessions will be dis-enrolled from the course and will receive a grade of "W" or "F." Students may not attend a class in a session in which they are not enrolled to make up an absence without permission.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA):

VITA is a WSU charitable program that conducts tax clinics to prepare federal and state income tax returns for low-income families, individuals, senior citizens and all WSU students filing Federal and California tax returns. VITA participation is open to all students. Students are encouraged to volunteer and develop legal skills in marketing, interviewing clients, and preparing tax returns.

If you have questions, require additional information, or would like to sign up to participate in the VITA program, contact VITA at wsuvita@gmail.com.

Reading Assignments:

Week & Date	Topic	Casebook Assignment	Partial list of Related IRS Code Sections
1 1/16	Overview Introduction	Preface Chapter 1 Appendix 1	
2 1/23	Gross Income	Chapter 2	§§ 61; 1.61-1; 1.61-2; 1.61-8; 1.61.11; 1.61-14
3 1/30	The Effect of An Obligation to Repay	Chapter 3	§§ 61; 1341; 1.61-8; 1.61-14
4 2/6	Gains from Dealings in Property	Chapter 4	§§ 1011; 1012; 1016; 1.61-6; 1.1001-1; 1.1001-2
5 2/13	Gifts, Bequests, Inheritance AND Sale of Principal Residence	Chapter 5 Chapter 6	§§ 102; 274; 1041; 1014; 1015; 1.102; 1.1001; 1.1014; 1.1015
6 2/20	Business and Profit Seeking Expenses	Chapter 12	§§ 162; 195; 212; 262; 1.162-1; 1.162-2; 1.162-6; 1.162-7; 1.162-7; 1.212; 1.262
7 2/27	Capital Expenditures	Chapter 13	§§ 263; 161; 162; 263A; 174; 1.162-3T; 1.263(a)-1T; 1.263(a)-2T; 1.263(a)-3T

8 3/6	Midterm Examination (2 Hours)		Covers all chapters to date
9 3/13	Spring Break		
10 3/20	Depreciation	Chapter 14	§§ 167; 168; 1.167; 1.168 ; 1.179-1
11 3/27	Cash Method of Accounting And Accrual Method of Accounting	Chapter 28 Chapter 29	§§ 83(a)-(c),-(h); 441; 446; 451; 461; 1.263; 1.446; 1.451 §§ 446; 451; 461; 448; 1.263; 1.446-1; 1.461-1; 1.461-2
12 4/3	Capital Gain/Loss	Chapter 31	§§ 1(h); 408(m); 1202; 1212;
13 4/10	Assignment of Income	Chapter 34	1221; 1222; 1223; 165; 1.1221-1; 1(g); 66; 704; 482
14 4/17	Interest Deduction, AND Tax Consequences of Divorce	Chapter 22 Chapter 37	§§ 1(h)(2); 163; 461; 1.163-8T; 1.163-9T 61(a)(8); 71; 121; 215; 151 152; 7703; 1041; 212; 1.71; 1.121-4; 1.152; 1.215; 1.212
15 4/24	Catch up/Review		
16 5/1	Optional Course Review		

NOTE: Students are advised to pay close attention to the definitions of vocabulary words used in each chapter of the Casebook and in the chapter problems.