Course Objective: The course objective is to develop each student's understanding of basic governmental accounting. The skills acquired by all students will allow them to understand the development of governmental accounting, and to work with the fund structures used by governments.

Transactional analysis showing how events are accounted for using Excel is examined weekly in the class in an accounting lab setting. The labs are the basis for the two required examinations. The course will use an accounting text, and a State of New York annual report. We will also conduct research on recent GASB issues from Gasb.org.

Additional readings may be required during the course at the instructor's discretion. The instructor reserves the right to modify the course topic schedule in keeping with the pace of the class. However, regardless of any changes made by the instructor in the schedule of topics, all reading and written assignments will be due on the dates indicated on this syllabus unless otherwise indicated in writing from the instructor.

Grading: Test #1 (35%), Test #2 (35%), class papers due on October 2, 2012 and on Nov. 20, 2012 (10% each), participation in class discussions (10%). Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to contribute to class discussions. Tests #1 and #2 will be open book and two hours in length and will focus in on accounting problems using Excel. (No other computer programs/devices can be used during the exam). The class papers require the students to develop a not to exceed 10 page paper (double spaced) concerning (1) governmental economic and financial forecasting (Paper #1), and 2) Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 45 (Paper #2) and how it applies to a local government chosen by each student. Students must obtain a financial report for a local government and analyze the GASB Statement 45 presentation. The 10 page paper plus the financial report must be submitted.

Books and Course Materials:


“Governmental Accounting in New York State Introduction to Governmental Accounting.” Office of the State Comptroller. (To be supplied).
UAlbany Blackboard is available.

COURSE SESSIONS:

#1 Tuesday Aug. 28: Syllabus, and Paper Discussion. Basic accounting concepts.


#3 Tuesday Sept. 11: Freeman and Shoulders Chapters 1-2: GASB's principles, analysis of transactions on pages 43-48.

No Class: Sept. 18.

No Class: Sept. 25.

#4 Tuesday Oct. 2: Paper #1 due on GASB economic and financial forecasting (10% of grade). General and Special Revenue Funds. Freeman and Shoulders Chapter 3.

#5 Tuesday Oct. 9: Budgetary Accounting. Freeman and Shoulders Chapter 4.

#6 Tuesday Oct. 16: Expenditure Accounting. Freeman and Shoulders Chapter 5.

#7 Tuesday Oct. 23: Revenue Accounting. Freeman and Shoulders Chapter 6.

#8 Tuesday Oct. 30 Test #1. (2 hours using Excel, 35% of grade).

#9 Tuesday Nov. 6: Capital Projects Accounting.
Freeman and Shoulders Chapter 7.

#10 Tuesday Nov. 13: Debt Service Funds and Account Groups.
Freeman and Shoulders, Chapters 8-9.


#12 Tuesday Nov. 27: Internal Service Fund Accounting -Freeman and Shoulders Chapter 11. Trust fund accounting Chapter 12.

#13 Tuesday Dec 4: Trust and Agency Funds. Freeman and Shoulders Chapter 12.

#14: Tuesday Dec. 11: Trust and Agency Funds continued. Auditing, Freeman and Shoulders Chapter 20. Class Review.

#15: Tuesday Dec. 18: Exam #2.