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 various transactions in a variety of fund structures used by governments.

Transactional analysis, showing how events may be accounted for, using Excel will be examined most weeks 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 www.gasb.org.

Some class sessions will involve round table discussions on specific accounting statements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. These sessions are intended to increase the students' understanding of governmental accounting beyond text book learning.

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 (40%),
- Test #2 (40%),
- Class paper due on April 6, 2017, 2015(10%),
- Participation in class discussions, including GASB roundtable discussion (10%).

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to contribute to class discussions and any online/electronic blogs/discussions. Tests #1 and #2 will be open book and are roughly two hours in length; they will most likely be comprised of accounting problems that require the use of Microsoft Excel. (No other computer programs/devices are to be used during the exam).

The class paper requires the students to develop a paper, which is not to exceed 10 pages (double spaced), concerning the accounting policies used by the government. Students must obtain a financial report for a local government and analyze the accounting policies. The 10 page paper plus the financial report must be submitted. Critical analysis must be used in the paper. See more detail on the paper near the end of the syllabus.
Books and Course Materials:


UAlbany Blackboard documents, as made available within the course content.

COURSE SESSIONS:

#1 Thursday Aug. 31: Syllabus, and Paper Discussion. Basic accounting concepts:

#2 Thursday Sept. 7: G&NP and SLG Accounting
- Freeman and Shoulders Chapters 1-2.

#3 Thursday Sept. 14: Financial Reporting Model
- Freeman and Shoulders Chapter 13, pp. 510-541.
- Freeman and Shoulders Chapter 15, pp. 618-623.
- Roundtable Discussion on Governmental Accounting and GASB 34.

Class Suspended – Thursday Sept. 21: (Rosh Hashanah)

#4 Thursday Sept. 28: Budgetary Accounting.
- Freeman and Shoulders, Chapter 3, pp. 69 – 78. (top of pg)
- Freeman and Shoulders, Chapter 3, pp. 82 – 98.

#5 Thursday Oct. 5: General and Special Revenue Funds; Revenue Accounting
- Freeman and Shoulders, Chapter 4.
- Freeman and Shoulders, Chapter 5.

#6 Thursday Oct 12: Expenditure Accounting and Test Review preparation session.
- Freeman and Shoulders, Chapter 6.

#7 Thursday Oct 19: TEST #1. (2 hours using Excel; 40% of grade).
5:45 pm to 7:45 pm.

#8 Thursday Oct. 26: Capital Projects Accounting.
- Freeman and Shoulders, Chapter 7.

#9 Thursday Nov. 2: Debt Service Funds and Account Groups.
- Freeman and Shoulders, Chapters 8-9.
#10 Thursday Nov. 9: Enterprise Fund Accounting.  
- Freeman and Shoulders Chapter 10. **Class paper due (10% of grade).**

Class Suspended – Thursday Nov. 23: (Thanksgiving)

#11 Thursday Nov. 16: Internal Service Fund Accounting 
- Freeman and Shoulders Chapters 11. Also, Trust fund accounting Chapter 12.

#12 Thursday Nov 30: Pension and Trust Fund Accounting 
- Freeman and Shoulders Chapter 12.  
- Roundtable Discussion about Recent Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements Discussion from GASB.org

#13 Thursday Dec. 7: Pension and Trust Funds, continued, and class summary.

#14 Thursday Dec 14: (TEST #2; (2 hours using Excel; 40% of grade). 
5:45 pm to 7:45 pm.

Course Paper Instructions:

1) Choose a local government and obtain a copy of their annual financial report.  
2) Review Freeman and Shoulders Chapters 1 and 2 and make sure you understand the accounting policies outlined. Other chapters may also be used in the paper.  
3) Review the Notes to the Financial Statements from the local government financial report.  
4) Write a not to exceed 10 page paper double spaced outlining the accounting policies presented in Freeman and Shoulders (Chapters 1 and 2 at a minimum) and comparing them to what the local government actually does. Be sure to use footnotes or references from Freeman and Shoulders and from the local government financial report in your paper. Some charts may be added to the 10 page total if you wish.  
5) Be sure to send in an electronic copy of the local government financial report and a hard copy of the paper.  
6) Critical thinking should be used in your analysis of the accounting policies as discussed in the paper.