

School of Administrative Studies
Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

AN OVERVIEW OF CANADIAN INCOME TAXATION
AP/ADMS 3520

Course Outline for Public Posting
Winter 2026

Last updated Nov. 19, 2025

Course Overview

You must attend all classes and pay attention all class.

Make sure you arrive a few minutes before class so you are ready to begin right at the start time.

Section P is Blended. For section P, lecture 1 and the midterm and final exam will be in-person. The remaining section P lectures will be via Zoom.

Learning Outcomes

The course focuses on personal income tax topics including the purposes of the income tax system; the structure of the Income Tax Act; employment income and fringe benefits; business income, capital cost allowance; property income; capital gains; other incomes; deductions and tax credits; non-arm's length transactions and attribution rules. The course also provides an introduction to the taxation of corporations, partnerships and trusts.

A basic introduction to Canadian income tax law, the course provides students an overview of the technical rules in the Income Tax Act that defines the tax system – the tax base, the accounting period, the rate structure, the tax filing unit and the administrative apparatus – and tax expenditures, essentially indirect spending programs. Whenever it's appropriate the course also highlights the importance of examining the determinants of policy making and different perspectives on tax law and policy. Moreover, students learn basic tax law and policy research so they can keep pace with changes in the law.

This course is designed to enable and empower students to achieve the following learning outcomes independently:

- To learn how to learn tax (i.e., keep pace with the evolving body of tax law) independently without supervision

- To understand the policy objectives and legislative intent of the technical rules in the Income Tax Act as they apply to individuals and corporations
- To apply Canadian income tax laws and related concepts

In pursuing the above learning outcomes, the course may require students to use technology. The requirements offer students preparation for the labour market.

Course Materials

The required textbook is Byrd & Chen's Canadian Tax Principles (CTP), by Gary Donell, 2025-2026. Approx. cost is \$235. Used copies of *this* edition are fine.

As the book is updated every year, using a prior edition of the book is not recommended. The textbook is/will be available in the Bronfman Business Library (in the Schulich Building) for short term viewing. All references to the textbook are made in regard to the hard copy of the textbook. For the access to MyLab please see the document provided by the publisher on the course eClass site.

All sections use the same common 3520 eClass site for lecture notes and other course information. The 4561 and 4562 instructors recommend that you keep your 3520 textbook, notes and problem materials for review purposes when you advance to the upper-level courses.

Evaluation

Category	% of grade	Due Date
Participation [lectures 1 - 10]	10%	
Assignment 1 [lectures 1 - 3]	10%	Monday, Jan. 26 by 5pm
Midterm exam [lectures 1 - 5]	30%	
Assignment 2 [lectures 6 - 8]	10%	Monday, Mar. 16 by 5pm
Final exam [lectures 1 - 10]	40%	Two-hour regular final exam, in person for all sections, held in the final exam period to be determined by the University
Total	100%	

Generative AI

Artificial intelligence (AI) that generates answers, including ChatGPT and other systems, cannot be used in this course. You must do your own work. Using generative AI on assignments, or exams, will be considered a violation of academic honesty.

Important York Policies

For University, Faculty and School regulations please check:

[Common Course Policies | School of Administrative Studies \(yorku.ca\)](#)