

Florida State University College of Law
Taxation I
Fall 2026 Syllabus
Kimberly S. Parsons

A. Course Information

Class Location and Time	Room 103, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 1:40-2:55
Office Location	Room 202
Office Hours	Tuesday 3:15-4:15; Wednesday 3:15-4:15; Friday 12-1
Professor E-Mail Address	kparsons@law.fsu.edu

You are strongly encouraged to contact me with any comments, concerns, or questions that you may have. I will communicate via Canvas and e-mail; please check them both on a regular basis for updates and changes.

- Required textbook:
 - Bankman, Shaviro, Stark, Scharff, Federal Income Taxation (Aspen, 19th Edition)
- Recommended textbooks (will discuss on 1st day of class):
 - Selected Sections of the Code
 - Kahn and Kahn, Federal Income Tax: A Guide to the Internal Revenue Code (8th Edition)
 - Chirelstein and Zelenak, Federal Income Taxation, 16th Edition

B. Course Objectives

The focus of Taxation I is an introduction to Federal Income Taxation. You will learn the fundamentals of federal income tax principles that are helpful to lawyers in all practice areas.

C. Attendance

Class attendance (including scheduled conferences and special sessions, if any) is mandatory. If you miss more than 20 percent of the scheduled classes for any reason, you may be dropped administratively from Taxation I. Attendance includes the obligation to arrive on time and to satisfactorily complete reading assignments before class. You are responsible for obtaining from a classmate any assignments, handouts, and notes for missed classes.

At a minimum, a student must attend at least 80 percent of class meetings to receive credit for a course unless the student's absence is excused under university policies. Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family, and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These

absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid written excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

D. Credits and Grading

You will receive four credits for the successful completion of this course. Your grade will be based on the following:

Final Exam	90 pts.
Professionalism and Participation	10 pts.
Total Possible Points:	100 pts.

The final exam will be closed book except for bringing one printed or handwritten sheet. (Writing is allowed on the front and back of a single 8.5 x 11-inch sheet.) The exam will mostly include short essay questions, each taking no more than one hour. The exam will also include a multiple choice segment that will not count toward more than 25% of the exam's total value. Your professionalism and participation grade includes class attendance, having a professional demeanor in class, completing your readings and being prepared to discuss those readings. The total points earned will be converted into a final grade that will reflect the curve required by the Academic Rules, Policies, and Procedures for the J.D. Program. <https://law.fsu.edu/academic-rules-policies-and-procedures-jd-program>

E. Academic Honor Policy

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of student's academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to ". . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy>)

F. Statement for Courses Not Subject to HB233 Recording

In this class, consistent with state law and university policy, you may not make recordings of classroom activities without the permission of the professor. This policy applies to both audio and video recordings.

G. Americans with Disabilities Act

FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with the academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet the integral requirements of the course. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services; and (2) request a letter from the Office of Accessibility Services to be sent to Student Advancement indicating the need for accommodation and what type. Following initial registration with the Office of Accessibility Services and submission of eligibility letters to Student Advancement, each student will meet with Student Advancement to review approved accommodations. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in an alternative format upon request. For the latest version of this statement and more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Office of Accessibility Services
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
oas@fsu.edu
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

H. Academic Success

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Department of Student Support and Transitions to learn more.

I. Confidential Campus Resources

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program

University Center A, Rm. 4100

(850) 644-7161

Available 24/7/365

Office Hours: M-F 8-5

<https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

Florida State University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) primary mission is to address psychological needs and personal concerns, which may interfere with students' academic progress, social development, and emotional well-being. The following in-person and virtual (tele-mental health) services are available to all enrolled students residing in the state of Florida:

1. Individual therapy
 2. Group therapy
 3. Crisis Intervention
 4. Psychoeducational and outreach programming
 5. After hours crisis-hotline
 6. Access to community providers for specialized treatment
- Call 850-644-TALK (8255) for more information on how to initiate services.

Counseling and Psychological Services

250 Askew Student Life Center

942 Learning Way

(850) 644-TALK (8255)

Walk-in and Appointment Hours:

M-F 8 am – 4 pm

<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

Services at UHS are available to all enrolled students residing in Florida:

The mission of University Health Services (UHS) is to promote and improve the overall health and well-being of FSU students. UHS provides a coordinated continuum of care through prevention, intervention, and treatment. Services include general medical care, priority care, gynecological services, physicals, allergy injection clinic, immunizations, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy, and a medical response unit. The Center for Health Advocacy and Wellness (CHAW) assists students in their academic success through individual, group, and population-based health and wellness initiatives. Topics include wellness, alcohol and other drugs, hazing prevention, nutrition and body image, sexual health, and power based personal violence prevention. For more information, go to uhs.fsu.edu.

University Health Services

Health and Wellness Center

960 Learning Way
Tallahassee, FL 32306
Hours: M-F, 8 am – 4 pm
(850) 644-6230
<https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

J. Syllabus Change Policy and Assignments

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the grading statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. As needed, I will make announcements either in class or through Canvas about changes to these projected assignments. Although we will generally cover one class in one meeting, prepare to be flexible because some topics will require more or less than one meeting to cover.

Assignment	Topic	Pages
	Ch1: Introduction	
Classes 1-2	Introduction and Vocabulary	1-34
	Ch2: Taxing Income	
Class 3	Why and What Income? Noncash Benefits, Part 1	35-51
Class 4	Noncash Benefits, Part 2	52-67
Class 5	Recovery of Capital Injuries, Part 1	68-79
Class 6	Injuries, Part 2	80-94
Class 7	Illegal Income, Selling a Home	95-110
	Ch 3: Private and Public Spheres	
Class 8	Imputed Income, Gifts, Part 1	111-123
Class 9	Gifts, Part 2	124-138
Class 10	Transfer at Death Marriage and Divorce	139-154
	Ch 4: When is it income?	
Class 11	Annual Accounting, Cash and Accrual	155-170
Class 12	Prepaid Income and Realization	171-187
Class 13	Realization, Part 2	188-206
Class 14	Nonrecognition, Open Transactions	207-221
Class 15	Installment Sale, Constructive Receipt	222-235
Class 16	Nonqualified Deferred Compensation	236-250
Class 17	Qualified Employee Plans	251-258
	Ch 5: Debt, Financial Instruments	
Class 18	Financial Instruments, Cancel Debt	259-275
Class 19	Transfer of Property Subject to Debt	275-289

Class 20	More Debt, Deidrich, OID	290-305
Class 21	Life Insurance, Other Instruments	306-321
	Ch 6: Progressivity, Assignments	
Class 22	Assignment of Income	323-339
Class 23	Services, Shifting Income, Tax Unit	340-350
Class 24	Tax Credits (may combine with Class 23 dependent on time)	351-361
	Ch 7: Expenses of Earning Income	
Class 25	Deductions, Capital Exp., Repairs	363-380
Class 26	Deducting Business Expenses	381-394
Class 27	Cost Recovery, Depreciation, Amortization, Other Deduction Issues	395-412
	Ch 8: Tax Shelters and Planning	
Class 28	Economic Substance and Tax Shelters	413-431
Class 29	Alternative Minimum Tax, Shelters (may combine with Class 28 dependent on time)	432-443
	Ch 9: Mixed Business and Personal Expenses	
Class 30	Clothing, Home Office, Vacation Home, Childcare	445-463
Class 31	Education and Commuting	464-484
Class 32	Travel, Entertainment, Legal	485-500
	Ch 10: Personal Deductions	
Class 33	Casualty and Medical	501-517
Class 34	Charitable, Nonprofits	518-535
Class 35	Interest, Personal Deductions (may combine with Class 34 dependent on time)	536-546
	Ch 11: Capital Gains and Losses	
Class 36	Rates, Policies, Limitations	547-566
Class 37	Taxpayers Business, Substitutes for Ordinary Income	567-591
Class 38	Other Claims and Contract Rights, Other Transactions	592-615