FEDERAL INCOME TAXATION OF INDIVIDUALS (LAW 4805)  
HOFFSTRA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW  
SYLLABUS—SPRING 2015

Professor: MARK E. WILENSKY  
Tel #: 516-747-0300 x 284 (office of Meltzer, Lippe, Goldstein & Breitstone, LLP)  
Fax #: 516-747-2956  
Email: mwilensky@meltzerlippe.com

Required Textbooks:  
(West Interactive Casebook Series)  
Lathrope, Selected Federal Taxation Statutes and Regulations (2015) (West)

Optional Hornbook:  

GRADES:

TWO EXAMINATIONS WILL BE ADMINISTERED (EACH WEIGHTED 45% TOWARDS THE FINAL GRADE. AN ADDITIONAL 10% WILL BE GRANTED FOR DISCUSSIONS OF HOMEWORK PROBLEMS, ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION).

OVERVIEW:

THE COURSE IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR “UNITS,” INCLUDING:  
• UNIT I: AN OVERVIEW OF THE FEDERAL TAX SYSTEM AND TAX EXPENDITURES  
• UNIT II: GROSS INCOME AND EXCLUSIONS FROM INCOME  
• UNIT III: TREATMENT OF TAXPAYER EXPENDITURES AND LIMITATIONS ON DEDUCTIONS  
• UNIT IV: TIMING, CHARACTER, AND PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING TO EACH CLASS: (1) DONALDSON AND TOBIN (TEXTBOOK, NOT THE HORNBOOK) AND (2) LATHROPE SELECTED STATUTES AND REGULATIONS
COURSE OUTLINE:

1. UNIT I (1 week) (1/12-1/16): Overview of Federal Tax System, Tax Expenditures
   Reading: Donaldson & Tobin, pp. 1-55 (Chapters 1 & 2), 939-945, 719-727, and 947-953 (Appendix 1)

   **Note:** Complete all readings for Unit I prior to 1st class meeting on 1/13.

2. UNIT II (4 weeks) (1/19-2/13): Gross Income, Exclusions from Gross Income
   Reading: Donaldson & Tobin, pp. 57-208, 371-417 (Chapters 3 & 5)

   **Notes:** Read Chapter 3 in its entirety prior to 1/22 meeting.
   Due date for reading Chapter 5 T/B/D

3. UNIT III (4 weeks) (2/16-3/13): Treatment of Taxpayer Costs, Limitations on Deductibility of Expenditures
   Reading: Donaldson & Tobin, pp. 209-370, 727-939 (Chapters 4, 9, 10 & 11)

   **Note:** Due dates for reading T/B/D

4. UNIT IV (5 weeks) (3/16-4/28): Timing, Character of Income, Transactions in Property
   Reading: Donaldson & Tobin, pp. 419-718 (Chapters 6, 7 & 8)

   **Note:** Due dates for readings T/B/D

MID-TERM EXAM TO FOLLOW COMPLETION OF UNIT III (DATE T/B/D)

Additional topics may be covered in class. We will also discuss current developments and examples as they relate to topics discussed. Any topic discussed is subject to exam.