



Teaching Tax: Textbooks, Tools, and Techniques
AALS Tax Section, 2025

Junior Perspectives

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Junior Faculty: Preliminary Considerations




- Constraints of time and the tenure clock
- Preparing for new courses
- Personality in the classroom

Junior Faculty: Building a New Tax Course



- Temptation to reinvent the wheel
- Sharing and asking for teaching materials
- Sample final exam

Junior Faculty: Choosing a Casebook



Should you use the casebook with which you learned tax in law school?

- **Pros:**

- Time-saver
- Student experience

- **Cons:**

- Does it fit your teaching style?
- Inertia

Skim teachers' manuals.

Junior Faculty: Incorporating Popular Culture



An example of an in-class exercise:

Professor McGonagall (“M”) is employed by the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. In addition to her \$80,000 salary, Hogwarts provides Professor M with free room and board during the school year. Because magical education involves learning both inside and outside of the classroom, Hogwarts requires Professor M to stay at the school to facilitate instruction and mentorship of students. But Hogwarts recognizes that professors need time away from work, and allows Professor M, like other faculty, to take several weekends off during the semester. Professor M retains the benefit of free room and board during those weekends off.

Professor M’s mother is a good friend with Valerius, the owner of the Flying Shop at Diagon Alley. Valerius saw Professor M grow up, and was overjoyed when Professor M received a job offer at Hogwarts, because it was the best school for magic in the world. When Professor M moved to Hogwarts, the Flying Shop gave her a free Nimbus 2000 (which is generally available for sale for \$500) so that she could fly from where she lived to Hogwarts.

Discuss the federal income tax consequences to Professor M.

Junior Faculty: Incorporating Popular Culture

Business expenses v. personal expenditures



Junior Faculty: Incorporating Popular Culture

Tax equity; capital-gains taxation



Junior Faculty Perspectives



Questions and additional advice for junior tax teachers?