The Cameron School of Business at University of St. Thomas

1. Course Information

Course Title: Forensic Accounting (Blended/Hybrid format)

Course number: 5397/4393  Course Section: N  Credit. Hours: 3
Semester: Spring 2015  Days & hours: W 7 – 9:30

Prerequisites: ACCT 5301 or Principles of Accounting I and II

Web page/BlackBoard site: gregory.stthom.edu (Blackboard)

2. Instructor Information

Name: Vinita Ramaswamy  Office location: Welder 224
Office phone: (713) 525 6913  Office hours: MW 5-7

Where to leave assignments: Box outside Welder 224

E-mail: vinitar @ stthom.edu  Fax number: (713) 525 2110

Emergency contact: vinitar @ stthom.edu

3. Course Catalog Description

A study of the various auditing topics and current issues of special interest to industry, government, and public accounting firms including: audit sampling, audits of computer controls; internal, operational, governmental and environmental auditing. An introductory auditing course is recommended.
4. Program Goals and Objectives:

**MSA Learning Goals**
The Masters in Accounting program has five goals.
When students complete the MSA degree at the University of St. Thomas:

1. **They will be critical thinkers**
   - Objective 1: Students will synthesize and analyze information resulting in improved business practices.
     - Assessment in ACCT 5313 with multiple-choice questions
   - Objective 2: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the economic and financial consequences of accounting policy decisions.
     - Assessment in ACCT 5331 with essay question

2. **They will be ethical leaders**
   - Objective 1: Students will identify accounting dilemmas, citing relevant ethical and moral authority.
     - Student performance on a business ethics case in ACCT 5399 is evaluated by two faculty raters (not instructor) using ethics rubric in STEPS.
   - Objective 2: Students will apply accounting ethical standards to business situations

3. **They will work effectively in teams towards achievement of goals**
   - Objective 1: Students will work collectively towards team objectives.
     - Assessment in ACCT 5360.
   - Objective 2: Students will effectively lead a team in a group project.
     - Peer evaluation by group members using rubric that has teamwork and leadership traits. In addition, a team performance evaluation is completed by each group member.

4. **They will communicate effectively**
   - Objective 1: Students will deliver professional business presentations
     - Assessment of student presentations in ACCT 5360. Evaluated by two faculty raters (not instructor) using oral communication rubric
   - Objective 2: Students will prepare coherent and professional business writings.
     - Assessment of written assignments produced by students in ACCT 5353. Evaluated by two faculty raters (not instructor) using written communication rubric.
   - Objective 3: Students will conduct professional research on accounting issues
     - Assessment of written assignments produced by students in ACCT 5353. Evaluated by two faculty raters (not instructor) using rubric.

5. **They will be equipped to succeed in the accounting profession (knowledge goal)**
   - Assessed across multiple ACCT classes, using multiple choice questions embedded in exams in course.

5. **Course Learning Objectives (and relationship to program goals and objectives)**
   - **Critical thinking:** the ability to analyze information and ideas from multiple perspectives in a logical manner, and to think creatively. Forensic Accounting (sometimes called Fraud Examination) is the methodology for resolving allegations of fraud from inception to disposition. The process involves knowledge and exposure to methods of:
     - gathering evidence,
     - taking statements,
     - writing reports, and
     - assisting in the detection and deterrence of fraud.
The fraud examination field draws its knowledge from four areas: accounting and auditing, fraud investigation techniques, the legal elements of fraud and criminology and ethics. In this course, we will be doing a brief overview of fraud examination with emphasis on financial statement fraud. (Goal 1, Objective 1)

- **Inquiry and information literacy**: the ability to locate, evaluate, and use the methods, resources and technologies available in the fields of accounting and finance. (Goal 4, Objective 3)
- **Communication**: the ability to work both individually and as a team, and to communicate the results of such work orally, and in a written format. (Goal 4, Objectives 1 and 2)

**6. Texts, Readings, Materials**
Fraud Examination, 4rd Edition W. Steve Albrecht | Conan C. Albrecht | Chad O. Albrecht | Mark F. Zimbelman

*Required readings*: Please check Blackboard under “Course Documents”
Class Notes
Articles to be read
Practice Problems
Practice Exams
Case Studies

Please check Blackboard under “Course Documents” for a detailed list of reading

*Suggestions for further study*: A basic text book in Auditing and Financial Statement Analysis will help with some of the investigative procedures. *If you need extra problems for practice, I will be happy to provide them.*

**7. Instructional methods**: (lecture, group discussion, class problem solving, case methods, team projects, etc.)
Class problem solving
Lecture
Group discussions
Team Projects
Case studies
Presentations

**8. Technology**
*Please identify IT assignments that utilize any of the following five types:*

1) **Online data retrieval and/or research**: Case studies, group work

2) **Online communication or collaboration**: Homework, group projects
3) *Use of general productivity software* (e.g., *Microsoft Office*) *to complete assignment*: Homework, Case Studies, class projects, group projects

4) *Use of BlackBoard learning platform*: Notes, Assignments, Practice Exams, S

### 9. Course Tentative Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>Homework T/F and MC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>Chapters 2 and 4</td>
<td>Chapters 2 and 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>Chapters 5, 18</td>
<td>Chapter 5,18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>EXAM Ch. 1 – 5, 18</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Chapters 7, 8</td>
<td>Chapters 7,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Chapters 9,10</td>
<td>Chapters 9,10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Exam Ch. 7 - 10</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Chapters 11, 12, 13</td>
<td>Chapters 11, 12, 13</td>
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</table>

Please check Blackboard under “Course Documents” for a detailed list.  
*The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of circumstances beyond the instructor's control.*

### 10. Course Policies

- **Attendance/lateness**: Regular attendance is highly encouraged for a proper learning experience. If you are unable to attend class, you will be required to individually make up the group projects assigned in class that day. You will lose the participation grade for that class.

- **Class Participation**: Questions and discussion on the lectures and problems are encouraged. Participation will be taken into account while assigning grades for the Group Projects and case studies.

- **Make-up Exams**: Two mid terms and one final exam will be given during the semester. Exams will be based on all material presented in class and the homework. If you have a schedule conflict with the exam date, please notify me within 24 hours of the exam. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a test score of zero.

- **Missed Assignments**: At the end of most chapters, group assignments or individual projects will be given to the class. The homework needs to be turned in the next class day. Late homework will NOT be accepted.
Exams: There will be two mid-terms and one final exam. These will a combination of closed book and open book. The closed book will involve multiple choice questions and short answers. The closed book part will involve essay questions. The essay questions will be graded for content (70%), additional discussion and comments (10%), clarity and style (10%), and neatness, grammar, punctuation etc (10%). Please note that the answers you give should answer the specific question asked, and should be presented in a clear analytical manner. Writing down every single thing you know about the topic does not mean that you have answered the question!

Group presentation – Court Case: You will be given a case study at the beginning of the semester. We will use the case to analyze different points of view of the parties involved in a fraud case. At the end of the semester, the case will be presented in class.

Case discussions: You will be assigned cases every class period and will be expected to present an analysis of the case to the class. This may be done as an individual or in groups of two, depending on the complexity of the case.

Extra credit opportunities: None. The grading process has been developed to allow for less than expected performance on the exams.

Cell phones, electronic media
  o During lectures: No cell phones. If there is an emergency that requires you to be on call, please inform me before class. Laptops will be allowed for taking notes during class. Web surfing while class is in session will result in negative marking on examinations.
  o During exams: Only calculators are permitted

11. Student Grading Processes: (including weighting of factors)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case studies</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A 93% and higher; A- 90 – 92.99%; B+ 87 – 89.99%; B 83 – 86.99%; B- 80 – 82.99%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Where</strong></th>
<th><strong>Explain</strong></th>
<th><strong>Expand</strong></th>
<th><strong>Extend</strong></th>
<th><strong>Explore</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Off site before class</td>
<td>During class in class</td>
<td>After class – off site</td>
<td>After class – off site</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective</strong></td>
<td>Students will identify and describe key concepts</td>
<td>Students will apply and solve problems relating to important concepts</td>
<td>Students will demonstrate and calculate problems relating to key concepts</td>
<td>Students will evaluate and apply key concepts to real life situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment</strong></td>
<td>Formative assessment through a question/answer model</td>
<td>Problems worked out in class by professor and in groups</td>
<td>Summative/Corrective assessments with homework and quizzes</td>
<td>Analysis of company data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resources available</strong></td>
<td>Slide decks, notes, videos</td>
<td>In class instruction/help with difficult concepts</td>
<td>Slide decks/videos</td>
<td>Library databases, websites, notes, slide decks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**12. Available Support Services:**

*Library resources, learning center, computer center, tutoring services*

I will be available during office hours to help you with any questions you may have. You may also contact me by email and I will respond as quickly as I can.

1. Resources available on Blackboard sites. (For Math, Written Communications, and Presentations, etc.)
   a. For graduate students: CSB Resource Site for Graduate Students.
2. Tutorial Services:
   Students are encouraged to consult with tutors at the Tutorial Services Center when completing assignments for this course. Based on the instructor’s assessment of the student’s work, the student may be required to work with the tutors at the Center to improve the student’s skills.
The Cameron School of Business at University of St. Thomas

MISSION STATEMENT

The Cameron School of Business will serve students of diverse backgrounds, providing them the necessary professional skills for a changing global economy, and instilling in them a deep appreciation for ethical behavior as the hallmark of a successful and fulfilling business career. The Cameron School will provide its students a timely and comprehensive business curriculum, with opportunities for specialized study in major business fields. The faculty will provide quality teaching, as this is the core of our mission. As an extension of our teaching mission, the faculty will engage in scholarly activity and service to the University, the profession, and the community.

Academic Honesty  Ethical conduct is essential to a community of scholars and students searching for truth. Anything less than total commitment to honesty and honorable conduct undermines the efforts of the entire community. Academic integrity lies at the very heart of any institution of higher learning. In the Cameron School of Business, students and faculty are expected to commit to a code that exemplifies each individual's honor and integrity. Any conduct that violates this standard and betrays the respect of others is a matter of grave concern and, accordingly, is deemed unacceptable.

Accommodations  The University of St. Thomas abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education "solely by reason of a handicap." If you have a documented disability that may impact your performance in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you must be registered with and provide documentation of your disability to Counseling and Disability Services which is located on the second floor of Crooker Center. Contact Debby Jones or Rose Signorello at 713-525-6953 or 713-525-3162.