ACCT 599- Contemporary Accountancy Issues
Accountancy Graduate Program
School of Business
Professor Roger B. Daniels
Spring 2020

Professor: Roger B. Daniels

Location: Beatty 402

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 1:30 to 3:00
Wednesday: 11:00 until noon
You may reach me via my cell phone, office phone, and/or email.

Course Description:
A required seminar in contemporary accountancy issues including financial reporting, assurance, and taxation. The specific topics covered will be determined by the contemporaneous standard setting, regulatory and economic environment. Students will complete a research thesis that bears to their intended area of practice.

Grading:
Your grade will be a function of the relative quality of your work:

Daily Assignments 200 points (approximately)
Fall Thesis (final document): 200 points
Thesis Proposal including brief presentation: 50 points
Final Thesis Presentation: 50
Portfolio 100 points

Based upon the quality of your work, grades will be assigned accordingly:

A = 90% (Quality of student’s work is distinguishably higher than peers)
B+ = 87%
B = 80% (Quality of student’s work is good with no deficiencies)
C+ = 77%
C = 70% (Quality of student’s work is deficient)
F = below 70% (Quality of student’s work is unacceptable)
Daily Work (in Lieu of Exams):
In lieu of exams, assignments, including answers to assigned questions and other daily assignments will be collected randomly throughout the semester. There will be no announcement about the collection of work in advance which makes it imperative that you are prepared for each class session with paper copies of your work in professionally prepared form each day.

You should be prepared to furnish a copy of any requested daily assignment with back-up copies to use in your portfolio.

Spring Thesis:
The Spring Thesis is an integral component of your educational experience as an Accountancy graduate student and should relate to your intended area of practice. The proposal is due during the sixth week of class (February 11 and 13) where you will be required to present your idea in the form of a thesis statement and a bibliography with no less than 15 sources. Your proposals will be evaluated with feedback provided during class and afterwards on the document submitted.

The final paper should contain no less than 20 bibliographical citations with a minimum length of 18 double-spaced (11 font) pages (excluding the bibliography). Margins should be 1.5 inches on the left and 1.0 inches on the top, bottom and right.

The proposal and final thesis should be written professionally, not in first person, with appropriate headings, pagination, and properly marked exhibits.

The style and format of the thesis should generally follow:


The final version of the thesis is due by noon on Monday, April 28. Students not meeting this deadline or those who submit a substandard document will be subject to fail the course.

Portfolio:
Each student is to maintain a portfolio of their work for the semester. The Portfolio is intended to help you attain a broadened perspective through exposure to literature that expands your knowledge and contextual understanding of accounting. While each student may approach the Portfolio in unique ways, two elements are required:
● Articles and materials that you have identified for each class session. This may include news articles relating to accounting, professional practice, ethics, regulation, etc.

● Details of the required readings. This may include answers to assigned questions or summaries of the articles and related class discussions.

The Portfolio is due on Friday, March 27 by 5:00 pm.

Class Participation, Citizenship and Preparedness:
You are expected to be prepared for each class. Contemporary Accountancy Issues is a seminar which means that each student is to be an active participant in facilitating class discussion. It is important that each of you adequately prepare by reading and completing all assignments.

Citizenship means being a positive, respectful, and engaged participant in every class. It is expected that you will listen to others while they are speaking or presenting and engage in respectful and meaningful dialogue. It is disrespectful to distract yourself with mobile devices while someone is presenting material or discussing an issue. Violation of classroom decorum may result in grade penalties for the semester up to five points per infraction.

Class preparedness will be evaluated and tracked via a lottery system. Each day, a number of students will be randomly selected to provide answers to the selected questions and comment on current events that they have identified. In some cases, students will be asked to write their own questions and answers to assigned readings. Students deemed not prepared when they are called upon will receive up to a two point deduction to their overall grade for the semester, depending upon the degree of unpreparedness.

Since many of our readings are historical in nature, it will be important that each day you bring into class current events related to accounting standard setting, auditing, SEC, economy, finance, etc., that pertain to the assigned readings. These should be added to your portfolio. Share the things that you find with the class as that makes for interesting discussions and adds context to what we are studying.

In addition to answering all questions and completing all assignments you are to prepare an executive summary of each reading which is to be added to your Portfolio. Your summary should include the bibliographical citation of the article at the top of the page with your name in the upper right corner. Summaries should be no more than two single-spaced pages and provide a broad overview of the issues and concepts of the assigned reading.
Attendance:
Attendance in this course is mandatory. For each absence, you may be penalized up to half a letter grade for the course. Exceptions to this may be made on an ad-hoc basis in consultation with the professor. These exceptions may include but are not limited to death, documented illness, job interviews that have been cleared by the Director, and sanctioned institutional events or functions.

On the third absence, the professor reserves the right to either administratively drop you from the course or assign a failing grade.

Other Policies:
Cheating or plagiarism in any form may result in a failing grade for the course. Each student must do his or her work independently. Please refer to the College of Charleston Student Code of Conduct and other authoritative statements regarding academic integrity.

The use of computers, cell phones, and other communication devices is expressly forbidden during class. Texting during class is rude and disruptive. Violations of this policy will result in severe grade penalties (up to a half of a letter grade per infraction for the course). Sleeping, chatting with your neighbor, or other disruptive behavior during class will result in similar grade penalties.

If the College of Charleston closes and members of the community are evacuated due to inclement weather, students are responsible for taking course materials with them in order to continue with course assignments, required readings, and development of their spring thesis. Should a closure occur, we will move the course online through OAKS until the campus reopens.

The policies and provisions of this syllabus are subject to change.
Week One: Introduction  
Thursday, January 9  
The Landscape of Contemporary Accountancy Issues

Week Two- Professional Ethics  
Tuesday, January 14  

*Professional Ethics for Accountants* (Daniels)  


Thursday, January 16  


Week Three: SEC, PCAOB, and Capital Markets (Stephen Todd)  
Tuesday January 21  

SEC and PCAOB Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting Current Hot Topics, including Use and Abuse of Non-GAAP Measures, Critical Audit Matters, Income Tax matters, among other topics.

Thursday, January 23  

Capital markets: Importance of Reliable and Accurate Financial Statements; special accounting and financial reporting matters relating to Cross-Border Equity investments.
**Week Four: U.S. Regulatory Institutions: SEC and PCAOB**

Tuesday, January 28


**Thursday, January 30**


**Week Five: Analyzing the 2008 Credit Crisis (Stephen Todd)**

Tuesday, February 4

Thursday, February 6

Case Study: Discussion and Analysis of Credit Crisis of 2008 (focusing on the root causes, creation of complex financial structures, poor regulatory oversight, and insufficient auditing procedures).

**Week Six: Thesis Proposals**

Tuesday, February 11

Thursday, February 13

**Week Seven: Accounting, Climate Change, and Sustainability Reporting**

Tuesday, February 18


**Thursday, February 20**

Week Eight- Data and Technology in Contemporary Accountancy

Tuesday, February 25


Thursday, February 27


Week Nine- Data and Technology in Contemporary Accountancy- Practitioner Persepctives

Tuesday, March 3
Thursday, March 5

Dan Chandler (Partner, KPMG Atlanta)- *Big Data, Analytics and Technology*

Week Ten- Measurement in Accounting

Tuesday, March 10
Thursday, March 12 (Daniels Travelling- no class meeting)


Week Eleven- Spring Break

Tuesday, March 17
Thursday, March 19

Week Twelve- Accounting, Decision Making and Humans as Information Processors

Tuesday, March 24
Thursday, March 26

Selected readings from Davis and Olsen (a classic work);

Week Thirteen - Spring Thesis and Presentations
Tuesday, March 31: The Spring Thesis

Thursday, April 2: Thesis Presentations

Week Fourteen: Thesis Presentations
Tuesday, April 7
Thursday, April 9

Week Fifteen: Thesis Presentations
Tuesday, April 14
Thursday, April 16

Week Sixteen: Thesis Presentations
Tuesday, April 21

Final Thesis Documents due in Dropbox by noon, Monday, April 28.