ACCT 510
Internal Auditing & Forensic Accounting
Spring 2021
Course Syllabus
Online + Online Meetings

Instructor: Mike Braswell, Ph.D.

Office Location: Beatty Center 406

Email: braswelljm@cofc.edu
Email is the best way to communicate with me. Please include “ACCT 510” in the subject field of any email that you send me so that I do not accidentally overlook your message.

Office Hours: Please contact me 24 hours in advance via email to schedule a specific meeting time.

Prerequisites:
ACCT 409

Required Resources:
Fraud Examination. Albrecht, W., C. Albrecht, C. Albreht and M. Zimbelman. 5th Ed. South-Western Cengage Learning. ISBN# 9781305079144

Oaks- Oaks is the primary platform that you will use to access our course materials, and exam study aids. I will post the material prior to the date the material is scheduled to be covered. Most of the information can be found under the Contents section of Oaks.

Zoom- Zoom video conferencing will be used for review content, cases, and homework as we conduct our Online Meetings, as well as holding office hours. I will send you the Zoom link, meeting ID and password prior to any scheduled Zoom sessions.

Other Software Requirements: You are required to have computer technology that supports the use of Adobe, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and a reliable internet connection that permits access to and utilization of Oaks and Zoom.

IT Support: Given that online courses inherently rely on technological resources, it’s important that you immediately resolve any issues you may accessing or using the resources discussed above. Please contact the College’s IT support staff if you are experiencing technological difficulties: https://chat.help.cofc.edu/

Course Description & Learning Objectives:
➢ Examine current theory and practice of internal auditing viewed as a component of organizational governance
➢ Evaluate various internal audit activities
➢ Develop an appreciation for the ethical underpinnings of fraudulent behavior
➢ Become familiar with the professional opportunities and institutional nature of forensic accounting
➢ Understand the motivation of people who commit fraud
➢ Familiarize yourself with empirical research relating to fraud and forensic accounting
➢ Become acquainted with the various techniques used to perpetrate fraud
➢ Understand techniques used to detect financial statement fraud
➢ Become familiar mechanics underlying specific types of fraud
➢ Understand how to conduct forensic fraud examination on financial statements
This course addresses the Masters of Accountancy Specialized Skills and Knowledge learning goal.

**Administrative Issues & Course Policies:**

*Academic Integrity*— Cheating or plagiarism in any form will result in a failing grade for the course. Each student must adhere to the College of Charleston Honor Code and Code of Student Conduct. This includes signing the role for other students. Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honorsystem/studenthandbook/index.php.

*Attendance Policy*— Attendance in this course is mandatory. Examinations and assigned materials will require attendance of all classroom lectures. Make-up examinations are not given. Late assignments are not accepted under any circumstance. If the student is to be absent, assignments must be submitted prior to the due date.

Class roll will be routinely taken. Late arrivals who miss the roll call will be counted as absent for that day. Any student who misses more than two classes may receive a failing grade for the course and/or will be administratively dropped from the roll. You will also lose any curves awarded on exam grades if you miss an unacceptable number of class meetings.

In extreme cases exceptions to the absence policy may be made on an individual (case-by-case) basis. These exceptions will only be considered with appropriate documentation requested by the professor and a letter from the Dean of Students.

**Other Policies:**

- **Per policy**, this course consists of me, the professor, and you, the student(s). It is not legal for me to discuss your performance in this course with anyone other than you. To be clear, I will not be responding to your parents’ concerns about your performance in class as College of Charleston policies and state laws prohibit me from doing so.
- **Audio and visual recording** media are forbidden during the course. Under no circumstance is it permissible to record my lectures or distribute recorded lectures or files to anyone.
- Students must complete all assigned material prior to the related due dates. The professor reserves the right to not address questions or comments by those not doing the assigned work prior to class. This is consistent with the College of Charleston Classroom Code of Conduct (see Student Handbook, page 51).
- **Online etiquette**— Participants in this course are expected to treat one another with respect and refrain from threatening or condescending behavior. Only the faculty member has the right to record Zoom sessions, although it is not the professor’s intention to record any group Zoom session.
- **Collaboration with students and others:** You are not allowed to share questions or answers to any online exam or homework assignments with anyone. You are to work on each assignment independently unless I say otherwise.
- **Religious Accommodations:** If you have religious celebrations or events that conflict with a due date or exam deadline, please let me know in advance so that I can make reasonable accommodations for you.
- By remaining enrolled in this course, you are consenting to the rules and policies of this course.
- This syllabus and any exam dates and deadlines established throughout the semester may be amended by the Professor as needed.
Disability Accommodation: The College of Charleston complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodation, please see me during the first week of class. The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should register at the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsibility for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before an accommodation is needed.

If you feel that the means of communicating course content is unsuitable to you given a disability, please contact me immediately so that other arrangements can be made.

Grading:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3 @ 20% each)</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraud Investigation Critique (2 of 3 @ 2.5% each)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Case Study</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper &amp; Presentation (10% paper; 5% for presentation)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Exams:
Three exams will be held throughout the semester. The format of the exams typically consists of matching, multiple choice questions and essay questions.

Exams will be given during scheduled class periods only. I will not give make-up exams unless there is a pre-approved excuse (with documentation). It is extremely rare that I agree to let you take a make-up exam. If you miss an exam without permission, then you will receive a 0 for that exam grade. You have one week from the time the graded exams are returned to you to challenge anything that may concern you. After the one-week period ends, there will be no changes to those grades.

Fraud Investigation Critiques:
Once the semester is underway, you will be required to analyze three actual fraud cases and provide the class with a couple of brief five to ten-minute presentations about the fraud investigations of your choosing. I will use the top two of your three fraud critiques to compute this component of your course grade.

Comprehensive Case Study:
You will work in groups of 2-3 students to perform a comprehensive case study which will require you to review documentation and conduct mock interviews in order to determine the nature, mechanics and magnitude of fraud within a small-business setting.

Homework Assignments:
Several short case assignments and research article summaries will be assigned and discussed during class.
Research Paper & Presentation:
You will be required to write a research paper relating to corporate governance, internal auditing or fraud. The final class meetings of the semester will be dedicated to presentations of your research paper. More details will be provided during the early part of the semester.

Class Participation:
You are expected to engage in class discussions and answer questions when called upon. You are also expected to engage in respectful debate and discussions with your peers and me.

Grading Scale:
I will follow the plus-minus grading system whereby course letter grades correspond to the following numerical course averages:

- A = 90%
- B+ = 87%
- B = 80%
- C+ = 77%
- C = 70%
- F = below 70%

Overview of Instructional Approach:
The information below provides you with a general approach to how the course material will be covered. The material will be presented in three Exam Modules, each corresponding to the related exam. Most resources can be found under the Content tab on Oaks.

1. For each exam module, I will post a detailed daily schedule on the main page of the course’s Oaks website. This will also detail notable due dates.
2. Most of our course meetings will occur via Zoom sessions, while certain material and assignments will be performed by you outside of class at your own convenience (i.e., listening to voice threads embedded within PowerPoint slides for you to review during our regularly scheduled class meeting times).
3. After covering a specific topic/chapter, you will be given short cases and other assignments that will be reviewed during the following class meeting.
4. The comprehensive case study will be introduced by me during our online class meeting and completed by you both in and outside of class. This assignment will be conducted over the second half of the semester.
5. Solutions to end-of-chapter practice problems and exam study guides will also be posted on Oaks for you to use as you prepare for the exams.
6. All submitted assignments should be posted in the related assignment Dropbox on Oaks by the stated due date.
7. Exams will be given in class and will be monitored by Zoom video.

Please be aware of other support services that are available to you:

Center for Student Learning: The Center for Student Learning’s (CSL) academic support services provide assistance in study strategies, speaking and writing skills, and course content. Services include tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at http://csl.cofc.edu or call (843) 953 - 5635.

Mental & Physical Wellbeing: At the college, we take every students’ mental and physical wellbeing seriously. If you find yourself experiencing physical illnesses, please reach out to student health services (843.953.5520). And if you find yourself experiencing any mental health challenges (for example, anxiety, depression, stressful life events, sleep deprivation, and/or loneliness/homesickness) please consider contacting either the Counseling Center (professional counselors at http://counseling.cofc.edu or 843.953.5640 3rd Robert Scott Small Building) or the
Students 4 Support (certified volunteers through texting "4support" to 839863, visit http://counseling.cofc.edu/cct/index.php, or meet with them in person 3rd Floor Stern Center). These services are there for you to help you cope with difficulties you may be experiencing and to maintain optimal physical and mental health.

Food & Housing Resources: Many CoC students report experiencing food and housing insecurity. If you are facing challenges in securing food (such as not being able to afford groceries or get sufficient food to eat every day) and housing (such as lacking a safe and stable place to live), please contact the Dean of Students for support (http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/about/salt.php). Also, you can go to http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/student-food-housing-insecurity/index.php to learn about food and housing assistance that is available to you. In addition, there are several resources on and off campus to help. You can visit the Cougar Pantry in the Stern Center (2nd floor), a student-run food pantry that provides dry-goods and hygiene products at no charge to any student in need.

Covid-19: The following link will provide you with the College’s updated information regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. Please consult this site if you are experiencing any issues related to Covid-19 in order to learn which resources are available to you. https://cofc.edu/back-on-the-bricks/

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<td>Chapter 14: Fraud Against Organizations</td>
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<td>Chapter 5: Recognizing the Symptoms of Fraud</td>
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<td>Chapter 9: Conversion Investigation Methods</td>
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<td><strong>Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 14, 5 &amp; 9)</strong></td>
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<td>Chapter 11: Financial Statement Fraud</td>
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<td>Chapter 12: Revenue and Inventory Related Fraud</td>
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<td>Chapter 13: Liability, Asset, and Inadequate Disclosure Frauds</td>
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<td><strong>Exam 2: (Chapters 11, 12 &amp; 13)</strong></td>
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<td>Chapter 16: Bankruptcy, Divorce &amp; Tax Fraud</td>
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<td>Internal Auditing as a Corporate Governance Mechanism</td>
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<td>Chapter 6: Data Driven Fraud Techniques</td>
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<td><strong>Guest Speaker</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Research Presentations</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Exam 3 (Chapters 6, 16 &amp; Internal Auditing)</strong></td>
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