

CFRS 770
Fraud and Forensic Accounting
Fall 2017

Instructor: Bob Osgood rosgood@gmu.edu

Engr 3255 Office Hours Wednesday 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
and also by appointment

Class Meets: **Day:** Thursday
Time: 4:30 PM – 7:10 PM
Where: IN 215G (subject to change)

Online Discussions Via Blackboard Collaborate: Approximately once per week and usually occurring on a Monday, I will hold an online discussion forum via Blackboard Collaborate. This discussion forum is voluntary and student driven. We will discuss the lecture topic for that particular week. **All students participating are required to use a microphone/speaker head set. Texting will not be permitted.** The actual dates and times of these sessions will be emailed to you during that week; however, these discussion group meetings usually occur on Monday around 7:00 PM. These sessions will be recorded. Although participation is not mandatory, positive active participation by students is noted and strongly suggested. In addition, I will discuss at least one case study per discussion session. Enron will be discussed throughout the course.

Course Description: Looks at accounting from a forensic perspective. Financial statement analysis, detection techniques, computer aided investigative processes, fraud detection, money laundering, interviewing, and other topics are covered. The class culminates in a final project where the student will present their findings to the class.

Course Goals: Prepares students to undertake forensic accounting and forensic analysis of financial statements a specialty practice area of accounting, in such a way that they will develop the necessary expertise, and be prepared to give expert evidence in any resultant trial.

Prerequisites: A working knowledge of financial statements and accounting

Honor Code: The Mason Honor Code is in effect <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/masons-honor-code/>

Mason Calendar: <http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendar.html>

The above link will provide you with Mason's important dates and deadlines.

Course Schedule: (Subject to Change)

Class begins on Thursday, 8/31/2017. The class exam will be on Thursday, 11/16/2017

Week	Topic	Reading Assignments
Week 1	Forensic Investigation & Financial Audits – Compare & Contrast	Backboard Notes Zack Ch 19

Week 2	Potential Red Flags & Fraud Detection Techniques	Zack Ch 1, 15
Week 3	Financial Statement Fraud: Revenues and Receivables Project Topic Due	Zack Ch 2, 3, 4
Week 4	Financial Statement Fraud: Other Schemes and Misappropriations	Zack Ch 6, 7, 9
Week 5	Analyzing Financial Statements Class will not meet – Material on Blackboard	Zack Ch 16 and 17
Week 6	Computer Aided Forensic Accounting Investigative Techniques	Blackboard Notes
Week 7	Money Laundering	Blackboard Notes
Week 8	Psychology of the Fraudster	Blackboard Notes
Week 9	Financial Reporting Fraud & Other Capital Markets	Zack Ch 12
Week 10	Non-financial Information	Blackboard Notes Zack Ch 18
Week 11	Exam	11/16/2017
Week 12	The Art of the Interview Projects (EC and Paper are due by COB today)	Blackboard Notes
	No Class	
Week 13	Project Presentations	
Week 14	Project Presentations	
Week 15	Project Presentations	

Chapter and page references in the notes on Blackboard are referring to A Guide to Forensic Accounting Investigation (1st and 2nd Ed's). To reduce cost, these text are not required.

Grading:

Mid-term:	40% (On-campus)
Project:	40%
Project Executive Summary	10%
Project Presentation:	10% (On-campus)

Project: See Project Document – In Assignments on Black Board

Exam: The format of the exam will be a combination of multiple choice, fill-in, and short answer questions. Expect approximately 50 – 70 questions. The exam is open book/notes, open computer, no search engines. The exam is timed (2 hours). Calculators are allowed. Case studies will be on the exam.

Required Reading and Reference Material:

Required: **Financial Statement Fraud**
Gerard M. Zack
Wiley & Sons, Inc.
ISBN: 978-1-118-30155-5

Supplemental: A Guide to Forensic Accounting Investigation
Not Required Golden, Skalak, and Clayton and Pill (2nd Edition)
But Great Sources Wiley & Sons, Inc
ISBN: 10-0471-46907-6 (1st Edition)
ISBN: 13-978-0-470-59907-5 (2nd Edition)

Reading Financial Reports for Dummies
Lita Epstein, MBA
Wiley & Sons, Inc
ISBN: 978-0-470-37628-7

Financial Statement Analysis – A Practitioner’s Guide
Martin Fridson and Fernando Alvarez
Wiley & Sons Inc
ISBN: 978-0-470-63560-5

References from the Web include the following sites:

www.sec.gov
www.doj.gov
www.aicpa.org
<http://pcaobus.org>
<http://www.cert.org>

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the GMU Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester. See <http://www2.gmu.edu/dpt/unilife/ods/> or call 703-993-2474 to access the ODS.

Course Material: All course material is available on Mason Blackboard.

How do you get on Blackboard?

- Go to: <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>
- Login with your Mason Credentials
- Click on the Courses tab
- Click on the CFRS 770

How do I get to the online Collaborate lectures?

- Follow instructions to login into Blackboard
- Click on Tools
- Click on Blackboard Collaborate
- You should see the current session listed
- Previously recorded sessions are accessed via the Previously Recorded Tab

In order for Blackboard to work right, what do I need loaded on my computer

-JAVA

-Quicktime

-Flash

Note: ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE A MASON EMAIL ACCOUNT AND HAVE ACCESS TO BLACKBOARD (<https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>) !!!

Note: All Email Correspondence Will Take Place From Your Mason Account to rosgood@gmu.edu!!!

Note: All Students Are Responsible for All of the Material in This Course.