

**CFRS 770**  
**Fraud and Forensic Accounting**  
**Spring 2016**

**Instructor:** Bob Osgood [rosgood@gmu.edu](mailto:rosgood@gmu.edu)

**Engr 3255 Office Hours Thursday 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**Saturday 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM**  
**and also by appointment**

**Class Meets:** **Day:** Online Asynchronous  
**Time:** N/A  
**Where:** On line

**Online Discussions Via Blackboard Collaborate:** Approximately once per week and usually occurring on a Friday, 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 Friday around 5:00PM. 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)

Prior to 8/25/2014 - Prep Work - Fraud - An Introduction Skalak - Chapter 1

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignments
Week 1	Async Online 1/23/2016*	Forensic Investigation & Financial Audits – Compare & Contrast	Blackboard Notes Zack Ch 19
Week 2	Async Online 1/30/2016*	Potential Red Flags & Fraud Detection Techniques	Zack Ch 1, 15
Week 3	Async Online 2/6/2016*	Financial Statement Fraud: Revenues and Receivables Project Topic Due	Zack Ch 2, 3, 4
Week 4	Async Online 2/13/2016*	Financial Statement Fraud: Other Schemes and Misappropriations	Zack Ch 6, 7, 9
Week 5	Async Online 2/20/2016*	Analyzing Financial Statements	Zack Ch 16 and 17
Week 6	Async Online 2/27/2016*	Computer Aided Forensic Accounting Investigative Techniques	Blackboard Notes
Week 7	Async Online 3/5//2016*	Money Laundering	Blackboard Notes
	3/12/2016	SPRING BREAK	
Week 8	Async Online 3/19/2016*	Psychology of the Fraudster	Blackboard Notes
Week 9	Async Online 3/26/2016*	Financial Reporting Fraud & Other Capital Markets	Zack Ch 12
Week 10	Async Online 4/2/2016*	Non-financial Information	Blackboard Notes Zack Ch 18
Week 11	<b>4/09/2016 Saturday 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Exam On Campus Room TBD</b>	
Week 12	Async Online 4/16/2016*	The Art of the Interview Projects (EC and Paper are due by COB today)	Blackboard Notes
Week 13	4/23/2016 Saturday 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Project Presentations On Campus Room TBD	
Week 14	4/30/2016 Saturday 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Project Presentations On Campus Room TBD	
Week 15	5/7/2016 Saturday 12:00 – 3:00 PM	Project Presentations On Campus Room TBD	

\* The dates are for reference purposes only. You work on your own.

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

<b>Grading: Mid-term:</b>	<b>40% (On-campus)</b>
<b>Project:</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Project Executive Summary</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Project Presentation:</b>	<b>10% (On-campus)</b>

**Project:** See Project Document – In Assignments on Black Board

**Midterm 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 (3 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)  
But Great Sources               Wiley & Sons, Inc  
ISBN: 10-0471-46907-6 (1<sup>st</sup> Edition)  
ISBN: 13-978-0-470-59907-5 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.sec.gov)
- [www.doj.gov](http://www.doj.gov)
- [www.aicpa.org](http://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 GMU EMAIL ACCOUNT AND HAVE ACCESS TO BLACKBOARD (<https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>) !!!**

**Note: All Email Correspondence Will Take Place From Your GMU Account to [rosgood@gmu.edu](mailto:rosgood@gmu.edu)!!!**

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