

CFRS 770
Fraud and Forensic Accounting
Fall 2019

Instructor: Bob Osgood rosgood@gmu.edu
Engr 3255 Office Hours Thursday 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
and also, by appointment

Class Meets: **Day:** Friday
Time: 4:30 PM – 7:10 PM
Where: IN 323 (subject to change)

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 investigations closely dependent on digital forensics, 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 Friday, 8/30/2019. The class exam will be on Friday, 11/8/2018

Week	Topic	Reading Assignments
Week 1 8/30/19	Forensic Investigation & Financial Audits – Compare & Contrast	Backboard Notes Zack Ch 19
Week 2 9/6/19	Theresa Calcagno – Library Resources Potential Red Flags & Fraud Detection Techniques	Zack Ch 1, 15
Week 3 9/13/19	Financial Statement Fraud: Revenues and Receivables Project Topic Due	Zack Ch 2, 3, 4
Week 4 9/20/19	Financial Statement Fraud: Other Schemes and Misappropriations	Zack Ch 6, 7, 9
Week 5 9/27/19	Analyzing Financial Statements	Zack Ch 16 and 17

Week 6 10/4/19	Computer Aided Forensic Accounting Investigative Techniques	Blackboard Notes
Week 7 10/11/19	Money Laundering – This Class is Online – We Do Not Meet	Blackboard Notes
Week 8 10/18/19	Psychology of the Fraudster	Blackboard Notes
Week 9 10/25/19	Financial Reporting Fraud & Other Capital Markets	Zack Ch 12
Week 10 11/1/19	Non-financial Information	Blackboard Notes Zack Ch 18
Week 11 11/8/19	Exam	11/8/2018 Class TBD
Week 12 11/15/19	The Art of the Interview	Blackboard Notes
11/22/19	Project Presentations	
Week 13 11/29/19	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	
Week 14 12/6/19	Project Presentations	
Week 15 12/13/19	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:

Exam:	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.