

Forensic Accounting and Financial Statement Fraud

ACCT-GB.3310.30/31

Instructors:

- Professor Paul Zarowin (Case-based study)
- Adjunct Assistant Professor Matthew Rutter (Lecture-based study)

Office Hours – By appointment

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Textbook: Fraud Examinations – 5th Edition, ISBN: 978-1305079144

Course Description: The objective of the course is to impart a detailed understanding of forensic accounting with particular emphasis on the methodologies of financial statement fraud. The course is designed to demonstrate the various aspects of fraud, i.e., fraudulent financial reporting, identifying fraud schemes, including computer fraud and methods of concealment, as well as the analytical techniques in uncovering fraud and its prevention through effective internal control systems. The course also includes an analysis of the general techniques used in working in litigation support services. The course is of particular interest to the accounting profession, the world of finance and to business in general. The course content has also become of critical interest to regulators and lawmakers because of the notoriety of a series of recent financial scandals that have affected the entire business community. The course will also review the new institutional structures that have been put in place recently by lawmakers and the accounting profession to deal with fraud and its prevention, i.e., the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and self-regulating measures adopted by the accounting profession.

Course calendar and assignments – Appendix A

How to succeed in this course

- Complete reading assignments and review the assigned questions
- Participate during class discussions by asking thoughtful questions and providing insight derived from relevant experiences or prior learning
- Promote a positive learning environment for your peers by communicating constructively and offering encouragement
- Prepare for exams by reviewing lecture notes and the recommended questions for each reading assignment

Laptop, tablet, phone policy: Notetaking on laptops/tablets is permitted. Please step out of class to make calls or message (text).

Grading – Your course grade will be a composite of your performance in the lecture and case-based activities. The lecture-based activity is designed to help you determine what to think about when performing Forensic Accounting. As such, your lecture-based performance will be based on fundamental concepts included in our (midterm and final) exams and constructive, in-class contributions – including incisive questions, relevant examples, and thought-provoking ideas. The midterm exam will carry half the weight of the final exam. A fifth of your grade for the lecture-based activities will be based on in-class contributions.