CFRS 770
Fraud and Forensic Accounting
Fall 2014

Instructor: Bob Osgood rosgood@gmu.edu
Engr 3255 Office Hours Friday 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Saturday 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
and also by appointment

Class Meets: Day: Net 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.

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: CFRS 500 and 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/

Course Schedule: (Subject to Change)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Async Online 8/29/2014*</td>
<td>Forensic Investigation &amp; Financial Audits – Compare &amp; Contrast</td>
<td>Skalak -Chapter 3/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Async Online 9/5/2014*</td>
<td>Potential Red Flags &amp; Fraud Detection Techniques</td>
<td>Skalak - Chapter 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Async Online 9/12/2014*</td>
<td>Financial Statement Fraud: Revenues and Receivables</td>
<td>Skalak - Chapter 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Async Online 9/19/2014*</td>
<td>Financial Statement Fraud: Other Schemes and Misappropriations</td>
<td>Skalak - Chapter 23/24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Async Online 9/26/2014*</td>
<td>Analyzing Financial Statements</td>
<td>Skalak 1st Ed – Chapter 19</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Async Online 10/10/2014*</td>
<td>Computer Aided Forensic Accounting Investigative Techniques</td>
<td>Skalak - Chapter 17</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Async Online 10/17/2014*</td>
<td>Money Laundering</td>
<td>Skalak - Chapter 25/26</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Async Online 10/24/2014*</td>
<td>Psychology of the Fraudster</td>
<td>Skalak - Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Async Online 10/31/2014*</td>
<td>Financial Reporting Fraud &amp; Other Capital Markets</td>
<td>Skalak - Chapter 21</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>11/8/2014 Saturday 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Midterm On Campus Room ENGR 3507</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Async Online 11/14/2014*</td>
<td>The Art of the Interview</td>
<td>Skalak - Chapter 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Async Online 11/21/2014</td>
<td>When and Why to Call Forensic Accounting Investigators</td>
<td>Skalak - Chapter 5</td>
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<td>11/27-30/2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>Project is Due by 12:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>12/6/2014 Saturday 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Project Presentations On Campus Room ENGR 3507</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>12/13/2014 Saturday 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Project Presentations On Campus Room ENGR 3507</td>
<td></td>
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* The dates are for reference purposes only. You work on your own.

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

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 but not open computer. The exam is timed (2 hours). Calculators are allowed.

Required Reading and Reference Material:

Required: A Guide to Forensic Accounting Investigation
Golden, Skalak, and Clayton and Pill (2nd Edition)
The 1st edition is also acceptable; however, the chapter references above are for the 2nd edition. There are differences in the editions.

**Supplemental:** Reading Financial Reports for Dummies
Not Required
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

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://pcaobus.org)
- [http://www.cert.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/](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](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: No Email Traffic Will Take Place on Blackboard!!!
All Email Correspondence Will Take Place From Your GMU Account to rosgood@gmu.edu!!!

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