ACCT 492
Internship for Academic Credit
Spring 2019

Instructor: Kyle Sweeney, CPA
Office: Enterprise 175
email: ksweene6@gmu.edu
Office Hours: Mondays 1:30pm – 2:30pm and by appointment.

Overview

College classes can teach many things about the business world, but the true test of an education comes when classroom knowledge is put to work in real-life situations. This course helps the student to gain real-world experience in his or her chosen field and to integrate this experience into the overall educational program.

Prerequisites

- You must have been accepted into Business School as an accounting major. You must have a B- or better in ACCT 330. You Mason GPA must be 2.80.
- You must have earned at least 75 hours of college credit
- You must have an internship for the semester involving a total of at least 150 work hours. The internship must be approved by the Business School Career Services to certify that the content is appropriate for an internship-for-credit program.
- You must have filled out and submitted a set of forms available through the Business School Services before the deadline established by the Career Services administrator.

Withdrawal Policy

Effective Fall 2018, the drop policy has changed. Here are the dates:

Feb. 5 Last day to drop for 100% tuition refund
Feb. 12 Final Drop Deadline with no refund.
Resources

Course Web site. https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu

Required text. You will need this to write your weekly entries. Order it as soon as possible. If you do not refer to this text in a meaningful manner (as judged by the instructor) in at least five out of six of your entries, you will receive a zero for all of them.

5 Steps To Professional Presence: How to Project Confidence, Competence, and Credibility at Work
by Susan Bixler and Lisa Scherrer Dugan

How to get help
If you need to ask me a question or to discuss a problem, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am happy to assist in any way I can. You have several options:
• E-mail me. I check e-mail at least once a day, Mon – Fri, unless I am out of town.
• Visit my office during regular office hours, or make an appointment to see me outside of office hours.
• The George Mason Writing Center has a guide for email communication. Here is the link:
  • https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/guides/sending-email-to-faculty-and-administrators

Assignments

All of the following assignments may be described in more depth on the course web site.

Internship Journal – minimum of six. The Journals tab is under Course Tools in Blackboard.
You will maintain a journal of your work experiences. They need to be at regular intervals and should be entered into Blackboard directly on Mondays. Entries cannot be grouped. Each entry must reference our course text in a meaningful way. The purpose of the journal is threefold:
1. To record a history of your work experience
2. To encourage you to reflect on the experience and what it is teaching you about yourself and about the business world in general
3. To help you to relate your work experience to your class work and recommendations from the textbook.

Research paper
You will write a research paper on a topic relating to accounting (approved by the instructor). You will do independent reading on your chosen topic from scholarly journals. Instructions are on blackboard. The research question submission is graded. In order to earn all of the 5%, ensure that
your question meets the five rubrics listed under the Assignments tab in Blackboard. Late submission of required work can have a deduction of a minimum of 10% per day.

**Supervisor evaluations**
Your supervisor will be asked to submit a written evaluation of your performance on two occasions—once midway through the semester, and once at the end of the semester. Check under the Assignments tab in Blackboard for the form to give to your supervisor. A record of your time should be submitted at the same time.

**Meetings with instructor**
You will have at least two face-to-face or phone meetings with the instructor:

1. **Week 2:** to get acquainted with the instructor, to briefly discuss your internship assignment, to identify possible topics for your semester project, and to get you started with your internship journal.
2. **Week 7:** to assess your progress on your semester project and to review about the mid-semester evaluation submitted by your supervisor in order to look for opportunities to improve your job performance.

Additional meetings can be scheduled if the need arises.

**Grading**
Maximum points to be awarded for each activity in the course are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internship journal – six, at a minimum</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper Topic 5%; paper 25%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-semester evaluation (by supervisor)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final evaluation (by supervisor)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Grades will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90.0 – 100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80.0 – 89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70.0 – 79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.0 – 69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 59.9%</td>
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# Tentative Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Research paper</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 22</td>
<td>Make sure your paperwork is turned in to Business School Student Services!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>First meeting with instructor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>Start journal entries or plan on submitting six over the semester. Look for journal tab under Course Tools in blackboard. The journal entries are entered into this link. Pertinent instructions are located in this link. There should be no attached documents.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 4</td>
<td>Proposed topic due via email by 5:00 pm, Mar. 4</td>
<td>A one line research question can be sent in an email. It will be graded based on meeting the rubrics in the Assignment tab.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 18</td>
<td>Second meeting with instructor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 20</td>
<td>Mid-semester evaluation and timesheet from supervisor by 3/20 (you may want to remind him/her)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 1</td>
<td>Bibliography due via e-mail by 5:00 pm Friday, 4/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 22</td>
<td>Paper due on blackboard by 4:00pm, 4/22</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Final evaluation and final timesheet due from supervisor by 5/3. Last journal entry due no later than 5/3/19 (if you haven’t already completed 6 entries).</td>
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* - journal entries are due by Monday. Instructions found in blackboard. Journal entries are to be entered one at a time, with only one per submission.

## Miscellaneous

### Honor code

Academic honesty is important to maintaining the integrity of our university, which helps to ensure that your degree will earn you the respect you deserve in the job market. In this course you will be expected to adhere to the George Mason University Honor Code, and also to the specific rules listed below. Failure to do so may result in the filing of a complaint with the Honor Committee.

- Your journal entries, research paper and topic must be entirely your own work. You cannot submit a paper on a topic that you submit or have submitted in another class. It will be considered cheating if you submit a paper or topic used in another class, even in abbreviated form. You may, though, consult with the Writing Center about the research paper as often as you like.
- When you reference the work of others in your research paper, either through verbatim quotes or by substantial paraphrasing, clearly identify the quoted material, and also indicate its source in a footnote or an endnote.
- Sources for specific facts and statistics should also be cited.
George Mason Honor Code

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this:

Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

The paragraph on below is excerpted from http://www.gmu.edu/org/honorcouncil/guidelines.htm#chap2

It shall be a violation of this Honor Code to Lie, Cheat or Steal. The following list is illustrative of Honor Code violations but is not exhaustive:

- Assignments (including examinations) are to be the sole work of the student unless specifically authorized otherwise by the professor.
- To give, receive, or utilize unauthorized assistance in preparation for or during an assignment is a violation of this Honor Code.
- To continue working on an assignment or an examination beyond the allotted time period.
- To plagiarize.
- To fail to report a suspected violation when a student has reasonable cause to believe that an Honor Code violation has occurred.

For excellent examples of on-line plagiarism and related matters, see http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm

Please consult the “Honor Code” section of the George Mason University Student Handbook for specific rules about academic integrity.

School of Business Standards of Behavior: The mission of the School of Business at George Mason University is to create and deliver high quality educational programs and research. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni who participate in these educational programs contribute to the well-being of society. High quality educational programs require an environment of trust and mutual respect, free expression and inquiry, and a commitment to truth, excellence, and lifelong learning. Students, program participants, faculty, staff, and alumni accept these principles when they join the School of Business community. In doing so, they agree to abide by the following standards of behavior:

- **Respect** for the rights, differences, and dignity of others
- **Honesty** and integrity in dealing with all members of the community
- **Accountability** for personal behavior

Integrity is an essential ingredient of a successful learning community. Ethical standards of behavior help promote a safe and productive community environment, and ensure every member the opportunity to pursue excellence. School of Business can and should be a living model of these behavioral standards. To this end, community members have a personal responsibility to integrate these standards into every aspect of their experience at the School of Business. Through our personal
commitment to these Community Standards of Behavior, we can create an environment in which all can achieve their full potential.

**STUDENT PRIVACY**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) gives protection to student educational records and provides students with certain rights. George Mason University strives to fully comply with FERPA by protecting the privacy of student records and judiciously evaluating requests for release of information from those records. For further information on FERPA and student privacy, please see the dedicated page provided by the Office of the University Registrar ([http://registrar.gmu.edu/students/privacy/](http://registrar.gmu.edu/students/privacy/)).

**DISABILITY STATEMENT**

Students with disabilities who require special accommodation should contact the Office of Disability Services ([http://ds.gmu.edu/](http://ds.gmu.edu/)) to request accommodations. Please also inform the instructor of their needs so it can be taken into consideration. Please take care of this during the first two weeks of the semester.

**DIVERSITY**

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth. These goals apply to online learning at George Mason University equally as it does to classroom learning.

An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected. For further information, please see the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Multicultural Education ([https://odime.gmu.edu/](https://odime.gmu.edu/)).

This is the link to the Mason University Life religious holiday calendar ([http://ulife.gmu.edu/calendar/religious-holiday-calendar/](http://ulife.gmu.edu/calendar/religious-holiday-calendar/)). It is the obligation of students, within the first two weeks of the semester, to provide faculty members with the dates of major religious holidays on which they will be absent due to religious observances.

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1412. You may seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator, Jennifer Hammatt, by calling 703-993-8730 or email [cde@gmu.edu](mailto:cde@gmu.edu). If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-993-3686 or Counseling and Psychology Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. The 24-hour Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Crisis Line for Mason is 703-380-1434”
RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

Course support: Preparedness is a major facilitator for a heightened learning experience in an online course. For help on Blackboard tools like Collaborate, Kaltura, Respondus Lockdown Browser and other resources, please refer to courses support or tutorials for additional information. If you encounter any difficulties accessing Blackboard or your course you can reach the Technical Help Desk at the following email: courses@gmu.edu.

The Libraries at George Mason University strive to provide the best possible collections of research resources and scholarly materials in all formats for our users throughout the university community, supporting the University’s goals of learning, teaching, and research. The School of Business has a dedicated librarian liaison and more information is available at library resources. The University Libraries also provides resources specifically for distance students, including the ability to e-reserve materials. For more information on these services and the process to e-reserve texts, see http://library.gmu.edu/distance and Guides for distance students.

The George Mason University Writing Center is committed to supporting writers in the Mason community and offers free writing support to Mason students. You can now sign up for an Online Writing Lab (OWL) session just as you would sign up for a face-to-face session in the Writing Center, which means you set the date and time of the appointment! Learn more about the Online Writing Lab (OWL).

Student services: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the (ODS) http://ds.gmu.edu/ or call 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

Mason offers counseling and psychological services that can provide assistance if you find yourself overwhelmed by life, want training in academic or life skills, or the like.

University policies: The University Catalog is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty and staff conduct in university affairs.

Information regarding weather related changes in the University’s schedule (e.g., closing or late opening) will be provided on the GMU website and via MasonAlert. Changes to schedule or deliverable due dates, if any, will be communicated via email and on Blackboard.

Mason Student privacy is governed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and is an essential aspect of this course.

Copyright: Any audio or visual recording of lectures, reuse or remix of course materials, or further dissemination of course content is not permitted without prior written consent of the course instructor and George Mason University unless the recording is part of an approved accommodation plan.

Disclaimer: Any changes to assignments or course schedule will be announced on Blackboard and/or via e-mail. Inability to access the course webpage or failure to read e-mails cannot be an excuse for late submissions or non-completion of assignments.

Blackboard
Course information will be available through the class website on blackboard. Check it for study guides, announcements, homework or assignment changes.
Please sign below and give this page to the instructor at your first meeting.

I have read this syllabus and understand its contents. I understand that the course will be conducted in accordance with the terms of this syllabus, and that I am responsible for understanding and abiding by these terms.

_________________________________________  _________________________
Signature                                      Date

_________________________________________
Print your name
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Violation</th>
<th>First Offense</th>
<th>Second Offense</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plagiarism</td>
<td>An F in the class; referral to Writing Center; and Academic Integrity Seminar completion</td>
<td>An F in the class; referral to the Writing Center; Academic Integrity Seminar completion; termination from the School of Business; and at least one semester suspension or expulsion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Failure to cite/attribute sources</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Representing someone else’s work as the student’s own (e.g., copying and pasting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheating</td>
<td>An F in the class; and Academic Integrity Seminar completion</td>
<td>An F in the class, Academic Integrity Seminar completion; termination from the School of Business; and at least one semester suspension or expulsion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. On a minor assignment (e.g., homework, quizzes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Cheating on a major assignment or exam, submitting course work from another course as original work</td>
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<td>Lying (e.g., providing fraudulent excuse documents, falsifying data)</td>
<td>An F in the class; and Academic Integrity Seminar completion, and at least one semester suspension</td>
<td>An F in the class; Academic Integrity Seminar completion; termination from the School of Business; and at least one semester suspension or expulsion</td>
</tr>
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<td>Egregious Violation (e.g., stealing an exam; submitting coursework from another class as original work across multiple courses; lying to an employer about academic performance, false identification or posing as another, in person or online)</td>
<td>An F in the class, Academic Integrity Seminar completion; termination from the School of Business; and at least one year suspension</td>
<td>An F in the class; Academic Integrity Seminar completion; termination from the School of Business; and expulsion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>