ACCT 460 – Fraud Examination and Prevention  
Course Syllabus – Spring 2013  
NMSU – College of Business

Instructor: Dr. Sherry Mills  
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Office: BC 335  
Email via Canvas or smills@nmsu.edu  
Office Hours: 2:30-3:30 PM MW, 5-6 PM Th, and by appointment

Class: Section 1 4:00 – 5:15 PM MW BC 103

Course Prerequisites: ACCT 451 (Auditing) must be completed prior to this course or taken concurrently with this course.

Required texts:  
Principles of Fraud Examination, by Joseph T. Wells, CFE, CPA from John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2nd edition. (This book will be identified as PoFE on the assignment sheet.)

The Soul of Money: Reclaiming the Wealth of Our Inner Resources, by Lynne Twist. W.W. Norton & Company, (2003), paperback or hardback book. (May be purchased for as little as $0.90 for a used hardback version on Amazon.com). (This book will be identified as SOM on the assignment sheet.)

Harvard Business Cases/articles and case numbers, $3.95 per case or article  
Harvard Business School (HBS) custom packet is available through their website:  
a. https://cb.hbsp.harvard.edu/cbmp/access/16896869  
b. There are 3 cases and a spreadsheet in this packet. You will need to complete a short student registration at this website before you purchase the materials. Here are the components:  
- A Letter from Prison  
- Dragon Soup and Earnings Management (A)  
- Dragon Soup and Earnings Management (B)  
- Student Spreadsheet: Dragon Soup and Earnings Management

Canvas Courseware:  
You can access Canvas by visiting http://learn.nmsu.edu. I will use this site to post course materials, direct you to additional external links of interest, post grades and most important, to communicate with you between classes. It is your responsibility to check this site during the week and to check your email.

Course Description: ACCT 460 is an undergraduate-level elective course for bachelors and masters of accountancy students. This course introduces you to fraud examination concepts, terms, and processes. The primary focus is on employee embezzlement and financial statement fraud. You will also read about the ways money is perceived by our society and how these perspectives might influence a fraudster’s perceived perceptions and rationalizations for committing fraud.

Objectives: To provide students in accounting with a course that examines one of the biggest problems facing business in the 21st Century: Fraud. By the end of this course, you should be able to:  
- define the nature of fraud, who commits it and why,  
- differentiate among the various forms of fraud and embezzlement
• identify methods to prevent fraud and recognize the role of internal controls,
• recognize the symptoms of fraud,
• evaluate approaches to detecting and preventing fraud,
• comprehend and apply fraud investigation techniques,
• review components of financial statement fraud
• improve communication skills

Graded Assignments: (Check the Schedule for Due Dates)
You will be graded on a weighted total-points basis, with points coming from these sources:

Exams: You will take three (3) exams during the semester –The exams will include multiple choice questions and short case analyses, similar to the problems and cases we discuss in class.

Case Analyses: You will complete 3 case analyses addressing financial statement fraud topics.

Soul of Money: You will read the book, Soul of Money, submit answers to chapter review questions and reflection questions, and write a reflection paper about the materials covered in the book.

Internet Assignments: To learn more about online fraud resources and current fraud topics, you will complete and submit internet assignments; present one topic in class, and prepare a reflection paper on this area.

MAcc service project presentation: In addition to the regular course assignments mentioned above, MAcc students will complete a service project and make a presentation to the class. This is the only team assignment in the course.

Course Grade: Final points will be calculated according to these weights:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Undergraduate Points Available</th>
<th>Graduate Points Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2 at 200 each)</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case analyses (3)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soul of Money</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet assignments</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAcc service learning project</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Available Points</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Grades: Your final grade will be determined by the standard 89.5% or better = A, 80% - 89.5% = B, 70% - 79.5% = C, 60% - 69.5% = D and below 60% = F.
Effective writing is an essential skill for success in any accounting career. Therefore, a significant portion of your grade for each of these projects will be based on your ability to effectively communicate your content. Such things as lack of clarity, focus, or organization, as well as poor grammar, misspelling, incorrect punctuation will adversely affect your grade for the individual and team projects. An “Academic Survival Kit” with resources on writing and presentation skills is available on the College web page at http://business.nmsu.edu/students/survival-kit/.

Please refer to the class schedule for due dates, and check Canvas for more complete instructions for reports and presentations.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is your responsibility. Attendance will not be taken but you are responsible for all materials and discussions presented during class. Absences during graded in-class activities associated with write ups will result in a zero for that activity unless the absence is excused under University Student Handbook guidelines or prior arrangements are made.

Academic Misconduct: Cheating (i.e. fraud on your fellow students) is not tolerated in this course or in the College of Business. All work (tests, assigned case studies and projects) is to reflect your individual effort unless otherwise stated. If you are found to have cheated in any work, you will be subject to the maximum punishment allowed by the University. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct in the NMSU Student Handbook http://www.nmsu.edu/~vpsa/handbook.html.

Make-up Policy: Make-ups for assignments and exams are given only for University sanctioned excuses (see NMSU Student Handbook.) If you know in advance of an exam you will miss due to a University activity or other sanctioned excuse, please see me prior to the exam date. Otherwise, no late work will be accepted.

Grading Errors and Appeals: If you think there was an error in grading or that the grade you received did not reflect your work, please give me a written memo within 7 days of your receipt of the grade in question outlining the error and attach it to the original document. Simple errors such as a mistake in adding points can be handled in office hours without a memo.

Late Add/Registration: Anyone who misses the first few classes due to late registration is considered absent and not eligible for make-ups except as we may agree. Late-adds are responsible for all in-class materials and lectures.

Incomplete (“I”) Grades: Incompletes are given only if you are passing the course (i.e., have at least 60% of the possible points) up to the time something happens to prevent further attendance/participation. Appropriate circumstances include documented illness or documented death or crisis in your immediate family. The NMSU Course Catalog states that job-related circumstances are not grounds for assigning an “I” grade. Removal of the “I” grade will require that you re-register for the class and successfully complete the ENTIRE class in a subsequent semester.

ADA Statement: If you have or think you may have a disability that interferes with your academic progress, you may wish to self-identify by contacting the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office located in Garcia Annex (phone: 646-6840 or TTY: 646-1918) to register. If you have already registered, please make sure I receive a copy of the accommodation memorandum from SSD within the first two weeks of classes. It will be your responsibility to inform either me or an SSD representative (in a timely manner) if the services/accommodations provided are not meeting your needs.

If you have a condition that may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or that
may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss any concerns with me or with the SSD Coordinator. Feel free to call EEO/ADA & Employee Relations office, at 646-3635 with any questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All personal and medical information is treated in the strictest confidence.

I reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary for this course.