



**Course Syllabus  
Fraud Examination  
Special Topics in Accounting  
ACNT 1391**

**Fraud: Fall 2012, CRN 27118, West Loop Center**

**Instructor & Contact Information:** *William C. Nantz, CPA, CFF, CGMA, MBA, JD*

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**Office location and hours:** Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. You do not need to wait until you have received a poor grade before asking for my assistance. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear your concerns and just to discuss course topics. Feel free to contact me by email, phone or come by my office at the Southwest College located at 5601 West Loop South, Houston, Texas 30 minutes before class or meet with me after class.

**Course Location/Times:** Thursday: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
West Loop Center

**Course Semester:** Fall 2012

**Credit Hours:** Three (3) hours credit hours, all hours lecture hours

**Total Course Contact Hours:** Forty-eight (48) contact hours

**Course Length:** Sixteen (16) weeks

**Type of Instruction:** Lecture

**Course Description:** This course is intended to help students understand the causes and preventions of organizational fraud. The complexity of financial statement fraud has gained considerable attention over the past few years and will continue to gain momentum. This course is designed to explain to students how to review and evaluate financial statements. Students will benefit from an enhanced understanding of what the numbers mean, providing an increased ability to detect indicators of fraud. Discussions will also include the professional responsibilities of the accountant in relation to accuracy of the statements, especially in light of new legislation and revised fraud standards.

Topics address recently identified current events, skills, knowledge, and/or attitudes and behaviors pertinent to the technology or occupation and relevant to the professional development of the student.

**Course Prerequisite:** ACNT 2302 Principals of Accounting II or equivalent.

**Academic Discipline/CTE Program Learning Outcomes:** The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with the knowledge of the terms and accounting procedures encompassed in Fraud Examinations. The course is designed to meet the basic needs of those students who are preparing for a career in profit as well as non-profit organizations.

Upon completion of this course, students will learn responsibilities of management and auditors, red flags of financial statement fraud, and audit procedures to detect fraud. Finally, students will also learn how to apply internal controls through actual case studies.

**Textbooks and Related Materials:**

**Required for the course:**

Fraud Examination, 4th edition, by W. Steve Albrecht, Thomson South-Western Publishing Co., 2012, 2009, ISBN 13: 978-0-538-47084-1, ISBN 10: 0-538-47084-4.

**Evaluation and Requirements:**

Students are expected to read all assigned chapters, complete and submit all assignments on specific due date, make presentations in class, and attend all classes. The nature of the course is such that perfect attendance is essential for mastery of the course content. A missed class can never be duplicated.

Accounting is best learned through doing. Therefore, there are always homework assignments to do. This will require a considerable commitment of time and effort from you. Typically, the successful student in college can count on 3 hours of independent study for every hour in the classroom.

**All homework is expected to be typed. Handwritten homework will not be accepted for a grade.**

Your final grade for this course will be based on how well you do in meeting the evaluation requirements listed on your assignment schedule and applying the grading scale which is listed below.

**Research Component:**

Grades on papers and homework will be based upon demonstrated research skills and analytical reasoning. Sources will be properly referenced under MLA Rules on a separate Works Cited page or on the face of a power-point screen. These references are to be located through research. HCC's library provides an extensive source of research material including the sites listed above, over 100 databases you may search at <http://library.hccs.edu/articles/atoz.php> and RIA (Research Institute of America) specifically provided for accounting research. The ability to demonstrate research skills through your written assignments and proper use of a Works Cited page is an important component to demonstrating your ability to properly research material related to this course.

**Evaluation Requirements:**

3 Sectional Exams (Drop one)	200 points
Final examination	100 points
Paper	120 Points
Homework	180 points
Attendance/Class Participation	<u>100</u> points
Total	700 points

**Grading Scale:**

90 - 100%	=	A	(630 to 700 points)
80 - 89%	=	B	(560 to 629 points)
70 - 79%	=	C	(490 to 559 points)
60 - 69%	=	D	(420 to 489 points)
BELOW 60%	=	F	( 0 to 419 points)

**HCC Grading Scale:**

A = 100- 90	4 points per semester hour
B = 89 - 80:	3 points per semester hour
C = 79 - 70:	2 points per semester hour
D = 69 - 60:	1 point per semester hour
59 and below = F	0 points per semester hour
IP (In Progress)	0 points per semester hour
W(Withdrawn)	0 points per semester hour
I (Incomplete)	0 points per semester hour
AUD (Audit)	0 points per semester hour

IP (In Progress) is given only in certain developmental courses. The student must re-enroll to receive credit. COM (Completed) is given in non-credit and continuing education courses. To compute grade point average (GPA), divide the total grade points by the total number of semester hours attempted. The grades "IP," "COM" and "I" do not affect GPA.

**Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System** At Houston Community College professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to the instruction in this class. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

**Class Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Students are responsible for materials covered during their absences, and it is the student's responsibility to consult with the instructor for any make-up assignments. Although it is the responsibility of the student for non-attendance, the instructor has full authority to drop a student for excessive absences.

A student may be dropped from any course for excessive absences after the student has accumulated absences of 12.5% of the hours of instruction. For example, in a 3

credit hour lecture class meeting 3 hours per week, a student may be dropped after 6 hours of absence. In this class you can be dropped or given a failing grade if you miss more than two days of classroom instruction or class presentations.

The professor of this class may also drop any student, at his discretion, two letter grades for less than 50% attendance, in addition to being able to give you a failing grade or drop you from the course. Also, the professor of this class may also drop any student, at his discretion, three letter grades for less than 75% attendance, in addition to being able to give you a failing grade or drop you from the course.

### **Homework Assignments:**

All assignments will be typed. Any assignment sent to the professor by email may have 10% of the final grade on the assignment taken off for turning in the assignment via email. This reduction is at the professor's discretion. Any assignments turned in without the class name, class time, general meeting day (i.e., Sat.), the time, and the student's name as recorded in the HCC/Student Administration system will receive no credit. Each assignment will also include page numbers.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Each student is to do their own homework and papers. If one student plagiarizes another's work, it is grounds for an "F" or zero credit on the homework and an "F" in the class. Use proper citations such as APA, MLA or other such system.

### **Examinations:**

There will be a total of three sectional examinations (there will be no make-up examinations). The two highest grades received on these exams will be used to compute the student's final grade for the course. The lowest score will be dropped. For a missed examination, a student is allowed to drop **one** of the first three sectional examinations.

### **Paper:**

Prepare a paper of three (3) to five (5) pages of text, single spaced, typed and written in memorandum form utilizing MLA style. The references should be embedded in the text and fully referenced on a separate Works Cited page. The possible topics will be discussed in class and will cover any fraud related investigation topic of your own devise. The paper will have a minimum of five referenced citations.

**Drops and Withdrawals: *It is the responsibility of each student to officially drop or withdraw from a course.*** Failure to officially withdraw may result in the student receiving a grade of F in the course. A student may officially withdraw in any of the following ways:

1. Complete an official withdrawal form at any HCCS campus.
2. Withdraw on-line.
3. Send a letter requesting withdrawal to: Registrar Houston Community College System P. O. Box 667517 Houston, TX 77266-7517
The withdrawal will be effective as of the date of the postmark. Withdrawals will NOT be accepted by telephone.

It is the responsibility of each student to officially drop or withdraw from a course. Failure to officially withdraw may result in the student receiving a grade of F in the course. Procedures for withdrawing from a class are found in the Student Handbook.

*International Students:* Receiving a **W** in a course may affect the status of your student visa. Once a **W** is given for the course, it will not be changed to an **F** because of visa considerations.

*New Policy:* Students who repeat a course three or more times will face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. Please seek tutoring or other assistance prior to considering course withdrawal.

**Incompletes:**

The grade of "I" (incomplete) is conditional. If you receive an "I," you must arrange with your instructor to complete the course work by the end of the following term (excluding summer). After the deadline, the "I" becomes an "F." See the Student Handbook for more information. My policy for issuing an incomplete is that you must have completed all semester coursework except the final, and have a minimum of a C average.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disabilities Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty is authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office.

**Academic Honesty:**

A student who is academically dishonest is, by definition, not showing that the coursework has been learned, and that student is claiming an advantage not available to other students. The instructor is responsible for measuring each student's individual achievements and also for ensuring that all students compete on a level playing field. Thus, in our system, the instructor has teaching, grading, and enforcement roles. You are expected to be familiar with the University's Policy on Academic Honesty, found in the catalog. What that means is: If you are charged with an offense, pleading ignorance of the rules will not help you. Students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by College System officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. "Scholastic dishonesty": includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating on a test includes:

- Copying from another students' test paper;
- Using materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- Collaborating with another student during a test without authorization;
- Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of a test that has not been administered;
- Bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered.

Plagiarism means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit.

Collusion mean the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit. Possible punishments for academic dishonesty may include a grade of 0 or F in the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or

recommendation for probation or dismissal from the College System. (See the Student Handbook)

**HCCS Website:**

Our website is: <http://www.hccs.edu>

**Instructor Website:**

From the HCCS homepage, choose Southwest College, choose “The Learning Web,” choose Faculty, type in your instructor’s name. Your instructor will have a copy of the syllabus and other pertinent information for you at the website:

<http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/william.nantz>

**Assignment Schedule:**

An assignment schedule is attached to this syllabus. This schedule will be followed throughout this course. Any modifications to this schedule will be announced in class.

**\*IMPORTANT FOR RESEARCH TOPICS:**

**RIA Checkpoint Education License for RIA’s Academic Advantage Program is available in all our open labs and in the libraries. This license includes RIA tax code, FASB Accounting Standards, AICPA Resource – Professional Literature.**

**SCANS – Secretary’s Commission for Achieving Necessary Skills**

The Secretary’s Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS) from the U.S. Department of Labor was asked to examine the demands of the workplace and whether our students are capable of meeting those demands. Specifically, the Commission was directed to advise the Secretary on the level of skills required to enter employment. In carrying out this charge, the Commission was asked to do the following:

- Define the skills needed for employment
- Propose acceptable levels of proficiency
- Suggest effective ways to assess proficiency, and
- Develop a dissemination strategy for the nation’s schools, businesses, and homes

SCANS research verifies that what we call *workplace know-how* defines effective job performance today. This know-how has two elements: *competencies* and a *foundation*. This report identifies five competencies and a three-part foundation of skills and personal qualities that lie at the heart of job performance. These eight requirements are essential preparation for all students, whether they go directly to work or plan further education. Thus, the competencies and the foundation should be taught and understood in an integrated fashion that reflects the workplace *contexts* in which they are applied.

Workplace Competencies	Foundation Skills
<b>Resources:</b> allocating time, money, materials, space, staff	<b>Basic Skills:</b> reading, writing, arithmetic and mathematics, speaking and listening
<b>Interpersonal Skills:</b> working on teams, teaching others, serving customers, leading, negotiating, and working well with people from culturally diverse backgrounds	<b>Thinking Skills:</b> thinking creatively, making decisions, solving problems, seeing things in the minds eye, knowing how to learn, and reasoning
<b>Information:</b> acquiring and evaluating	<b>Personal Qualities:</b> individual

<p>data, organizing and maintaining files, interpreting and communicating, and using computers to process information</p> <p><b>Systems:</b> understanding social, organizational, and technological systems, monitoring and correcting performances, and designing or improving systems</p> <p><b>Technology:</b> selecting equipment and tools, applying technology to specific tasks, and maintaining and troubleshooting technologies</p>	<p>responsibility, self-esteem, sociability, self-management and integrity</p>
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**SCANS** workplace competencies and foundation skills have been integrated into Ethics for Accountants, and are exhibited in the SCANS schedule.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

It is a violation of HCC policy for an employee, agent, or student of the College to engage in sexual harassment as defined in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) guidelines. Any student who has a complaint concerning this policy has the opportunity to seek resolution of such a complaint in accordance with procedures set forth in the Student Handbook. Report any complaints immediately to College Administration or call the Institutional Equity & Compliance Office 713.718.8271.

### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANCE**

Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Support Services Office (DSSO) of their respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty is authorized to provide only the accommodation(s) requested by the DSSO. For information and services at HCC Southwest, contact Dr. Becky Hauri, ADA Counselor, at 713.718.7910.

### **Repeat Course Fee:**

The State of Texas encourages students to complete college without having to repeat failed classes. To increase student success, students who repeat the same course more than twice, are required to pay extra tuition. The purpose of this extra tuition fee is to encourage students to pass their courses and to graduate. Effective fall 2006, HCC will charge a higher tuition rate to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.

### **Classroom Behavior:**

As your instructor and as a student in this class, it is our shared responsibility to develop and maintain a positive learning environment for everyone. Your instructor takes this responsibility very seriously and will inform members of the class if their behavior makes it difficult for him/her to carry out this task. As a fellow learner, you are asked to respect the learning needs of your classmates and assist your instructor achieve this critical goal. No laptop use during class.

**Use of Camera and/or Recording Devices:**

As a student active in the learning community of this course, it is your responsibility to be respectful of the learning atmosphere in your classroom. To show respect of your fellow students and instructor, you will turn off your phone and other electronic devices, and will not use these devices in the classroom unless you receive permission from the instructor.

Use of recording devices, including camera phones and tape recorders, is prohibited in classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, and other locations where instruction, tutoring, or testing occurs. Students with disabilities who need to use a recording device as a reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information regarding reasonable accommodations.



**ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**  
**ACNT 1391 - Fraud Examination**

Week	Date	Chapter	Topic	Homework Assignment
1	8/30	1	Class Introduction The Nature of Fraud	To be assigned
2	9/6	1 2	The Nature of Fraud Why People Commit Fraud Discuss Paper Topics	To be assigned
3	9/13	3 4	Fighting Fraud: An Overview Preventing Fraud	To be assigned
4	9/20	5 6	Recognizing the Symptoms of Fraud Data-Driven Fraud Detection Review of Research Techniques Review for Exam #1	To be assigned
5	9/27		Exam # 1	Homework Due
6	10/4		Library Research & Prep. of Paper	No Classroom Participation
7	10/11	7 8	Investigating Theft Acts Investigating Concealment	To be assigned
8	10/18	9 10	Conversion Investigation Methods Inquiry Methods and Fraud Reports	To be assigned
9	10/25	11 12	Financial Statement Fraud Revenue - and Inventory - Related Financial Statement Frauds	To be assigned
10	11/1	13	Liability, Asset, and Inadequate Disclosure Frauds Review of Research Techniques Review for Exam #2	To be assigned
11	11/8		Library Research & Prep. of Paper	No Classroom Participation
12	11/15		Exam #2	<i>Paper Due</i> & Homework Due
13	11/22		Thanksgiving	Campus Closed
14	11/29	14 15 16	Fraud Against Organizations Consumer Fraud Bankruptcy, Divorce and Tax Fraud	To be assigned
15	12/6	17 18	Fraud in E-Commerce Legal Follow-Up, Review for Exam 3 and Final	To be assigned
16	12/13		FINAL (Chapters 1 – 18) & Exam #3 (optional)	Homework Due