ACCT 5710
Professional Accounting I
Fall 2009

Instructor: Professor E. Michael Bamber
mbamber@terry.uga.edu
Brooks 224
706-542-3601

Office Hours: W 2:30-4:30 p.m. & by appointment

Course Description

Areas of accounting emphasis and their pertinence to alternative accounting careers. Written assignments and discussion with speakers used to enhance communication skills.

More specifically, speakers will discuss professional accounting issues during the regularly scheduled class periods. Current Tull students will explain how they succeed in the Tull accounting program. School of Accounting advisors will discuss course schedules and how they relate to alternative career paths. You are required to attend one Beta Alpha meeting. Active class participation is expected. An “instructional novella” is your only reading assignment. You are also required to prepare a short evaluation of each speaker.

The class meets Tuesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:45 in Miller SLC 150.

Textbook


Course Prerequisites

ACCT 2102 or ACCT2102H

Course Objectives

To familiarize students with the J.M. Tull accounting program, introduce alternative career paths in accounting, and highlight career issues facing accounting professionals. In particular, this course is designed to:

1. Familiarize you with the Tull accounting program and provide you with information to help you get the most out of the program.

2. Show you the alternative career paths in accounting in terms of (1) your options for specialization and (2) the employers who would be interested in hiring you with this set of skills.

3. Expose you to the types of firms that primarily hire our students and explain what you would do as a new hire for such a firm.
4. Show how some of the topics covered in your accounting classes are applied in practice, and highlight current issues facing practitioners.

Topical Outline

1. How to succeed in the accounting program
2. Skills development for professional placement
3. Accounting issues facing accounting professionals
4. Alternative career paths in accounting
5. Other topics

Course Grading

Students are required to use the attached form to keep a record, evaluating each outside speaker. This record is due on the day of the last class. Failure to turn in the evaluation form results in an automatic F.

0-75 points  Class attendance: You will receive 5 points for attending each class (including a Beta Alpha Psi meeting and Accounting Career Day) indicated on the schedule and conducting yourself in a professional manner while present. Professional behavior means being on time, being respectfully attentive to the speaker, and not leaving early. Attendance is evidenced by your signature on a sign-in sheet.
   ▪ It is your responsibility to make sure that you sign the sheet before leaving class; otherwise you will not receive credit for attendance.
   ▪ If I decide that your behavior is unprofessional, you will not receive credit for attending the class.
   ▪ Physical attendance is required to receive credit; there are no “excused absences” in this course.

0-8 points  Class participation: A maximum of 8 points can be earned by asking an outside speaker a question (2 points a question – credit for one question a class). You must identify yourself by name when asking the question and turn in a written copy of your question at the end of class. (Simply preparing a question is not sufficient; you must ask your question during the formal part of the class.)

0-10 points  Written Assignment: Reading the text and completing the associated written assignment: The written assignment covers the text. The assignment will be given in class and is due September 29. Late assignments are not accepted.

2 points  Course evaluation: You will receive 2 points for submitting a course evaluation on WebCT.

95 points  Total

Bonus points:

5 points  An additional 5 points can be earned by attending a second BAP meeting.

Grades will be assigned:
A = 82 and above  
A- = 80, 81  
B+ = 79  
B = 75-78  
B- = 74  
C+ = 73  
C = 70-72  
C- = 69  
D = 65-68  
F < 65 or if the speaker evaluation is not submitted

**Electronics Policy**

Professionals devote their full attention to important meetings. Therefore, all electronic devices, including laptops, cell phones, and ipods, must be turned off at the start of class and remain turned off until the end of class.

**Academic Honesty**

As a university of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty.” found at [www.uga.edu/honesty](http://www.uga.edu/honesty). Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.
The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>5710: Topic/Speaker</th>
<th>Class Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/18</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>Advising with Ms. Barbara Musengo, Accounting Academic Adviser</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/1</td>
<td>Audit versus Tax? Deloitte</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>The Accounting Profession: Professor Michael Bamber</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Career Day: Athens Classic Center 3:00-7:00 p.m</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Career Opportunities in Tax: Elliott Davis; Reznick Group</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/29</td>
<td>Interviews and Internships: What to Expect? Dixon Hughes; PWC</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/6</td>
<td>(Why Work For) A Larger Accounting Firm? Grant Thornton; KPMG</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>(Why Work For) A Smaller Accounting Firm? Porter Keadle Moore; Trinity Group</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/20</td>
<td>What Corporate Accounting has to Offer: Georgia-Pacific; Home Depot</td>
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<td>10/27</td>
<td>Life (Really!) in a Big 4 Accounting Firm: Ernst &amp; Young</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Some Other Alternatives to Public Accounting: Accenture; TAXCONNEX</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>And Just What Does It Take to Succeed? AFLAC; Deloitte; Frazier &amp; Deeter</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>No class: Credit for attending Beta Alpha Psi meeting*</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>11/24</td>
<td>No Class: Thanksgiving</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Last Class: Review</td>
<td>5</td>
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*Tentative (and incomplete) Beta Alpha Psi Meeting Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 27</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 3</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>KPMG</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Deloitte</td>
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<td>October 22</td>
<td>Grant Thornton</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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Professional programs are usually from 7-8 pm in 145 Brooks Hall, but not always. So, you want to check the time and location for meetings you plan to attend. The dress is business casual. If you arrive early (6:30) you can meet some of the Beta Alpha Psi members and visitors from public accounting. There will be a sign-in sheet for 5710 students at the meeting to document your attendance. *You will only get credit for attending if you sign the sheet.* If you don’t see a sign-in sheet, please ask a Beta Alpha Psi member.
Class Evaluation: Complete an evaluation for each class where there is an outside speaker and for the student panel. Use the evaluation to identify what was most helpful or beneficial about the presentation. Also indicate how the presentation could be improved to make it more beneficial or interesting.

Name (print) ___________________________ Signature__________________________

Date: September 1, 2009  
Topic: Audit Versus Tax? Deloitte  
Evaluation:

Date: September 15, 2009  
Topic: What, Chick-fil-A Needs Accountants?  
Evaluation:

Date: September 22, 2009  
Topic: Career Opportunities in Tax: Elliott Davis; Reznick Group  
Evaluation:

Date: September 29, 2009
Topic: Interviews and Internships: What to Expect? Dixon Hughes; PWC
Evaluation:

Date: October 6, 2009
Topic: (Why Work For) A Larger Accounting Firm? Grant Thornton; KPMG
Evaluation:

Date: October 13, 2009
Topic: (Why Work For) A Smaller Accounting Firm? Porter Keadle Moore; Trinity Group
Evaluation:
Date: November 10, 2009
Topic: What Does It Take to Succeed? AFLAC; Deloitte; Fazier & Deeter
Evaluation:

Date: ________________
Topic: _________________________________ (Required Beta Alpha Psi Meeting)
Evaluation:

Date: ________________
Topic: _________________________________ (Optional Beta Alpha Psi Meeting)
Evaluation: