

**I. General Information**

Course number: ACCT 604B

Title: Forensic Accounting

Units: 2 credits

Prerequisites: MAC standing

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Course Coordinator: Praveen Sinha

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**II. Catalog Description**

Introduction to the fundamental forensic accounting skills employed by accountants. Specific topics include professional responsibilities of forensic practitioners, fraud prevention, detection, and response, business valuation, damage computations, and the accountant as an expert witness. Letter grade only (A-F). Two (2) semester units.

**III. Curriculum Justifications**

The curriculum is designed to teach (1) foster an ethical understanding of professional and societal responsibilities through exercises involving use of forensic accounting techniques and related ethical issues; and the (2) development of interpersonal, leadership & team skills are developed through group cases and presentations.

This course addresses the following CBA graduate learning goals:

- **Ethics:** Students will be able to demonstrate awareness and knowledge of social responsibility, ethical leadership, and citizenship issues in the local, regional and world communities.
- **Interpersonal, Leadership & Team Skills:** Students will be able to demonstrate interpersonal and leadership skills for working in a dynamic and diverse world, both independently and in a team environment.

**IV. Course Objectives**

Specific course goals are to gain an understanding of:

1. The professional standards under which forensic accountants practice.
2. Fundamentals of the legal system as they relate to the forensic accountant including the process of legal discovery, report writing, and testimony.
3. The role of the forensic accountant in investigations and in dispute resolution.
4. The role of the forensic accountant in a fraud investigation.
5. The difference between the forensic accountant's role in determining causation and in estimating damages.
6. Computation of damages and lost profits.
7. The forensic accountant's role in bankruptcy proceedings.

8. The forensic accountant and business valuation.
9. The forensic accountant's role in regulatory proceedings.
10. The forensic accountant's role in criminal proceedings.

**V. Outline of Subject Matter**

This is an example of a course schedule that may be changed to accommodate unpredictable variations in the pace of coverage, students' needs and so on. If changes in the schedule are made, students will be held responsible for these changes as announced in class. The chapters listed below must be included in the course. Additional chapters can be added into the course based on the instructor's personal preferences in teaching this course.

Topics

- Professional standards
- The legal system.
- Legal discovery, report writing, and testimony.
- Investigations and in dispute resolution.
- Fraud investigation.
- Causation.
- Damages and lost profits.
- Bankruptcy proceedings.
- Business valuation.
- Regulatory proceedings and criminal proceedings.

**VI. Methods of Instructions**

- Participation (in-class) exercises which involve group work.
- Case assignments based on based on corporate and public accounting ethical issues.
- Homework assignments
- Examinations – objective questions and calculation problems.
- There is no standardized text for all sections of ACCT 604B. Some examples of the texts that are used include:
  - Finance and Accounting for Lawyers, Brian Brinig

**VII. Instructional Policies**

- Policy on Classroom Behavior:
  - All cell phones & other electronic devices (e.g. pagers, PDAs) must be put on vibrate or turned off and not on your desk during class.
  - Students are responsible for what transpired if they miss a class. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor or a classmate to determine what was missed. See "Policy on Make-up Exam and Assignments" below.
  - Talking and other disruptive behavior are not permitted while classes are in session.

- Students are expected and must do ORIGINAL work for all assignments, including exams. See “Academic Integrity” policy below.
- It is the student’s responsibility to notify the professor in advance of a need for accommodation of a disability that has been verified by the University.
- Policy on Make-up Exams and Assignments:
  - The instructor develops his or her own policy.
- Policies on Withdrawal, Late Withdrawals, and Incompletes:
  - The university policy on dropping and withdrawal from classes is set forth in the schedule of classes. Students are obligated to officially withdraw from their courses even though they may not have attended. Withdrawals require the signature of the instructor, the chairperson and the dean of the college. You must have a documented reason for a late withdrawal. I will not sign any late withdrawal without a documented reason such as a doctor’s note. I do not give incompletes in this course. If you do not think you can successfully finish this course you should drop it by the stated due date.
- Academic Integrity:
  - Students in this course will be expected to comply with the California State University, Long Beach Policy on Academic Integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials into an examination, including dictionaries and programmatic calculators. You must turn in your own work. Using someone else’s work as your own is also considered cheating and will be dealt with according to the University guidelines stated above. It’s the students responsibility to drop a course he or she does not plan to attend.
- Campus Computer/Network Usage:
  - Careful and ethical use of computing resources is the responsibility of every user. As a user of these resources, you agree to be subject to the guidelines of the “Policy Governing Access to and Use of CSULB Computing Resources”. These guidelines apply to all computing resources provided by the University; some guidelines are more directly related to time sharing systems, some to microcomputers and local area networks, and some to all systems.
- Disabilities:
  - Students with disabilities are responsible for notifying their instructor as early as possible of their needs for an accommodation of a verified disability. A student with a disability is urged to consult with Disabled Student Services as soon as possible in order to identify possible accommodations to enhance academic success.