

UNC CHARLOTTE
ACCT 6240 – BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, GOVERNANCE, & ACCOUNTABILITY
SPRING 2017

Instructor: Dr. Marcia Watson, Ph.D.
Email: mwatso40@uncc.edu
Office Voice Mail: 704-687-7708
Office Hours: Th 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., 8:15 – 9:15 p.m. and by appointment,
Center City Bldg, room 713
Class Time/Location: Section U01: Th 2:00 – 4:45 p.m. Center City Bldg, room 606
Section U90: Th 5:30 – 8:15 p.m. Center City Bldg, room 606

Required Materials

Surgent CPA Review. Order on-line directly from Surgent for \$50 at:

<https://www.surgentcpareview.com/cpa-course-detail/BEC0-2015-01-NCPE>

See Accessing Surgent CPA Review pdf in Canvas. The 2017 website is available on 1/16/2017. Please do not register until then. *The document provides a discount code necessary to get the \$50 price.*

Textbook is a downloadable/printable 430 page pdf available on the Surgent Website & in Canvas.

Recommended Materials

You are strongly encouraged to read business publications (e.g., *The Wall Street Journal*) to increase your awareness and knowledge of current developments in the business environment.

Course Prerequisites: graduate student **Credit Hours:** 3 hours

Important Dates

January 16 – Last day to add or drop a course without a grade.

March 20 – Last day to drop the course.

Course Description

This course examines a wide variety of topics related to the general business environment and business concepts. Topics to be addressed include corporate governance and control, information technology, managerial and cost accounting, economic concepts and analysis, and financial management.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is for you to learn important concepts related to the internal and external environments in which businesses operate. Upon completion of this course should be able to:

- describe the elements of corporate governance, including the rights, duties, responsibilities, and authority of the Board of Directors, officers, and other employees within a business;

- describe the COSO frameworks of internal control and enterprise risk management;
- calculate and explain economic measures and indicators;
- discuss information technology control objectives and procedures;
- explain the impacts of electronic commerce on business;
- explain budgeting and variance analysis;
- explain and calculate cost measurement methods and techniques.

Grades

Your grade in the course is based on eleven quizzes (lowest quiz score will be dropped), completion of an on-line practice CPA exam, completion of assigned Surgent questions, and percentage of overall score percentage as follows:

	<u>Points</u>	<u>Course Grade</u>
10 Quizzes (20 @ 2 points each) * 10	400	A: 510 - 600 (85%+)
2 simulations at Final Exam time	40	B: 450 - 509 (75% - 85%)
Completion of on-line practice CPA BEC exam on Surgent website	50	C: 360 - 449 (60% - 75%)
Completion of assigned Surgent questions (prorated for percent of questions completed)	90	D: 0 - 359 (<60%)
Completion of assigned Surgent questions at 75% overall score	10	
Completion of assigned Surgent questions at 85% overall score	10	
Total Points Available	<u>600</u>	

Surgent (surgentcpareview.com)

We will be using the Surgent CPA review website for our supporting materials. The website includes videos, multiple choice questions, practice CPA exams, and practice simulations. If you miss a class or want to reinforce the materials, I recommend watching the videos. I will assign multiple choice questions and practice simulations. I recommend that you attempt as many multiple choice and simulations as possible during the semester. See How to Complete Assignments in Surgent pdf in Canvas.

Quizzes

You will be given eleven quizzes during the semester. Each quiz consists of 20 multiple choice questions (worth 2 points each). You will have 30 minutes to complete a quiz (which is in-line with CPA exam time limits). The quiz breakdown should help you identify which area you need to work on the most.

Make-up quizzes will not be allowed. Instead, the lowest quiz grade (or missed quiz) will be dropped.

If you miss the final exam (comprised of 3 quizzes and 2 simulations) due to an excused absences with appropriate documentation, you will be given a make-up final exam during the second week of the following semester. If you miss the final exam for any unexcused

reason (e.g., you forgot or got the time incorrect), you will receive a zero on the final exam.

On quiz days, please bring with you the following items:

- #2 pencils
- Calculator (must not be a calculator app on a cellphone or a programmable calculator)

Practice CPA BEC Exam

Completing the practice CPA BEC exam on Surgent website will take approximately 4 hours. This practice exam will help you identify your weak areas, so you know where to focus your studying time. Also, based on the results I may alter the course syllabus to address class needs.

Assigned Surgent Questions

After covering material in class, I will assign practice multiple choice and simulation questions in Surgent. The questions are linked to the textbook for in-depth study. Points will be given based on the percentage of assigned questions completed.

Additional points will be given for earning an overall score of 75% (10 points) or 85% (10 points). If your score is lower than 75%/85% based on assigned questions, additional practice with correct answers can bring the score to the desired level.

Request to discuss problems in class

If you would like to discuss a particular problem in class, please send me an email identifying the specific problem by noon on Thursday. I will then prepare a handout for the class.

Canvas

This class is using the UNC Charlotte learning management system called Canvas. Canvas can be accessed at uncc.instructure.com using your NinerNet ID and password. I will use Canvas to post class announcements, class notes and exam scores. A copy of the syllabus is always available there.

Class Notes: Class notes for each topic we will cover will be available in canvas. We will work through those notes in class. I recommend you print the notes and bring them with you to class. Click Modules on the far left area of your screen and find the appropriate topic. I will post completed notes after class just in case you are absent that day.

Quiz Scores: You can use Canvas to check your quiz scores. Click the Grades button in the far left area of your screen to access.

Syllabus: To see a copy of the syllabus, click on the Syllabus button in the far left area of your screen.

Resources: CPA Exam and Surgent resources are located here.

Cell Phones and Computers

The use of cell phones, beepers, or other communication devices is disruptive (as well as rude!), and is therefore prohibited during class. However, if you have an emergency situation, please let the instructor know at the beginning of class.

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance is important as it gives you an opportunity to clarify and test your understanding of the material covered. You will be responsible for all material covered in class as well as in the homework assignments and readings.

Promptness is important and is an expected quality of successful individuals in the accounting profession. Students arriving late to class tend to disrupt other students, so please be prompt.

Unless it's an emergency, **please do not leave class before it is over**. Leaving class early is distracting and discourteous to other students and to the instructor. If you know you're going to have to leave early, please let the instructor know before class.

Participation is encouraged and expected!! The participation of everyone in the class helps make the class a lot more interesting as a variety of ideas and information are shared. So, please speak up loud and often!

Syllabus Revisions

The standards and requirements set forth in the syllabus may be modified at any time by the course instructor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class and in Canvas.

Policies Regarding Grading

Determination of final course grades and policies and procedures regarding grades is the responsibility of faculty, not students. Thus, the grading policies, procedures, and scales in your courses at UNC Charlotte are not open to debate, negotiation, or appeal.

If you think an exam has been graded incorrectly, please let me know within **ten days** after the exam grade is posted. After that period of time, the grade stands as is.

It is **inappropriate** for a student to contact a faculty member at the end of the semester in an attempt to influence the faculty member's determination of final course grades. However, if you believe that your final course grade assigned by the instructor was the result of clear and material mistake in calculating or recording grades, you should contact the instructor, who will explain how the grade was determined (see <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-410> for more information).

For this course, your course grade will be determined by the total points you earn on exams – period. Factors and circumstances other than your total points will not be considered including, but not limited to, grade needed to graduate, effort, work hours, course load, and prior accounting experience/coursework. All students will be graded in the same manner. No extra credit will be given. **Do not ask me to grade you**

differently than other students or to raise your end-of-semester grade as it is not appropriate or fair to other students.

Academic Integrity

All students are required to read and abide by the Code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. Definitions and examples of plagiarism are set forth in the Code. The code is available from the Dean of Student's Office or <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407> .

Faculty may ask students to produce identification at examination and may require students to demonstrate that graded assignments completed outside of class are their own work.

You are expected to be familiar with, and to follow, this Code.

In addition, the following specific requirements are expected in this class:

- (1) strict individual performance on exams, i.e., not copying from or looking at another student's exam or answer sheet.
- (2) Not allowing another student to copy from or look at your quiz or answer sheet.
- (3) Not passing or receiving information about a quiz to students in your section or other sections of the course;
- (4) Not consulting (written or electronic) notes or books during quizzes unless specifically permitted to do so.

Cheating on quizzes is wrong and will not be tolerated. If I determine or suspect that you have cheated on a quiz, I will follow University procedures for handling cases of academic misconduct.

I expect every student in my classes to share this responsibility for preventing dishonesty of any kind. Academic integrity is considered a prerequisite for admission into the accounting profession.

Religious Accommodations

UNC Charlotte provides reasonable accommodations, including a minimum of two excused absences each academic year for religious observances required by a student's religious practice or belief. Such reasonable accommodations must be requested in accordance with the procedures in this Policy, and include the opportunity for the student to make up any tests or other work missed due to an excused absence for a religious observance. Students wishing to request a religious accommodation may refer to the information found at <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-134.html> It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a *Request for Religious Accommodation Form* to their instructor prior to the date for enrollment for a given semester (typically 10th day of enrollment).

Statement on Diversity

The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation and socio-economic status.

Support Services

Students in this course seeking accommodations to disabilities must first consult with the Office of Disability Services and follow the instructions of that office for obtaining accommodations.

Title IX Reporting Obligations

UNC Charlotte is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone. UNC Charlotte has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

Please be aware that many UNC Charlotte employees, including faculty members, are required reporters. This means that if you tell me about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, I must report the information to the Title IX Coordinator. Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need.

If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, you can contact any of the following on-campus resources, who are not required to report the incident: (1) University Counseling Center (counselingcenter.uncc.edu, 7-0311); (2) Student Health Center (studenthealth.uncc.edu, 7-7400); or (3) Center for Wellness Promotion (wellness.uncc.edu, 7-7407). Additional information about your options is also available at titleix.uncc.edu under the “Students” tab.

ACCT 6240 – Business Environment, Governance, & Accountability Spring 2017

Note: All classes are on Thursdays.

	Classroom Topic by AICPA BEC Areas (Module name in Canvas)	Assignment Surgent Section
1/12	Introduction TOPIC 1: Corporate Governance	Please print the syllabus and bring it to class with you. EVERY CLASS FORWARD: Print out the PowerPoint slides (if desired). Reading: Section 5100 (pp. 7 – 32)
1/19	SURGENT ON-LINE PRACTICE EXAM Duration: 4 hours See Canvas for directions	Complete practice exam before 1/26/2017 class.
1/26	TOPIC 2: Microeconomics	Section 5200.
2/2	Quiz 1 (Topic 1) & Quiz 2 (Topic 2) TOPIC 3: Macroeconomics and Globalization	Section 5200
2/9	TOPIC 3: Macroeconomics and Globalization (cont)	Section 5200
2/16	Quiz 3 (Topic 3) TOPIC 4: Corporate Capital Structure	Section 5300
2/23	TOPIC 5: Working Capital TOPIC 6: Capital Budgeting	Section 5300
3/2	Quiz 4 (Topic 4) TOPIC 6: Capital Budgeting (cont)	Section 5300
3/9	SPRING BREAK!!! NO CLASS	
3/16	Quiz 5 (Topic 5) & Quiz 6 (Topic 6) TOPIC 7: IT	Section 5400
3/23	TOPIC 7: IT (cont)	Section 5400
3/30	Quiz 7 (Topic 7) TOPIC 8: Budget Components	Section 5500
4/6	TOPIC 9: Costing Fundamentals	Section 5500
4/13	Quiz 8 (Topic 8) TOPIC 9 Costing Fundamentals (cont) TOPIC 10: Costing Methods	Section 5500
4/20	TOPIC 10: Costing Methods (cont) TOPIC 11: Costing Systems and Variance Analysis	Section 5500
4/27	TOPIC 11: Costing Systems and Variance Analysis (cont)	Section 5500

Quiz Format: 20 Multiple Choice questions worth 2 points each

Final Exam: consists of 3 QUIZZES (9, 10, & 11) plus 2 simulations on TOPICs 9, 10 & 11

U01: May 11 (TH) 2-4:30 p.m.

U90: May 11 (TH) 5-7:30 p.m.