ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics
ACCT 6332 Ethics in Accounting
Fall 2019

Course Description/Overview

Introduces students to accounting ethics and professionalism. Independence issues and the Code of Professional Ethics are highlighted.

Prerequisite Knowledge

Admission to the Master of Professional Accountancy (M.P.Ac.) program

Course Technology

- Internet access is necessary.
- Gleim CPA Quiz Materials - Free
- Course materials may be found on the University’s Blackboard system at http://blackboard.angelo.edu.

Class Meeting Times

Monday and Wednesday 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm
Rassman Building (RAS) 111

Technical Support

The Technology Service Center (TSC) may be contacted by calling (325) 942-2911 or (866) 942-2911 or by email at helpdesk@angelo.edu.

Faculty/Instructor Information

Renee Foshee, JD, LLM, CPA
Asst. Professor of Accounting
Office: Rassman Building Room 256
Phone: (325) 486-6407
E-Mail: renee.foshee@angelo.edu
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 2:45 pm – 3:45 pm; Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm.
Other times by appointment (e-mail or call). You are welcome to stop by anytime that I am in the office.
Course Objectives

Learning Objectives:
To provide the student with:

1. An understanding of the underlying theory of ethics, professionalism and corporate governance as they pertain to accounting;
2. Practice of applying the theory to accounting cases;
3. Develop ability to analyze, research and use technology in determining the relevance of important ethical and professional concepts and procedures within the perimeters of the business environment.

This course is about doing the right thing while practicing professional accounting. One part of doing the right thing is knowing what you are expected to do in various situations. Another part of doing the right thing involves persuasion when professionals disagree. The hardest part of doing the right thing is recognizing and avoiding ethical hazards with conflicting expectations.

Accountants have special obligations beyond those of other business practitioners, so this course develops the ethical analysis beyond philosophy ethics courses and beyond business ethics courses. While Accountancy Boards may require ethics education to enter the profession, or even sit for the CPA exam, this course is aimed at your whole career (even your whole life) rather than coaching for ethics coverage on any examination.

This course emphasizes critical thinking beyond memorizing vocabulary, facts, skills or procedures. There are three main types of learning this semester and different methods are appropriate for each:

Ethical Decision Analysis – being able to express reasoning for which alternatives are more or less ethical and for which arguments will be persuasive to other professional accountants, other business colleagues and to society as well. We will learn about corporate ethical decision making by reading, by thinking, by writing and through oral argument using logic and evidence rather than authority, intuition, or stubbornness.

Expectation Awareness – being able to recognize the names and meanings of the society’s and the profession’s expectations for those authorized to practice the profession of accounting. We will rely heavily on independent reading to become familiar with what ought to be done and especially what might be difficult to do.

Rehearsal – being able to recognize, avoid, and react to ethical decision situations is improved most effectively by experience. Since we cannot actually place ourselves in possible ethical trouble during the semester, we will rely on case situations where students attempt to identify with characters and react to the situation as if it were theirs.
Course Textbook and Required Readings

Textbook

Ethics in Accounting by Gordon Klein. Published by Wiley (ISBN: 9781118928332)

Book is available in print (new or used) or digital. Online access to textbook materials is not required.

Required Supplement - FREE

Gleim CPA Assessment Quiz in your ACCT 6332 class for the FALL(19) semester

To obtain access to the Gleim CPA Assessment Quiz and allow your instructor to track your progress, click the link below or copy/paste the URL into a web browser. Note that you MUST use this link to order your materials because it indicates to Gleim which virtual class to enroll you in. If you order via any other means (e.g., the Gleim website), you will not receive credit for your work.


The link will send you to the Gleim website, where you must create your account or log into an existing account. Then, you will be taken to the shopping cart with the correct item listed at $0.00. Complete the check out process by following the on-screen instructions.

Other readings will be assigned in a timely manner as needed and will be provided to you as PDF, in MS Word format, or as a link to an online resource.
Grading Policies

This course employs the following to measure student learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Calculations</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments &amp; Quizzes</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examinations</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades in this course will be determined as follows:

- A: $\geq 90$ points
- B: 80-89 points
- C: 70-79 points
- F: < 70 points

Per ASU policy, grades of D are not given in graduate courses.

There may be possible extra credit assignments/activities opportunities during the semester.

**Participation:** ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED. Attendance will not be taken for this class, but it will be necessary for you to come to class to pass the course. Some of assignments take place in class. It is especially important to be in attendance when there are guest speakers and group presentations, even if your group is not presenting.

Please participate in group discussions. Do not be afraid to take an unpopular position. Accountants need to be able to have difficult conversations.

**Group Project:** A group project will be assigned that includes an oral presentation, group paper, group deliverable, and individual paper.

**Assignments and Quizzes:** There will be in class and homework assignments

**Extra Credit:** There may be possible extra credit assignments/activities opportunities during the semester.
Missed/Late Work: Assignments are an opportunity to practice and demonstrate the use of the law and rules. To encourage participation in assignments, homework and quizzes have been allocated 25% of the class grade.

You are highly encouraged to complete assignments on or before the assigned date because it is related to classwork. Completed assignments and quizzes are due on the assignment date in the assignment software or Blackboard.

We will not review the answers to all assignments in class, but if the answer to a problem is discussed in class, then late submission will not be possible for that problem. If the problem is part of a larger assignment, then the possible credit for the late work will be reduced by the value of that problem.

Late assignments will be reduced by 10% per week. For example, if a 100 point assignment is due in week 2, but is turned in in week 4, the maximum point allocation to that assignment will be 80 points. The 80 points will be assigned proportionately to the percentage of correct answers/total answers.

Examinations: There will be two exams in this course. These exams will cover material covered in lectures, readings, class discussions and presentations. In addition, there will be a focus on AICPA, Texas, IRS and SEC ethics rules.

Make-up Examinations: Make-ups are permitted only on rare occasions, with permission of the instructor.

See the Tentative Course Outline for dates of the exams which will be scheduled during regular class time, except for the Final Exam which will be held Monday, December 9, 2019 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

Classroom Policies
Students are expected to display professional conduct during class. You should arrive on time and be in your seat at the scheduled class start time and when we return from breaks. In general, I will start exactly on time at the beginning of class and following breaks. However, if you must be late, please still come to class. I would rather you come late than miss the material.

In addition to the above the following rules will also apply:
1. Cell phones cannot be used during exams in this course.
2. Please do not disrupt lectures by talking to others. Please ask if you have a question.
3. Please turn off your cell phones so that it does not distract others. Also refrain from texting or surfing the internet during class. If you feel the need to do this, please leave the room and do not distract those around you.
4. You are the only one that can drop you from this course. I cannot drop you from the course. The last day to drop this class is Thursday, October 31, 2019. Do not just quit coming to class. If you do you will receive an “F” in the course.
Course Policies

**Academic Honesty and Integrity**

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code, which is in both print and web versions of the ASU Student Handbook.

Academic integrity is expected. This includes, but is not limited to, any form of cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized sharing of work, or unauthorized possession of course materials. The professor assumes that all students can be trusted. Please do not violate this trust. Violation of academic integrity will result in a failing grade for the course.

It is the professor’s intention to be as fair and impartial as is humanly possible. Therefore, all students will be asked to adhere to the same set of guidelines and rules UNLESS there are disabilities or documented extenuating circumstances that have been discussed with the professor and the Student Life Office. Please make sure you inform the professor as soon as any situation arises. Do NOT wait until the problem is compounded by poor class performance, poor attendance, etc.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

**Copyright Policy**

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

**Code of Ethics**

Students, faculty, administrators and professional staff of the College of Business should always:

- Be forthright and truthful in dealings with all stakeholders
- Take responsibility for one’s actions and decisions
- Serve as an example of ethical decision-making and behavior to others
- Admit errors when they occur, without trying to conceal them
- Respect the basic dignity of others by treating them as one would wish to be treated
**Courtesy and Respect**

Courtesy and respect are essential ingredients to this course. We respect each other's opinions and respect others points of view at all times while in our class sessions. The use of profanity and harassment of any form is strictly prohibited (Zero Tolerance), as are those remarks concerning one's ethnicity, life style, religion, etc., violations of these rules will result in appropriate disciplinary actions.

**Accommodations for Disability**

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by emailing studentservices@angelo.edu, or by contacting:

Mrs. Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Development  
Office of Student Affairs  
University Center, Suite 112  
325-942-2047 Office  
325-942-2211 FAX  
Dallas.Swafford@angelo.edu

**Student absence for religious holidays**

As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedures (OP 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day), a student who intends to miss class to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Course Drop**

To view information about how to drop this course or to calculate important dates relevant to dropping this course, you can visit http://www.angelo.edu/services/registrars_office/course_drop_provisions.php.

**Incomplete as a Course grade**

As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.11 Grading Procedures), the grade "I" is given when the student is unable to complete the course because of illness or personal misfortune. For undergraduates, an "I" that is not removed before the end of the next long semester automatically becomes an "F". A graduate student will be allowed one year to remove a grade of "I" before it automatically becomes an "F". To graduate from ASU, a student must complete all "Is".
Grade Appeal Process

As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedures (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, has experienced inequitable evaluation procedures, or inappropriate grading practices, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the grade appeal process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at: http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14196-op-1003-grade-grievance.
# Tentative Course Outline

A. This schedule may change. So, listen in class for any changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Number</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ch. 1 Introduction to Ethics; AICPA Core Concepts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Ch. 2 Ethical Principles and Reasoning; Ch. 3 Core Philosophies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ch. 4 Other Philosophies and Social Responsibilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ch. 5 Behavioral Ethics: Why People Cheat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>9/23</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ch. 6 Greed and Corruption; AICPA rules on fees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ch. 7 Fraud and Earnings Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ch. 8 Discreditable Acts; AICPA Acts Discreditable; review TSBPA Board Reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>10/14</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ch. 9 Confidentiality; AICPA Confidential Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Guest Speaker – Weston Smith, formerly HealthSouth</td>
<td>RAS 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Exam 1 (Ch. 1-8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Ch. 10 Independence and Texas State Board of Accountancy Rules; AICPA Independence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>10/28</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ch. 11 Conflicts of Interest; AICPA Integrity and Objectivity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Last Day to drop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ch. 12 Whistleblowing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ch. 13 Public Audits and Sarbanes-Oxley Act; SEC rules of Conduct and Auditor Independence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>No Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>11/18</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ch. 14 Tax Practitioner Duties, AICPA SSTS &amp; Circular 230</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ch. 14 Taxpayer Duties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>11/27</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td>No Class Thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ch. 16 Workplace Duties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12/9</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>1:00 – 3:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fall 2019