



FEB 25 2004

Course Outline

A POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION

School of Business

Program: Financial Management

Option: Accounting Degree

FMGT 7910**The Business Environment****Start Date:** January 10 2004**End Date:** April 17 2004**Total Hours:** 45 **Total Weeks:** 15**Term/Level:** Degree **Course Credits:** 3**Hours/Week:** 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0**Shop:** **Seminar:** **Other:****Prerequisites****FMGT 7910 is a Prerequisite for:****Course No. Course Name****Course No. Course Name**

None

FMGT 8910 Integrative Business Management Practices

Course Description

In this course, the student will acquire an overview of the contemporary Canadian business environment along with the analytical skills required to assess challenges and opportunities presented by environmental factors. The political, legal, regulatory and trading environment in which firms operate will be examined. The student will utilize problem solving and critical thinking skills as they apply course concepts to industries operating in the British Columbia economy.

Course Goals

- Make competent decisions based on a variety of sources of information.
- Adapt to conflict and uncertainty in the business environment.
- Develop critical thinking and lifelong learning skills.

Evaluation

Final Exam	35%
Midterm Exam	25%
Environmental Analysis & Action Plan	30%
In Class Exercises, Simulations, Case Studies and Participation	10%
TOTAL	100%

Course Learning Outcomes/Competencies

Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:

1. Assess the political, legal, regulatory and trading factors surrounding companies active in the BC economy, including
 - a. recognition of challenges and opportunities in the business environment
 - b. development of strategies and tactics to respond to the challenges and opportunities
 - c. creation of an action plan that effectively integrates and presents the mix of strategies and tactics required to respond to the business environment

2. Make decisions in a complex business environment
 - a. evaluate different types of sources of information for accuracy and relevance
 - b. generate tactical responses to business challenges and opportunities
 - c. maintain an approach to lifelong learning

Verification

I verify that the content of this course outline is current.

Brian Giffen, B.A., LL.B., MBA

Authoring Instructor

Date

I verify that this course outline has been reviewed.

Allan Cobbett, Dipl.T., LL.B., MBA, CMA

Program Head/Chief Instructor

Date

I verify that this course outline complies with BCIT policy.

Tim Edwards, Dipl.T., MBA, CMA

Dean/Associate Dean

Date

Note: Should changes be required to the content of this course outline, students will be given reasonable notice.

Instructor(s)

Brian Giffen

Office Location: SE 6 - 308

Office Phone: 604-456-8079

Office Hrs. To be announced

E-mail Address: Brian_Giffen@bcit.ca

Learning Resources

There is no text for this class. Students must visit the course web site on at least a weekly basis to obtain readings.

Information for Students

Assignments: Late assignments, lab reports or projects will **not** be accepted for marking. Assignments must be done on an individual basis unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

Makeup Tests, Exams or Quizzes: There will be **no** makeup tests, exams or quizzes. If you miss a test, exam or quiz, you will receive zero marks. Exceptions may be made for **documented** medical reasons or extenuating circumstances. In such a case, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor **immediately**.

Ethics: BCIT assumes that all students attending the Institute will follow a high standard of ethics. Incidents of cheating or plagiarism may, therefore, result in a grade of zero for the assignment, quiz, test, exam, or project for all parties involved and/or expulsion from the course.

Attendance: The attendance policy as outlined in the current BCIT Calendar will be enforced. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session. Students not present at that time will be recorded as absent.

Illness: A doctor's note is required for any illness causing you to miss assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, or exam. At the discretion of the instructor, you may complete the work missed or have the work prorated.

Attempts: Students must successfully complete a course within a maximum of three attempts at the course. Students with two attempts in a single course will be allowed to repeat the course only upon special written permission from the Associate Dean. Students who have not successfully completed a course within three attempts will not be eligible to graduate from the appropriate program.

Course Outline Changes: The material or schedule specified in this course outline may be changed by the instructor. If changes are required, they will be announced in class.

Assignment Details

1. Students will work in groups to create and present a business environment analysis and strategy for a major Canadian corporation. Details will be provided during Session 1.
2. Students will prepare a written critique of each corporate strategy presentation. Details to be provided in class.

Week of/ Number	Outcome/Material Covered	Reference/ Reading
(1) January 10	<p>Introduction to Course</p> <p>Importance of Business Environment</p> <p>Creating a Business Environment Analysis and Report</p> <p>Researching Business Environment Issues</p>	see course website
(2) January 17	<p>Political Environment Part 1</p> <p>Historical Overview</p> <p>Fundamentals of Political System</p> <p>Political Ideologies</p> <p>Legislative and Budget Processes - Theory vs Practice</p>	see course website
(3) January 24	<p>Political Environment Part 2</p> <p>Federalism - division of powers</p> <p>- federal/provincial issues, First Nations, municipal government</p> <p>Description of Term Assignment Project Team and Topic due</p>	see course website
(4) January 31	<p>Political Environment Part 3</p> <p>Party System and Processes</p> <p>Government Assistance to Business</p>	see course website
(5) February 7	<p>Legal and Regulatory Environment Part 1</p> <p>Key Factors in Legal and Regulatory Environment</p> <p>Key Issue Areas in Legal and Regulatory Environment</p>	see course website
(6) February 14	<p>Legal and Regulatory Environment Part 2</p> <p>Key Issue Areas in Legal and Regulatory Environment (cont'd)</p>	see course website

Week of/ Number	Outcome/Material Covered	Reference/ Reading
(7)February 21	Legal and Regulatory Environment Part 3 Legal/Regulatory Issues cont'd Monitoring Legal/Regulatory Environment	see course website
(8) February 28	Mid Term Exam	see course website
(9) March 6	Trading Environment Part 1 Global Trade Realities The USA / Canada Relationship	see course website
(10) March 13	Trading Environment Part 2 Beyond North America	see course website
(11) March 20	Technological Environment Economic Environment	see course website
(12) March 27	Group Presentations	see course website
(13) April 3	Group Presentations	see course website
(14) April 17	Demographic Environment Natural Environment Strategic Overview of Business Environment Strategies for Monitoring the Business Environment Term Assignment due	see course website
(15) April 24	FINAL EXAM	see course website

NOTE: There may be a need to alter parts of this course outline at the discretion of the instructor.

Class	Due	Group Research & Presentations, Individual Term Project	Value
1-14	ongoing	active participation in class discussions including: -involvement in class analysis of cases -involvement in class exercise and simulations -completion of all class assignments -preparation and submission of written critiques for each group presentation	10%
8	Feb 28	Mid term exam	25%
13	April 17	Term Assignment - (see class handout providing details). Includes group presentation to class	30%
15	April 24	Final Exam - all subjects	35%