



BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Outline Part A

School of Business

Program: Financial Management

Option: Accounting Degree

FMGT 7910

The Business Environment

Hours/Week:	3	Total Hours:	45	Term/Level:	Degree
Lecture:	1	Total Weeks:	15	Credits:	3
Lab:	2				
Other:					

Prerequisites

FMGT 7910 is a Prerequisite for:

Course No.	Course Name	Course No.	Course Name
None		FMGT 8910	Integrative Business Management Practices

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.
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Course Description

In this course the student will acquire the skills necessary to operate in a complex professional world that offers problems with no textbook solutions. Specifically, the course will deal with the economic and legal environment, risk management, ethical behavior in business, cultural diversity, international trade and problem solving through critical thinking. The student will relate what he/she has learned to some of the dominant industries in B.C.

Evaluation

Final examination	30%
Case analysis	30%
Student project	40%
TOTAL	100%

Course Outcomes and Sub-Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Assess the role of a particular industry in B.C. and its position in the Canadian economic scene.
 - A. Recognize niches in the economy that are ripe for further development.
 - B. Select appropriate criteria for evaluating the qualitative features of a successful company.
 - C. Assess possible new ventures in light of a legal and regulatory environment.
 - D. Identify international issues.
 - E. Develop risk management strategies through insurance and appropriate financing.
2. Develop an integrated approach to applied ethics in business.
 - A. Recognize the foundations for solving ethical dilemmas.
 - B. Use tools for distinguishing between ethical problems and other sorts of problems.
 - C. Develop language for making ethical decisions.
 - D. Promote ethical behavior in business.
3. Make decisions in a complex and uncertain world.
 - A. Evaluate different types of sources of information for accuracy and relevance.
 - B. Review current business theories.
 - C. Develop strategies for accommodating workplace diversity.
 - D. Maintain an approach to lifelong learning.

Course Record

Developed by: Mary Hamm, B.Comm., C.M.A.
Financial Management Department
Instructor Name and Department (signature)

Date: November, 1996

Revised by: Mary Hamm
Instructor Name and Department (signature)

Date: August, 1997

Approved by: Dick Dolan
Associate Dean / Program Head (signature)

Start Date: September 3, 1997



BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Outline **Part B**

School of Business

Program: Financial Management

Option: Accounting Degree

FMGT 7910

The Business Environment

Effective Date

September 3, 1997

Instructor(s)

Mary Hamm, B.Comm., CMA
and Guest Lecturers Murray Ross, PhD
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Richard Yates, LLB, MBA

Office Hrs.: TBA

Terry Bogyo, Certificate in Public Administration, BSc MBA

Methods and Tools

- Cases will be selected which illustrate the subject matter of the course.
- Students will be encouraged to use a variety of sources including professional journals, Internet searches and reference books.
- Emphasis will be on presenting an integrated analysis of a particular problem rather than solving a number of numerical questions.
- Students will be required to develop analytical, oral and written skills for a professional environment.

Course Notes (Policies and Procedures)

1. BCIT policies on plagiarism will be implemented.
2. It is recommended that students retain a copy of this outline in case it is needed for further credits at another institution.

Assignment Details

Individual Student Project (40% of Final Grade). The student will select an area of interest such as:

- A. management of change.
- B. distinguishing between useful business theories and fads.
- C. coping with information overload.
- D. use of humor in the workplace.
- E. culturally sensitive challenges for small business.
- F. workplace diversity.
- G. office in the home — beyond the obvious, analyze the benefits to employee and employer, analyze the pitfalls and propose solutions.
- H. valuing and promoting intellectual capital.

Text(s) and Equipment

Required:

Canadian Business and Society, R.W. Sexty, Prentice Hall, 1995.

Economic Growth, Technological Change and Canadian Economic Policy, Richard G. Lipsey

Handouts

Recommended:

Subscription to a professional accounting journal.



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School of Business

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Schedule

FMGT 7910

The Business Environment

Week of/ Number	Outcome/Material Covered	Text
1 Sept. 3	Canada's Economic Environment — overview of major industries: money, employment, growth, structure	Lipsey, Ch. 1-6, Sexty
2 10	BC's position — structure and location of business	Handout
3 17 24	Evaluation of what Canada does well — detail 3 or 4 companies that have discovered a niche and done well in terms of international activity, solid growth, good planning, reputation for ethical behavior, responsibility to the environment, employee training and adaptation to change.	Financial Post Investors' Handbook, 1997
4 Oct. 1 8 15	Legal Environment The Constitution/Charter of Rights and Freedoms Human Rights Legislation Statutes and Regulations Dealing with Government Regulatory Bodies Examples of Regulatory Bodies including Workers' Compensation, Labour Standards, Customs & Excise Operating in a Foreign Legal Environment	Yates Sexty Ch. 13
5 22 29	International Connections Cultivation of contact, cultural diversity and sensitivities, financing and insurance, risk management How we are viewed by others Student presentations	Harvard Business Review, Jan.-Feb, 1996

Week of/ Number	Outcome/Material Covered	Text
6 Nov. 5 12 19 26	Applied Ethics Fundamentals of ethical theory, relationships of ethics and law Distinction between prudence and ethics Useful tools for analyzing ethical questions Discussion of ethical situations Cases involving challenging ethical problems	Sexty Ch. 8 Omit p. 135 to the middle of p. 138.
7 Dec. 3	Responsible Corporate Behavior — Employees, customers, shareholders, environment both civic and physical When to blow the whistle Decision making in a complex and uncertain world The learning organization Fashions and fads in business Management of change and uncertainty — problems and opportunities — coping with information overload — workplace diversity	Sexty Ch. 10, 13, 14, 17, 18 Sexty Ch. 15, 19, 20, 21
Dec. 10	Final Exam	
NOTE: There may be a need to alter parts of this course outline at the discretion of the instructor		



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FMGT 7910

The Business Environment

Number	Assignments	Value	Assignment	Due Date
1	Select a B.C. industry or company. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• analyze its position in the economy.• its strengths and weaknesses.	10%	2 pages	Sept. 10
2	Form a group of 3-5 people. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• choose a country that we might do business with, organize a report around the issues mentioned in Topic 5.	20%	Approx. 20 page report 40 minute presentation	Nov. 5 To be arranged
3	Individual Student Project Relate your remarks to a particular industry that interests you. You are expected to incorporate ideas from at least three major sources. Please see the instructor regarding your choice of topic.	40% 30%		Dec. 3 or earlier
4	Final Exam — All subjects			Dec. 10