



Course Outline

BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

School of Business

Program: Financial Management

Option: Accounting Degree

FMGT 7910 The Business Environment

Start Date: September 4, 2001

End Date: December 11, 2001

Course Credits: 3

Term/Level: Degree

Total Hours: 45

Total Weeks: 15

Hours/Week: 3

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Shop:

Seminar:

Other:

Prerequisites

Course No.	Course Name
None	

FMGT 7910 is a Prerequisite for:

Course No.	Course Name
FMGT 8910	Integrative Business Management Practices

Course Calendar 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.

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	30%
Short assignment -Lipsey	10%
Group assignment	25%
Ethics Assignments -Code of Ethics	10%
Individual assignment	25%
TOTAL	100%

Course Learning Outcomes/Competencies

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 Content Verification

I verify that the content of this course outline is current, accurate, and complies with BCIT Policy.



Program Head/Chief Instructor



Date

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



Instructor(s)

Mary Hamm, B.Comm, CMA

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Guest Lecturers:

- Catherine Ryan, Bsc, MLS, LLB
 - Terry Bogyo, Certificate in Public Admin., BSc, MBA
 - Farid Novin, PhD
 - Mike Perri, CA
 - Mark Wexler, PhD
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Learning Resources

Required:

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

Recommended:

Subscription to a professional accounting journal.
A good English handbook.

Handouts:

Numerous handouts will be given during the term consisting of cases for consideration or information not available in the text.

BCIT Policy Information for Students

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.

I.D. Required In Exam Halls:

Effective December 2000, students will be required to produce photo-identification for admittance to examination halls. Photo I.D. must be placed on the desk while writing the exam, for inspection by invigilators. Students should bring a BCIT OneCard or alternatively two pieces of identification, one of which must be government photo I.D. such as a drivers license. Please see BCIT Policy #5300, Formal Invigilation Procedures.

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.

Assignment Details

Individual Student Project (20% of Final Grade). The student will write a paper on 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.
- I. desirability of Canadian airline mergers.
- J. dollarization.
- K. accounting in the future.
- L. european monetary unit.
- M. evaluation of a business book (subject must be discussed with instructor).
- N. NGOs
- O. competition bureau.
- P. whistleblowing.
- Q. consequences of changing demographics in Canada.



Week of/ Number	Outcome/Material Covered	Text Readings
(1) Sept. 4 (2) Sept. 11	Canada's Economic Environment — overview of major industries: money, employment, growth, structure, BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lipsey • Handouts
(3) Sept. 18	Guest Lecturer, Dr. Farid Novin	
(4) Sept. 25	Guest Lecturer, Mark Wexler Crown Corporations Government Policy Or Ethical Governance Codes & Beyond Or Whistleblowing	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web site run by the <i>Center for the Study of Codes of Ethics</i>, http://csep.iit.edu/codes/ • Ch. 3 Brooks • Ch. 7 Wexler
(5) Oct. 2	Guest Lecturer, Terry Bogyo, Workers Compensation	
(6) Oct. 9	Farid Novin	
(7) Oct. 16	Competitiveness in a Global Marketplace	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 4, 5 Business and Government • Society Newman Peery
(8) Oct. 23 (9) Oct. 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Connections • Cultivation of contact, cultural diversity and sensitivities, financing and insurance, risk management • How we are viewed by others • Student presentations – Group Assignment, 5-7 minutes per person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student presentations

Week of/ Number	Outcome/Material Covered	Text Readings
(10) Nov. 6 (11) Nov. 13	Guest lecturer, Catherine Ryan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Environment • The Constitution/Charter or Rights and Freedoms • Human Rights Legislation • Statutes and Regulations • Dealing with Government Regulatory Bodies • Examples of Regulatory Bodies including Workers' Compensation, Labor Standards, Customs & Excise • Operating in a Foreign Legal Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout
(12) Nov. 20	An example of creating an international business in a high tech environment. Guest lecturer, Mike Perri.	
(13) Nov. 27	Individual Student Presentations based on written report.	
(14) Dec. 11	FINAL EXAM	
<p>NOTE: There may be a need to alter parts of this course outline at the discretion of the instructor.</p>		



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The Business Environment

Number	Assignments	Value	Assignment	Due Date
1	Write a four page summary of Lipsey's Monograph.	10%	4 pages	Sept. 25
2	Ethics assignments Obtain a copy of a code of ethics (probably an accounting body, but it could be another professional body). Evaluate this code in terms of: a) does it go far enough in your opinion? b) would it be likely to change the behaviour of a member of that organization?	10%		Oct. 16
3	Form a group of 2–5 people by Sept. 18. Choose a country that we might do business with, organize a report around the issues mentioned in the topic for weeks 8 and 9.	25%	Approx. 20 page report 20–40 minute presentation	Oct. 23, 30
4	Individual assignment 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. Observe academic formalities, like proper footnotes, bibliography, spelling and syntax.	25%	Approx. 20 pages written report. Short, informal presentation	Outline: TBA Finished report: Nov. 27 or earlier
5	Final Exam — All subjects	30%		Dec. 11