



A POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION

School of Business

Program: Financial Management

Option: Accounting Degree

**FMGT 7910****The Business Environment****Start Date:** September 3, 2002**End Date:** December 10, 2002**Total Hours:** 45 **Total Weeks:** 15**Term/Level:** Degree **Course Credits:** 3**Hours/Week:** 45 **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 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 or Means	10%
Group Assignment	25%
Ethics Assignment -Code of Ethics	10%
Individual Assignment	25%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**■ Course Learning Outcomes/Competencies**

Upon successful completion, 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.

**■ Verification**

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

May Hamm  
Authoring Instructor

September 3, 2002  
Date

I verify that this course outline has been reviewed.

Alan & Cole  
Program Head/Chief Instructor

September 3/02  
Date

I verify that this course outline complies with BCIT policy.

[Signature]  
Dean/Associate Dean

Sept 3/02  
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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Office Hrs.: To be announced

E-mail Address: Mary\_Hamm@bcit.ca

## Guest Lecturers:

- Catherine Ryan, Bsc, MLS, LLB
- Terry Bogyo, Certificate in Public Admin., BSc, MBA
- Farid Novin, PhD
- Mike Perri, CA
- Keith Gibson
- John Mould

## ■ Learning Resources

### *Required:*

Economic Growth, Technological Change and Canadian Economic Policy, Richard G. Lipsey, OR  
Money and Power, The History of Business, by Howard Means.

### *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 yet available in the text.

## ■ 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

Individual Student Project (25% 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.
- R. productivity in Canada

## 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.

### Schedule

Week of/ Number	Outcome/Material Covered	Reference/ Reading
(1) Sept. 3 (2) Sept. 10	Canada's Economic Environment – overview of major industries: money, employment, growth, structure, BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lipsey or Money and Power by Howard Means</li> <li>• Handouts</li> </ul>
(3) Sept. 17	Competitiveness in Global Marketplace	
(4) Sept. 24	Whistleblowing	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web site run by the <i>Center for the Study of Codes of Ethics</i>, <a href="http://csep.iit.edu/codes/">http://csep.iit.edu/codes/</a></li> <li>• Ch. 7 Wexler</li> <li>• Video – Insider</li> </ul>
(5) Oct. 1	Guest Lecturer, Dr. Farid Novin	
(6) Oct. 8	Guest Lecturer, John Mould <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banking Industry</li> </ul>	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 4, 5 Business and Government</li> <li>• Society Newman Peery</li> </ul>
(7) Oct. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest Lecturer, Terry Bogyo, Workers Compensation</li> </ul>	
(8) Oct. 22 (9) Oct 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest Lecturer, Catherine Ryan</li> <li>• The Constitution/Charter of Rights and Freedoms</li> <li>• Human Rights Legislation</li> <li>• Statutes and Regulations</li> <li>• Dealing with Government Regulatory Bodies</li> <li>• Examples of Regulatory Bodies including Workers' Compensation, Labor Standards, Customs &amp; Excise</li> <li>• Operating in a Foreign Legal Environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handouts</li> </ul>
(10) Nov. 5, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Connections</li> <li>• How we are viewed by others</li> <li>• Student presentations – Group Assignment, 5-7 minutes per person</li> <li>• Cultivation of contact, cultural diversity and sensitivities, financing and insurance, risk management</li> </ul>	
(11) Nov. 12	Student presentations – Group Assignment, 5-7 minutes per person	
(12) Nov. 19	An example of creating an international business in a high tech environment. Guest lecturer, Mike Perri.	
(13) Nov. 26	Individual Student Presentations based on written report.	
(14) Dec. 3	TBD	

Week of/ Number	Outcome/Material Covered	Reference/ Reading
(15) Dec. 9	<b>FINAL EXAM – 2 HOURS</b>	
<b>NOTE:</b> There may be a need to alter parts of this course outline at the discretion of the instructor.		

Num ber	Due	Group Research & Presentations, Individual Term Project	Value	Assignment
1	Oct. 1	Write a four page summary of Lispey's Monograph or Money and Power.	10%	4 pages
2	Oct. 29	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%	
3	Nov. 5, 12	Form a group of 2-5 people by Sept. 24. Chose 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 pages written report. Short, information presentation.
4	Nov. 26 Or Earlier	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%	Outline: TBA  Finished report (Approx. 20 pages): Nov. 26 or earlier.
5	Dec. 10	Final Exam—All subjects	30%	