

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
ACCT 3405 CLASS POLICIES – Spring 2014
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT®

Instructor: Christine Ellis, M.Ed.
Meeting time: Section 001: Monday 4:00 – 4:50 p.m., BLB 070
Section 002: Monday 5:00 p.m. – 5:50 p.m., BLB 070
Office Hours: Monday 2:00-3:30 p.m. or ***contact me at Christine.Ellis@unt.edu or by appointment***
Office: Business Leadership Building (BLB) 215F

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides skills and knowledge in several broad areas that are desired by public and corporate accounting employers. It helps students understand that technical competence in the work environment is not the only important aspect of your professional responsibility. Professionalism is a course that will provide informative insights and tools for enhancing career opportunities.

Prerequisites: ACCT 2020 with a grade of C or better. This course may not be taken more than twice at UNT.

TEXT AND OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS: *Professionalism Skills for Workplace Success 3rd Edition* (Anderson/Bolt, Pearson-Prentice Hall, 2013).

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Enables students to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to function effectively and to succeed in the business world. Topics vary but typically include dressing for success, confidence and motivation, self-assessment, handling conflict and stress, personal and business ethics, dining etiquette, resume writing, professional certification opportunities, job search and interviewing, and the necessity for continuous self-improvement. This course has the following specific learning objectives:

- Understand the importance of technical skills and professional attitudes
- Understand how ethical attitudes, personality, and attitude can affect career success
- Understand the importance of self-assessment in the workplace
- Understand how conflict and stress can affect you in the workplace
- Understand the importance of networking in your profession
- Enhance your interpersonal skills through mock and actual interviews
- Understand the value of an internship
- Develop a job search strategy

LEARNING PHILOSOPHY: Student success is most effective when you take responsibility for your own learning. What you achieve from this course is based upon your commitment to mastering the material. *I am committed to helping you learn by assisting you in your personal learning experience.* This involves providing motivation, guidance, as well as opportunities for learning. You will learn by mastering assigned materials, setting high expectations, and emphasizing the relevance of the course material by explicitly linking it to real-world problems and decisions. There will be numerous references to real world problems that will benefit you and facilitate your ability to respond to a changing environment. While many of you know some of what will be offered in this course based on your life and work experience, your responsibility is to integrate your prior knowledge and the knowledge gained from this course to enhance your career opportunities. My role is to provide guidance by furnishing the appropriate information and tools, modeling desired behavior, and giving constructive and timely feedback. I am also prepared and willing to provide student counseling related to your challenges in the course.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Use of electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, pagers, etc.) is NOT ACCEPTABLE in this class. If I discover your use of any of these devices in class, I will stop my discussion/lecture and ask you to put your device away. This may prove to be embarrassing; however, consider it a learning lesson. If you are fired from your first job for using electronic devices in a meeting, that would be much worse! Repeated use of electronic devices will result in me dropping you from the class. **EXCEPTION:** If you are using a computer, iPad, or similar device to take notes and assist in the learning process that is acceptable and please do not take offense if I confirm that you are using devices for this purpose. However, using these devices to check your e-mail, etc., is not acceptable.

BLACKBOARD LEARN: The course is supported by the Blackboard Learn (<https://learn.unt.edu/>) course delivery system. I will use Blackboard Learn and email to communicate with you, to provide you with course materials, including course syllabi, handouts, PowerPoint Slides, and other assignments. Each student will receive a Blackboard login and password through the college of business website (YOU CANNOT USE the blackboard link (*in black with white letters*) at the very top of the page <http://www.cob.unt.edu/>. Only Blackboard Learn system can be used. The connection is then made by clicking on the blackboard header at the top of the login page.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance is a graded activity and is expected. Attendance will be taken each class. Remember that the course goes on, whether or not you are present. Attendance is a direct component of your class grade. Missing the following days will result in substantial loss of attendance points from your final grades (March 24th, March 31st, April 7th, and April 14th). Habitual tardiness is unprofessional and will be treated as absences.

INTEGRITY: Ethics and values are very important in accounting and the professional environment in which you will be working and are equally important in education. I will assume, unless there is evidence to the contrary, that you are an ethical student. To help you fulfill your ethical responsibilities as a student, please refer to the University policy for information on academic integrity standards of the University of North Texas. If there is an academic integrity violation, university recommended sanctions for academic integrity violations will be imposed. The university academic integrity policy can be found at <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>.

CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS: A syllabus is a tool to help you plan your time. Every effort is made to make the syllabus as complete as possible, but there may be occasions when changes are required. Your professor will announce any deviations from this syllabus through email and class announcements.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: Please use your own good judgment during inclement weather. My plan is to hold class whenever the University is open. If you are in doubt, please check the Blackboard site for our course for a university announcement.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive. This type of behavior will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom, and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Please note the guidelines for the arrangement of testing accommodations for students with disabilities. Students are responsible for requesting accommodations from the Office of Disability Accommodation, according to its procedures and policies. To verify the eligibility of the student, students are expected to show appropriate documentation to the instructor when they first request accommodation. Students are to provide a written request for each test accommodation to their instructor (an e-mail will suffice provided you have received a reply from the instructor).

CLASS EVALUATION (SETE): The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT as is the College of Business (CoB) teaching effectiveness survey. These two surveys will be made available to you near the end of the semester providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

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<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Assignments Due at Beginning of Class</i>	<i>Topic: Assignment & Instructions</i>
1	1/13	Introduction: Ch 1 – Attitude, Goal Setting, and Life Management	Introduction of class policies & How do I go about setting goals and managing my life?
2	1/20	MLK Day	No Class
3	1/27	Ch 14 Resume Writing, Cover Letter and Thank You	Formats of Resume, Cover Letter and Thank You Letters Discussed
4	2/3	Ch 15 Interview Techniques	Resume/Cover Letter Due Date Mock Interview Sign-up Sheet
5	2/10	Ch 7 Quality Organizations and Service ACCT Internship Program	Value of Internship: Guest Presenter: Professor Harvey Zimmermann, UNT and Retired KPMG Partner Guest Speakers: Accounting Interns
6	2/17	Mock Interviews – Career Center	Practice Mock Interviews, Career Center Suite 103
7	2/24	Ch 15 Networking and Professional Conversations	Review of CoB CF, On-Campus Interviews and Eagle Network Thank You Letter Assignment Due Date
7	2/26	CoB Internship & Career Fair	UNT Coliseum, 3:00-7:00 PM – Swipe student id
8	3/3	Ch 4 Etiquette Dining/Dress/Business Ch 10 – Electronic Communications	
9	3/10	Spring Break	No class
10	3/17	Ch 13 Job Searching Skills- Career Exploration – What can I do with a major in Accounting	Review job search techniques and areas of employment
11	3/24	Ch 16 Career Changes and Success Government Accounting	Job Search Assignment Due Guest Speaker: Denise Corcoran CPA, IRS Crime Investigation Unit
12	3/31	Ch 11 Motivation, Leadership, and Teams Ch 6 Accountability and Workplace Public Accounting	Guest Speaker: Grant Thornton, Deloitte & Hein Associates Discuss public accounting
13	4/7	Ch 5 Ethics, Politics, and Diversity Internal Audit	Guest Speaker:
14	4/14	Ch 9 Communication and Professional Presence Industry Accounting	Guest Speaker: Carter Truly, Director of Finance and Operations Texas Instruments
15	4/21	Ch 12 Conflict and Negotiation Ch 8 Human Resources, Salary Negotiations and Performance Evaluations	
16	4/28	Ch 3 Time Management and Organizations Skills	CoB Graduate School, CPA Exam Requirements Final Project Due Date

SUMMARY OF COURSE GRADING COMPONENTS AND GRADE SCALE:

A. Class Attendance and Engagement	100 points
B. Resume/Cover Letter Assignment	50 points
C. Mock Interview Participation	75 points
D. Thank You Letter Assignment	25 points
E. Job Search Assignment	50 points
F. Final Project Assignment	100 points

Total available course points 400 points

Final letter grades will be determined on a standard average scale where: A = 90% or above, B = 89% to 80%, C = 79% to 70%, D = 69% to 60%, and F = below 60%.

A. CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is a graded activity and is expected. Attendance will be taken each class. Remember that the course goes on, whether or not you are present. Attendance is a direct component of your class grade.

Missing the following days will result in substantial loss of attendance points from your final grades (March 24th, March 31st, April 7th, and April 14th). Habitual tardiness is unprofessional and will be treated as absences.

B. RESUME/COVER LETTER:

The goal of this assignment is to help you create a resume, cover letter and thank you note that can be used in the professional business world, or in any other employment opportunity. **As discussed in class, a professional resume and cover letter will be due Feb. 3rd at the beginning of class.** Please apply professional content and appropriate formatting to these documents.

C. MOCK INTERVIEWS:

You will participate in a 30 minute mock interview with an employer. This is an opportunity to learn and practice your interviewing skills with a professional. Employers will ask you several questions and provide you with feedback. Please use this opportunity to improve or learn more about interviewing. This is a learning experience. **Mock interviews are scheduled for Feb. 17th at the UNT Career Center.**

***** Professional dress is required*****

D. THANK YOU LETTER:

We will have guest speakers in class, mock interviews with employers and other opportunities for engagement with employers. You will be required to write a thank you note to an employer. You will use business letter format. Examples and discussion will be covered in class. **Thank you letter will be due on Feb. 24th at the beginning of class.**

E. JOB SEARCH ASSIGNMENT:

The purpose of this assignment is to research potential jobs you would apply for before graduation. Blackboard Learn has the assignment format for you to follow. Make sure to include a cover page with the correct information when you submit your assignment. **Job Search Assignment is due March 24th at the beginning of class.**

F. FINAL PROJECT:

Four weeks before the final project is due, you will be given your assignment for the final project. This final project should be in a professional format (including a cover page). Be sure that all materials are free of spelling and grammatical errors. The final project will be a professional document you would submit to your supervisor. **Final project is due on April 28th at the beginning of class.**