

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS**  
**ACCT 3405 CLASS POLICIES – Summer 2015**  
**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT<sup>®</sup>**

Instructor: Christine Ellis, M.Ed.  
Meeting time: Monday/Wednesday 12:30 p.m. – 1:50 pm, BLB 225  
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 you understand that technical competence in the work environment is not the only important aspect of your professional responsibility. Professional Development is a course that will provide informative insights and tools for enhancing career opportunities. In addition to faculty instructions, topics are covered by using former students and other guest lecturers from business, industry and government to expose students to valuable insights from first-hand experiences.

**Prerequisites:** ACCT 3110 with a grade of C or better. This course may not be taken more than twice at UNT.

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

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Enables students to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to function effectively and 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:

- Describe 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
- Recognize the importance of networking in your profession
- Enhance your interpersonal skills through mock interviews
- Develop a professional resume, cover and thank you letter
- 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 by the end of 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 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 then that is acceptable.

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**BLACKBOARD LEARN:** The course is supported by the Blackboard Learn (<https://learn.unt.edu/>) course delivery system. I will use Blackboard Learn 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 <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. Habitual tardiness is unprofessional and will be treated as absences. **Class attendance will be worth a total of 20 points.** Everyone begins the class with 20 points for attendance. Attendance points will be assigned using the following schedule:

Attendance Policy	Total Points Lost
1 class missed	0
2 classes missed	-5
3 classes missed	-10
4 classes missed	-15
5 classes missed	-20

**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](http://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).

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<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics/Reading</b>	<b>In Class Assignments &amp; Instructions</b>
1	6/8	Chapters 1 & 11 Attitude, Goal Setting, and Life Management	Introduction of class policies and syllabus, how to set professional goals
	6/10	Chapters 14 & 9 Resume Writing, Cover Letter and Thank You Letter Communication	Ex: Formats of Resume, Cover Letter and Thank You Letter Discussion: Resume Assignment
2	6/15	Chapters 15 & 4 Interview Techniques Networking and Professional Conversations	Discussion: Handout Sign-up for Mock Interviews Discussion: Networking Practice Event  <b>Resume Assignment Due: 6/15</b>
	6/17	Chapters 13 & 6 Job Search Skills ACCT Career Exploration Internship Experience	Discussion: Job Search Assignment Discussion: Internship Program and Requirements
3	6/22	Chapters 12, 5 Ethics, Understanding Ethical Standards as an Accountant	<b>Job Search Assignment Due: 6/22</b> <b>Mock Interview, Meet at Career Center, Suite 103</b> ***Professional Business Dress***
	6/24	Chapter 4 Business and Etiquette Dining	<b>Networking Practice Event</b> <b>BLB Seminar Rooms 281 &amp; 282 on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor</b> *** Professional Dress***
4	6/29	<b>Public ACCT – Audit , Tax &amp; Advisory</b> Chapter 16 Human Resources, Performance Evaluations	Feedback Mock Interviews <b>Employer Guest Speakers: Public ACCT, CPA Huselton, Morgan, &amp; Maultsby (HMM)</b>
	7/1	<b>Governmental Accounting</b> Chapters 9, 10 Communication	<b>Employer Guest Speakers: UNT Alumni TX Comptroller of Public Accountants</b>
5	7/6	<b>Industry/Corporate Accounting</b> Chapter 3 Time Management	<b>Guest Speaker: Derrick Sullivan, CIA</b> <b>Fed Ex Services</b> <b>Final Project Due: 7/6</b>
	7/8	Chapter 16 Career Success and Certificates	Discussion: Graduate Programs and CPA Requirements

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**SUMMARY OF COURSE GRADING COMPONENTS AND GRADE SCALE:**

A. Class Attendance and Engagement	20 points
B. Resume Assignment	35 points
C. Job Search Assignment	25 points
D. Mock Interview Participation	50 points
E. Mock Networking Practice Event	40 points
F. Final Project Assignment	<u>30 points</u>

Total available course points 200 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:**

Class attendance will be worth a total of 20 points. Everyone begins the class with 20 points. You lose points when you do not attend. Habitual tardiness is unprofessional and will be treated as absences. Please remember when we have employers in class, class will start promptly at 12:30 pm.

**B. RESUME ASSIGNMENT:**

The goal of this assignment is to help you create a resume that can be used in the professional business world, or in any other employment opportunity. **As discussed in class, professional resume will be due June 15<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class.** Please apply professional content and appropriate formatting to these documents. Make sure you include a cover page with the correct information when you submit your assignment.

**C. 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 June 22<sup>th</sup>.**

**D. 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 June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the UNT Career Center.**  
**\*\*\* Professional dress is required\*\*\* No make-up for missed Interview Assignment\*\*\*\***

**E. PRACTICE NETWORKING EVENT:**

You will have an opportunity to practice your networking skills with employers and alumni. In class, you will learn how to network, topics for professional discussion and gain skill sets to introduce yourself to employers. **Event is scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup> \*\*Professional dress is required\*\*\***

**F. FINAL PROJECT:**

You will be given your assignment for the final project in class. This final project should be in professional format. Instructions passed out in class. Be sure that all materials are free of spelling and grammatical errors. The final project should be a professional document you would turn into your supervisor. **Final project is due on July 6<sup>th</sup> the beginning of class.**

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Please note the guidelines for submission of assignments in the course. All assignments are due at the beginning of class and require a cover page. Assignments without a cover page will not be accepted. Example of correct format of cover page is included on Blackboard.

**The cover page should be typed and include:**

- Student's Last, First Name
- ACCT 3405.001 or ACCT 3405.002
- Name of Assignment: ie: Job Search Assignment
- Due Date: Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015