Module Description and Scope

This advanced module on assurance and attestation aims to provide students with a more in-depth understanding of certain advanced auditing topics and specialized audits. These audits are often more complex and additional issues need to be considered. Students will gain an appreciation of the depth and breadth of the scope of work of an auditor. Additionally, it is also important for students to understand the psychological biases that may be present when they are making professional judgments in the course of their audit work and learn how to overcome them.

This module builds on the knowledge, skills and attitudes acquired in ACC3603 Assurance and Attestation and also integrates knowledge gained in other courses including ACC1002 Financial Accounting, BSP1004 Legal Environment of Business, ACC3601 Corporate Accounting and Reporting and ACC3611 Corporate Governance and Ethics.

At the end of this module, students would have a better understanding of the techniques and issues involved in various types of assurance services and other more technical aspects of a statutory audit.

Pedagogy

This module meets twice a week. The first meeting of each week consists of a lecture where the instructor give a lecture on the topic of the week and the second meeting of each week consists of seminar discussions and/or presentations. Seminar discussion questions are designed to provide students with opportunities for interactions and discussions with other seminar participants to discover, learn and assimilate knowledge, refine skills and apply their knowledge in problem solving.

Students are expected to take responsibilities for their own learning by doing the assigned readings and completing the seminar discussion questions before class. Students are also expected to contribute to class discussions during the seminars.
Module Assessment

Seminar Participation  15%
Seminar Group Presentation  15%
Group Project  20%
Final test  50%
Total  100%

Seminar Participation (15%)

Seminar participation includes individual contributions to discussions in seminars and can take the form of an insightful question, comment, or response. Both the quality and consistency of participation are considered in grading seminar participation. Good performance in seminar participation often reflects excellent preparation, good critical thinking, listening and communication skills, and, most importantly, a willingness to share questions, thoughts and ideas with others.

Seminar Group Presentation (15%)

Students are expected to form themselves into groups of about 4 students (number to be confirmed as it depends on class size). The objective of the seminar group presentation is to develop students’ analytical, critical thinking, research and presentation skills. Each group will be in charge of one seminar presentation. Students will be graded as a group and the elements that they will be assessed will include (but not limited to): **content** (originality, accuracy, sound reasoning, relevance and ability to respond to queries from the class/instructor) and **presentation skills** (e.g., professionalism, active engagement of the class, clarity, coherence and appropriate use of audio-visual aids).

Group Project (20%)

Students are also required to submit a group project (to be announced). Students will be graded as a group and the elements that they will be assessed on originality, accuracy, sound reasoning, relevance, conciseness and report writing skills.

Final Test (50%)

The final test is case-based, and will be **open-book**. Students will be tested on their understanding of the key auditing concepts and methodologies covered in this module as well as their ability to address issues and/or solve problems. Current developments and events reported in the press, business periodicals and professional journals may also be covered.
References

There is no prescribed textbook for this module. Instead readings will be assigned for each topic and they will be uploaded on the IVLE workbin.

Relevant standards

SSA  Singapore Standards on Auditing

SSAE  Singapore Standards on Assurance Engagements

AGS  Audit Guidance Statement

FRS  Financial Reporting Standards

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<th>Module Instructors</th>
<th>Office location</th>
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<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>(Co-lecturer)</td>
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<td>Session No.</td>
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<td>Topics and activities</td>
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<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
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| 1          | Feb 1        | 1. **Types of Assurance Services**  
|            |              |   a. Introduction to assurance services  
|            |              |   b. Difference between assurance services and attestation  
|            |              |   c. Different types of assurance services offered by accounting firms  
|            |              | **Auditors’ Judgments** | CG |
| 2          | Feb 8        | 2. **Professional Judgments I**  
|            |              |   a. Factors affecting professional judgments  
|            |              |   b. Sources of judgment error and mitigating mechanisms  
|            |              |   c. Factors affecting audit judgments of management’s estimates  
| 3          | Feb 15       | 3. **Professional Judgments II**  
|            |              |   a. The concept of materiality  
|            |              |   b. Relationship between risk, materiality and audit tests  
| 4          | Feb 22       | 4. **Audit Sampling**  
|            |              |   a. Key concepts in audit sampling  
|            |              |   b. Audit sampling methods and approaches  
|            |              |   c. Strengths and weaknesses of various sampling methods/approaches  
|            |              |   d. Factors to consider in sampling decisions  
|            |              | **IT Audit** | CG |
| 5          | Mar 1        | 5. **Computer Assisted Audit Techniques (CAATs)**  
|            |              |   a. Impact of CIS on audits  
|            |              |   b. General and application controls  
|            |              |   c. CAATs: uses and limitations  
| 6          | Mar 8        | 6. **ACL Lab Session**  
|            |              |   a. Use of audit software to perform audit procedures  
|            |              | **Specialized Audits** | CG |
| 7          | Mar 15       | 7. **Internal Audit**  
|            |              |   a. Independence  
|            |              |   b. Value-added Audit  
|            |              |   c. Scope of Service  
|            |              |   d. Internal Audit Standards  
<p>|            |              |   e. Internal Audit Reports  |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Session No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mar 22</td>
<td><strong>8. Forensic Audits I</strong>&lt;br&gt;a. Accounting and Legal Fundamentals for Forensic Audit&lt;br&gt;b. Forensic accounting tools and techniques&lt;br&gt;c. Forensic Investigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>To be confirmed</td>
<td><strong>10. M &amp; A Due Diligence</strong></td>
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### Advanced Audit Topics

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<td>11</td>
<td>Apr 5</td>
<td><strong>11. Manufacturing Audits</strong>&lt;br&gt;a. Assessment of stages of completion&lt;br&gt;b. Work in progress&lt;br&gt;c. Progress billings&lt;br&gt;d. Assessment of the adequacy of provision for foreseeable losses&lt;br&gt;e. Other issues</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Apr 12</td>
<td><strong>12. Group Audit I</strong>&lt;br&gt;a. Responsibility of group auditor&lt;br&gt;b. Audit risk assessment&lt;br&gt;c. Materiality considerations – component materiality&lt;br&gt;d. Matters relevant to planning the work of&lt;br&gt;e. Reliance on work of component auditors&lt;br&gt;f. Subsequent event review&lt;br&gt;g. component auditors</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Apr 19</td>
<td><strong>13. Group Audit II</strong>&lt;br&gt;a. Goodwill on consolidation&lt;br&gt;b. Consolidation adjustment schedules&lt;br&gt;c. Inter-company balances elimination&lt;br&gt;d. Unrealized profit adjustment&lt;br&gt;e. Evaluation of misstatements in component financial statement&lt;br&gt;f. Impact of misstatements on audit report</td>
<td>DC</td>
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