

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY



**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA
IN ACCOUNTING
and
MASTER OF ACCOUNTING**

UNIT OUTLINE

**ACCG856 AUDITING &
ASSURANCE SERVICES**

Trimester 1, 2008

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL STUDIES
UNIT OUTLINE ACCG856

Year and Trimester: 2008 Trimester 1

Lecturer in Charge: Victoria Lakis

Prerequisites: ACCG853, ACCG855, ACCG861, ACCG862

Students in this unit should read this unit outline carefully at the start of the trimester. It contains important information about the unit. If anything in it is unclear, please consult one of the teaching staff in the unit.

UNIT DESCRIPTION (3 credit points)

This unit is structured within the framework of the audit risk model and thus begins with a discussion of the main components of that model - inherent risk, control risk and detection risk. After analysis and discussion of auditing standards and responsibilities, the unit seeks to examine the manner in which auditors gather evidence in the evaluation of inherent risk and control risk, and in other audit procedures necessary within the framework of the audit risk model. Included in this explanation is material on some of the techniques used by auditors in carrying out evaluations and other audit procedures. The unit concludes with the completion stage of the audit, being that part of the audit concerned with evaluation of audit evidence collected during the audit and the subsequent issue of the audit report.

This unit is primarily concerned with the external audit of corporate financial statements. The lectures presented are structured to correspond with audit methodology used in practice and integrate Australian Auditing Standards.

TEACHING STAFF

Lecturer in Charge: Victoria Lakis

Email:

Adrian Klamer

Email:

Please note that staff will only respond to emails that are sent by students from their Macquarie University email address.

CLASSES

The timetable for classes in Trimester 1, 2008 are as follows:-

12pm-3pm C5A 301	Monday
3pm-6pm C5A 304	Monday
6pm-9pm C5A 304	Monday
12pm-3pm C5A 301	Tuesday
9am-12pm C5A 301	Wednesday

You MUST attend the scheduled class into which you are enrolled.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS

All students should purchase from the Co-op Bookshop the following:

Gay, G. and Simnett, R., *Auditing and Assurance Services in Australia, Revised* Third edition, McGraw-Hill Book Company Australia Pty Limited, 2007.

The following texts are useful as additional references.:

Auditing Handbook: "Auditing Handbook 2007", being volume 2 of the Accounting and Auditing Handbook 2007, published by Prentice Hall.

Leung, P., Coram P., Cooper, B.J., Cosserat, G. and Gill, G.S., *Modern Auditing and Assurance Services*, Third edition, John Wiley & Sons Australia, Ltd, 2007

WORLD WIDE WEB (WWW) SITE

Students can access the Web site for ACCG856 from either their home/office (via modem) or at University computers.

The url is: <http://online.mq.edu.au>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This unit seeks to develop student's generic skills through critical analysis, problem solving and creative thinking.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

The lectures mainly deal with the concepts underlying the methodology, while the tutorial material is designed to demonstrate how the methodology is applied in practical situations.

Attendance at lectures is highly recommended. There will be practical explanations and examples given in lectures which supplement the text material and tutorial questions. If you choose not to attend lectures, it would be wise to be aware of any announcements made in lectures that could affect your study.

The objective of tutorial assignments is to apply audit theory to practical situations. These **MUST** be attempted on a weekly basis. Students are expected to have pre-prepared these questions before each tutorial. **Five (5) tutorial assignments will be collected at random by lecturers and will count towards 10% of your total assessment.**

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following forms of assessment will be undertaken during the trimester:

Mid-trimester test	35%
Tutorial Assignments (5 in total)	10%
In-class Presentation	5%
Final examination	50%
TOTAL	100%

To obtain a pass in the course, it is necessary to:

- (a) attempt ALL assessment components, and
- (b) obtain a pass in the final examination, and
- (c) obtain an overall passing grade for the course.

Mid-Trimester Test

The mid-trimester test will be held on **Saturday 8th March, 2008**. The test will last approximately 90 minutes, with ten minutes of reading time. It will encompass topics covered in **weeks 1 to 6 inclusive**.

Tutorial Assignments

Five (5) tutorial assignments (each worth a maximum of two (2) marks) will be collected at random and graded accordingly:-

- (i) **2 marks** for each assignment completed satisfactorily (that is, all questions reasonably attempted);
- (ii) **1 mark** for assignments not completed satisfactorily (that is, incomplete answers or questions not answered); and,
- (iii) **0 marks** for assignments either not handed in or where questions poorly attempted.

You **MUST** attend your allocated lecture and hand in your tutorial assignments to your lecturer. **Late submissions will not be accepted. Half-marks will NOT be given. All assignments MUST be handwritten.**

In-class Presentation

Students will be selected each week and allocated a tutorial question to present in class the following week. In-class presentations will commence in Week 2. Your mark will be given to you in the week following your presentation by your lecturer together with feedback. All presentations are to be limited in duration to no longer than 10 minutes each.

Marks will be based on technical content and presentation skills.

As tutorial solutions will NOT be posted on the ACCG856 website, all discussions of tutorial questions will occur in class following each presentation.

Final Examination

The final exam will be 2 1/2 hours with ten minutes reading time. Note that marks are deducted for poor grammar, spelling and expression.

Material that is examinable is

- all material presented at lectures,
- all material included in the prescribed text readings (including all questions at the end of each chapter),
- all tutorial assignment questions,
- and material in the Auditing Handbook that is referred to in the lecture notes or that relates to tutorial assignment questions.

The university examination period for Trimester 1 2008 is from 14 April to 19 April. You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available on the Master of Accounting website in Week 10.

The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Special Consideration. Information about unavoidable disruption and the special consideration process is available at <http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APSCon.pdf> Special Consideration forms must be submitted to the MAcc office, E4A Level 2, Reception within 2 days of the original examination.

You are advised that it is Macquarie University policy not to set early examinations for individuals or groups of students. All students are expected to ensure that they are available until the end of the teaching trimester, that is the final day of the official examination period.

PLAGIARISM

The University defines plagiarism in its rules: "Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one's own. "Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University's rules and carries significant penalties. You must read the University's practices and procedures on plagiarism. These can be found in the *Handbook of Undergraduate Studies* or on the web at: <http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/>

The policies and procedures explain what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, the procedures that will be taken in cases of suspected plagiarism, and the penalties if you are found guilty. Penalties may include a deduction of marks, failure in the unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON GRADING

Academic Senate has a set of guidelines on the distribution of grades across the range from fail to high distinction. Your final result will include one of these grades plus a standardised numerical grade (SNG).

On occasion your raw mark for a unit (i.e., the total of your marks for each assessment item) may not be the same as the SNG which you receive. Under the Senate guidelines, results may be scaled to ensure that there is a degree of comparability across the university, so that units with the same past performances of their students should achieve similar results.

It is important that you realise that the policy does not require that a minimum number of students are to be failed in any unit. In fact it does something like the opposite, in requiring examiners to explain their actions if more than 20% of students fail in a unit.

The process of scaling does not change the order of marks among students. A student who receives a higher raw mark than another will also receive a higher final scaled mark.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at:

<http://www.student.mq.edu.au>

DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE

Schedule of topics		
Week No	Week Commencing	Topic
1	21 January	Introduction to audit and assurance services and the auditing profession
2	28 January	Elements of the financial reporting audit process
3	4 February	Knowledge of the business and evaluating strategic business risk
4	11 February	Inherent risk assessment and materiality (Video: 4 Corners – HII Report)
5	18 February	NCELTR – Exam Techniques (first 90 minutes only) Internal control structure and assessing control risk
6	25 February	Test of controls
7	3 March	Substantive tests of transactions and balances
		<i>MID TERM EXAM Saturday 8 March</i>
8	10 March	Completing the audit (Video: The auditor in Court)
9	17 March	Opinion Formulation
10	24 March	Ethics, Independence and corporate governance (Video: How to Detect and Prevent Financial Statement Fraud)
11	31 March	Legal liability of Auditors
12	7 April	Other Assurance Services
13	14 April	Exam week

Lecture 1

Introduction to audit and assurance services and the auditing profession

References:

Gay and Simnett Chapters 1 and 2

ASA 200 Objective and General Principles Governing an Audit of a Financial Report
ASA 220 Quality Control for Audits of Historical Financial Information

Tutorial Questions:

1.16, 1.21, 1.26, 1.31, 2.23, 2.30

Lecture 2

Elements of the Financial Reporting Audit Process

References:

Gay and Simnett Chapter 5

ASA 230: Audit Documentation
ASA 315: Understanding the Entity and its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement
ASA 500: Audit Evidence

Tutorial Questions:

5.19, 5.21, 5.26, 5.27, 5.29

Lecture 3

Knowledge of the Business and Evaluating Strategic Business Risk

References:

Gay and Simnett Chapter 6

ASA 210: Terms of Audit Engagements
ASA 300: Planning an Audit of a Financial Report
ASA 315: Understanding the Entity and its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement
ASA 510: Initial Engagement – Opening Balances
ASA 520: Analytical Procedures

Tutorial Questions:

6.18, 6.21, 6.23 (v) & (vi), 6.30

Lecture 4

Inherent Risk Assessment and Materiality

Video:

HHH Report

References:

Gay and Simnett Chapter 7

ASA 300: Planning an Audit of a Financial Report

ASA 320: Materiality and Audit Adjustments

ASA 315: Understanding the Entity and its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement

ASA 570: Going Concern

Tutorial Questions:

7.14, 7.16 (1) to (4), 7.16 (5) to (8), 7.23

Lecture 5

Internal Control Structure and Assessing Control Risk

References:

Gay and Simnett Chapter 8

ASA 315: Understanding the Entity and its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement

ASA 402: Audit Considerations Relating to Entities using Service Organisations

ASA 610: Considering the work of Internal Audit

Tutorial Questions:

8.17, 8.18, 8.21, 8.24

Lecture 6

Tests of Controls

References:

Gay and Simnett Chapter 9

ASA 315: Understanding the Entity and its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement

ASA 500: Audit Evidence

AGS 1060 Computer Assisted Audit Techniques

Tutorial Questions:

9.18, 9.20, 9.24, 9.26

Lecture 7

Substantive Tests of Transactions and Balances

References:

Gay and Simnett Chapter 10

ASA 500: Audit Evidence

ASA 505: External Confirmations

ASA 501: Existence and Valuation of Inventory

AGS 1002: Bank Confirmation Requests

Tutorial Questions:

10.19, 10.21, 10.23, 10.32

Lecture 8

Completing the Audit

Video:

The Auditor in Court

References:

Gay and Simnett Chapter 12

ASA 580: Management Representations

ASA 560: Subsequent Events

ASA 570: Going Concern

Tutorial Questions:

12.16, 12.18, 12.20 (b) and (c) only (i) to (iv); 12.20 (b) and (c) only (v) to (viii)

Lecture 9

Opinion Formulation

References:

Gay and Simnett Chapter 13

ASA 700: The Auditor's Report on a General Purpose Financial Report

Tutorial Questions:

13.19, 13.27, 13.29

Lecture 10

Ethics, independence and corporate governance

Video:

How to Detect and Prevent Financial Statement Fraud

References:

Gay and Simnett Chapter 3

CPC Joint Code of Professional Conduct

ASA 240: The Auditor's Responsibility to Consider Fraud and Error in an Audit of a Financial Report

Tutorial Questions:

3.23, 3.26, 3.28, 3.31

<p style="text-align: center;">Lecture 11 Legal liability of Auditors</p>

References:

Gay and Simnett Chapter 4

CPC Joint Code of Professional Conduct

ASA 240 The Auditor's Responsibility to Consider Fraud and Error in an Audit of a Financial Report

AGS 1014 Privity Letter Requests

Tutorial Questions:

4.17, 4.18, 4.25, 4.28

<p style="text-align: center;">Lecture 12 Other Assurance Services</p>
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References:

Gay and Simnett Chapter 14

ASA 800: The Auditor's Report on Special Purpose Audit Engagements

ASRE 2410: Review of an Interim Financial Report Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity

Tutorial Questions:

14.21, 14.27, 14.28

The Auditor in Court

Issues to consider while watching the tape

Part 1. Planning Supervision and Control

The auditor failed to comply with the requirement that the auditor should properly plan, supervise and control the audit and keep a full record of the work done.

- A) List as many errors the auditors made as you can.
- B) How can they be avoided?

Part 2. Accounting Systems and Internal controls

There are two different systems on which the auditor wrongly placed reliance.

- A) What were the two systems?
- B) How did they fail?
- C) What was the extent of misstatement?

Part 3. Audit Evidence

The auditors failed to carry out procedures designed to gather sufficient appropriate evidence resulting in failure to discover four errors.

- A) What were the 4 errors?
- B) What was the audit failure?

We will not watch part 4 of the tape.

CRAZY EDDIE, INC.

WHERE WERE THE AUDITORS?

When the scale of the Crazy Eddie fraud was revealed to the public, the question on the minds of many investors, creditors, and other interested parties was, "Where were the auditors?" when all this chicanery was occurring. Four different accounting firms audited Crazy Eddie's financial statements over its turbulent history. Antar dismissed Crazy Eddie's first accounting firm, a local firm, before he took the company public. The underwriting firm that managed Crazy Eddie's initial public offering urged Antar to retain a more prestigious accounting firm to increase the public's confidence in the company's financial statements. As a result, Antar retained Main Hurdman to serve as Crazy Eddie's audit firm. Main Hurdman had a nationwide accounting practice with several prominent clients in the consumer electronics industry. In the mid-1980s, Peat Marwick became Crazy Eddie's audit firm when it merged with Main Hurdman. Following the corporate takeover of Crazy Eddie in 1987, Peat Marwick was replaced by Touche Ross.

Much of the criticism stemming from the Crazy Eddie scandal focused on Main Hurdman and its successor, Peat Marwick. Published reports suggest that the audit fees charged Crazy Eddie by Main Hurdman were unreasonably low. In one year, the accounting firm reportedly charged Crazy Eddie only \$85,000 for a full-scope independent audit—an audit of a firm that had several hundred million dollars of revenues. A leading critic of major accounting firms alleged that Main Hurdman had "lowballed" to obtain the Crazy Eddie audit, realizing that it could make up for any lost audit revenue by selling the company consulting services.

In one year, Main Hurdman charged only \$85,000 to do a complete audit of Crazy Eddie—a business with hundreds of millions of dollars in reported revenues, dozens of retail stores, and two large warehouses. At the very same time that Main Hurdman was charging the bargain basement price of \$85,000 for supposedly conducting an audit, its consulting division was charging Crazy Eddie millions of dollars to computerize Crazy Eddie's inventory system.⁵

Extract from:

Knapp M.C., "Contemporary Auditing: Real Issues and Cases
4th Edition, ISACA, 2001.

This same individual questioned Main Hurdman's ability to objectively audit an inventory system that it had effectively developed. Main Hurdman's independence was also questioned because many of Crazy Eddie's accountants were former members of that accounting firm. Critics charge that a company that hires one or more of its former auditors can more easily conceal fraudulent activities during the course of subsequent audits. That is, a former auditor may help his or her new employer undermine subsequent audits. Crazy Eddie's hiring of several of its former auditors was not unusual; auditors often accept positions with former clients when they leave public accounting. Many accounting firms actually arrange such "placements," a practice that has been widely challenged.

You would think that if an auditor wanted to leave a public accounting firm, he or she would be discouraged from going to work for clients they had audited. Instead, just the opposite is true with big accounting firms encouraging their personnel to work for clients in the apparent belief that it helps cement the accountant-client relationship.⁶

Most of the criticism directed at Crazy Eddie's auditors stemmed from their failure to uncover the huge overstatement of the company's inventory and the related understatement of accounts payable. Third parties who filed suit against the auditors charged them with "aiding and abetting" the fraud by failing to thoroughly investigate numerous suspicious circumstances they discovered. Of particular concern were several reported instances in which the auditors requested client documents, only to be told that those documents had been lost or inadvertently destroyed.

In Peat Marwick and Main Hurdman's defense, Antar and his associates engaged in a large-scale plan to deceive the auditors. For example, after discovering which inventory sites the auditors would be visiting at year-end, Antar would ship sufficient inventory to those stores or warehouses to conceal any shortages. Likewise, Crazy Eddie personnel systematically destroyed incriminating documents to conceal inventory shortages from the auditors. Antar also ordered his employees to stop using the sophisticated, computer-based inventory system designed by Main Hurdman. Instead, the accounting personnel were required to return to an archaic manual inventory system previously used by the company. The absence of a computer-based inventory system made it much more difficult for the auditors to determine exactly how much inventory the firm had at any point in time.

A particularly disturbing aspect of the Crazy Eddie scandal was the involvement of several key accounting employees in the various fraudulent schemes. Among the parties who were charged with participating in the fraud or being aware of it were the director of the internal audit staff, the acting controller, and the director of accounts payable. Past experience has proven that a fraud involving the collusion of numerous client executives, particularly key accounting personnel, is extremely difficult for auditors to uncover.

5. M.I. Weiss, "Auditors: Be Watchdogs, Not Just Bean Counters," *Accounting Today*, 15 November 1993, 41.

6. *Ibid.*, 42.

CRAZY EDDIE'S
How to Detect and Prevent Financial Statement Fraud

- **Asset/Revenue Understatements**
eg: to reduce income taxes
skimming money
no internal control / no documentation

- **Assessing the Risk of Fraud**
Domination of board / management
Reduce Tax Liability
Increase Profitability
Weak Monitoring I/C
Weak internal controls
Non financial personnel in accounting function
High obsolescence
Significant banking transactions overseas

- **Misstatements as a result of:**
Understated Liabilities
 Expenses
Overstated Assets
 Revenues

- **Achieved by:**
 - 1) **Timing Difference (recording in wrong period)**

(a) Early revenue recognition (record July Sales in June)
(b) Delay expense recognition (record June Exp in July)

Steps to detect
 - Cut off examination of journals etc. especially bank account
eg: deposits in transit
 - Verify dates outside company
 - Inquire of staff regarding dates

 - 2) **Fictitious Income (false sales)**

Steps to detect
 - Examine all significant or unusual journal entries
 - Confirm sales and sales documentation
 - Examine unusual sales transactions

 - 3) **Returns Allowance and Warranties**

Steps to detect
 - Examine Warehouse
 - Offsite storage
 - Analytical Review

- Contact customers
- Interview vendors to confirm returns

4) Concealment of Liabilities and Expense

- (a) Fail to record liabilities
 Conceal liabilities (in a draw)

Steps to detect

- Search for unrecorded liabilities
- Examine payment after balance sheet date
- Interview suppliers
- Examine draws
- Interview employees

- (b) Record Expense as an asset

Steps to detect

- Ensure adequate classifications

5) Improper Valuation of Asset

- (a) Inventory
 eg: False inventory counts

Steps to detect

- Unit price reasonable - check invoice price
- Check alteration of price / counts
- Compare prior years
- Be alert! Care with work papers

- (b) Accounts Receivable

Steps to detect

- Look for unusual transactions
- Look customers up in the phone book

- (c) Fixed Assets (overvalue assets)

Steps to detect

Detection of capitalized Expense

- Examine source documents
- Check classification - particularly S/T → L/T
- Interview

6) Improper Disclosures

- Liability omission eg: warranties contingency
- Related Party transactions
- Change in accounting policy

Steps to detect

- Require personal financial disclosures from management