



Rotman Commerce UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

RSM 426H1F

Critical Thinking, Analysis and Decision Making **Course Outline – Fall Term 2019**

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR AND INSTRUCTOR:

Instructor: Elisa Zuliani
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(416) 946-7529
Telephone:
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Website: <https://q.utoronto.ca>
Class: L0101 - Monday 12:00 noon – 3:00pm (WO30)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00 pm – 1pm

Course Prerequisite: Fourth-year St. George Commerce student
RSM322H1, RSM323H1, RSM324H1

Course Co-requisite: RSM321H1

If you drop course RSM321H1 (the co-requisite) during the academic term, you must also drop this course. Contact Rotman Commerce Academic Program Services for academic advising if needed.

Course Objectives:

This is a capstone case course stressing the pervasive competencies and critical thinking skills required from business school graduates, future professional accountants and advisors.

This course provides students with an opportunity to integrate the technical and practical knowledge obtained in the prerequisite and other University courses and to apply this knowledge to case type situations. Because of the integrative nature and content of the course, the course will be directed towards students with a strong background in accounting and those seeking an accounting designation.

The overall objective is to enhance the participants' abilities to demonstrate the pervasive competencies, including written communication skills, required of the professional accountant as part of a business decision-making team. The course will present case simulations of problems encountered in the business world. The participant will be required to employ a cross-functional approach to problem solving, as real life problems require integration across the specific knowledge areas of risk management, performance measurement, assurance, finance, taxation, information technology and organizational effectiveness. Students will be required, based on the case, to play different roles depending on the users' needs.

The case method will be stressed. This will require participants to:

- (1) identify and play their role,
- (2) identify information users and their needs,
- (3) identify and rank case issues, distinguishing between primary and secondary issues in the case,
- (4) identify alternatives for each issue given the constraints in the case,
- (5) analyze identified alternatives stressing fact integration, issue integration and integration across knowledge areas, and
- (6) communicate practical recommendations to information users.

Instructional Approach:

The in-class portion of the course will primarily be in a seminar or case discussion format, usually the latter.

The case assignments will be distributed in a prior class session for discussion in a subsequent session.

Course participants will work in groups to prepare solutions to the cases. Solution preparation involves thorough familiarization with the case facts and issues, analysis of alternatives, integration of knowledge, and application of judgement to arrive at a practical recommendation.

The format for in-class discussion of cases will vary between presentation/discussion led by a student group or your instructor leading the entire discussion. All important aspects of each solution will be covered in class.

Course Evaluation:

Class Participation (1)	10%
Case Presentation (2)	15%
<u>Term - Test #1</u>	
Monday, October 7th - in class	30%
<u>Term - Test #2</u>	
Part 1 - Monday, November 18 th – in class	22.5
Part 2 – Friday, November 22 nd – 9 – 1pm – Location – TBA	22.5%
	<u>100%</u>

- (1) Class participation includes attendance in class and oral participation during discussions in class.
- (2) Each group will be assigned one case for which it will prepare a presentation. The presentation should be 45 – 60 minutes in length. It should include a clear explanation of the case, approach and technical discussion of the issues.

Policies Regarding Term Tests:

You are able to access the online version of the CPA Handbook and Income Tax Act for the two term tests. Silent, non-programmable calculators are allowed.

Students will also be allowed to bring their laptops to the term tests to access the CPA handbook only.

In the case of one of the two term tests being missed, the student mark will be either be reweighted so that the entire term test mark will be based on the term test that was not missed or another method of evaluation will be required at the instructor's discretion.

Changes:

Any modifications to the course will be announced and explained in class.

Group Work:

The group presentations are to be done in groups of 2-3 students per group. The cases to be presented will be assigned in the first class.

When working as a team, students are reminded of the following expectations with respect to their behavior and contributions to the project:

Each team member is expected to:

- Treat other members with courtesy and respect;
- Establish a positive and productive team dynamic;
- Contribute substantially and proportionally to the final project;
- Ensure enough familiarity with the entire contents of the group project/assignment so as to be able to sign off on it as original work;
- Meet the project timeline as established by the team.

Learning to work together in teams is an important aspect of your education and preparation for your future careers. Project work is often new to students; conflicts can - and do - occur. Teams are collectively expected to resolve disputes or misunderstandings as soon as they arise (and prior to submission of the final project). In cases where teams are unable to reach a mutually agreeable solution, the entire team must meet with the Team Coach as soon as possible. The Team Coach will listen to the team and help the team develop options for improving the team process. All members of the project team must commit to and utilize their action plans.

For an appointment with a Rotman Commerce Team Coach, please contact Nouman Ashraf at nouman.ashraf@rotman.utoronto.ca. Nouman is highly skilled at facilitating team dynamics and collaboration. Note that the Team Coach's role is to provide guidance, support and advice on team matters – not to formally evaluate or assess teamwork for academic purposes.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Missed Tests

Students who miss a test or assignment for reasons entirely beyond their control (e.g. illness) may submit a request for special consideration. The Request for Special Consideration Form and supporting documentation must be submitted in a timely manner in order for the request to be reviewed.

In such cases, students must notify the Rotman Commerce Program Office on the date of the course deliverable such as a missed test, or assignment missed class (in the case of participation marks), or due date. They must then complete a [Request for Special Consideration Form](#) and submit it along with supporting documentation (e.g. [Verification of Student Illness or Injury form](#)) to the Rotman Commerce Office within **2 business days** of the originally scheduled course deliverable. Students who do not provide appropriate or sufficient supporting documentation will be given a grade of 0 (zero) for the missed course deliverable.

Documentation submitted in support of petitions for missing tests and assignments must be original; no faxed or scanned copies will be accepted.

Note that the physician's report must establish that the patient was examined and diagnosed at the time of illness, not after the fact. Rotman Commerce will not accept a statement that merely confirms a later report of illness made by the student to a physician.

Accessibility Needs

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca or <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is a fundamental value essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarships at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the UofT degree that you earn will continue to be valued and respected as a true signifier of a student's individual work and academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm> outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the process for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment (this includes collaborating with others on assignments that are supposed to be completed individually).

On test and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to), medical notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated by the following procedures outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. If you have any question about what is or not is permitted in the course, please do not hesitate to contact the course instructor. If you have any questions about appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information from the instructor or other UofT resources such as College Writing Centres or the Academic Success Centre.

Email

At times, the course instructor may decide to communicate important course information by email. As such, all UofT students are required to have a valid UTMail+ email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UTMail+ email address is set up AND properly entered on the ROSI system. For more information please visit <http://help.ic.utoronto.ca/category/3/utmail.html>

Forwarding your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that important messages from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

Quercus and the Course Page

The online course page for this course is accessed through Quercus. To access the course page, go to the UofT Portal login at <https://quercus.utoronto.ca/> and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in, look for the My Courses module where you'll find the link to all your course websites. If you don't see the course listed here but you are properly registered for the course in ROSI, wait 48 hours. If the course does not appear, go to the Information Commons Help Desk in Robarts Library, 1st floor, for help, or explore additional Portal Information for Students at <http://portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>.

Recording Lectures

Lectures and course materials prepared by the instructor are considered by the University to be an instructor's intellectual property covered by the Canadian Copyright Act. Students wishing to record a lecture or other course material in any way are required to ask the instructor's explicit permission, and may not do so unless permission is granted (note: students who have been previously granted permission to record lectures as an accommodation for a disability are, of course, excepted). This includes tape recording, filming, photographing PowerPoint slides, Quercus materials, etc.

If permission is granted by the instructor (or via Accessibility Services), it is intended for the individual student's own study purposes and does not include permission to "publish" them in anyway. It is absolutely forbidden for a student to publish an instructor's notes to a website or sell them in any other form without formal permission.

Outline of Sessions:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Session</u> (3 hours)	
Sep 9	1	<u>Class Discussion :</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Introduction to course◆ Introduction to integration and analysis<ul style="list-style-type: none">• skills required• suggested approach for multi-subject (M) questions◆ In- Class case
Sept 16	2	<u>Class Discussion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Analysis of Issue / CPA Way◆ Research Techniques◆ Use of Outlines◆ In-Class case
Sept 23	3	<u>Class Discussion :</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Advanced Accounting Issues◆ Assurance Topics◆ In-Class Case
Sept 30	4	<u>Class Discussion :</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Group presentation - #1◆ In Class Case◆ Review for Midterm
Oct 7	5	<u>Midterm Test #1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ In class◆ Midterm will be written on laptop computer and submitted via Quercus
Oct 21	6	<u>Class Discussion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Take up term test◆ Group presentation - #2 Case Integration Concepts
Oct 28	7	<u>Class Discussion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Group Presentation #3◆ Comprehensive Cases◆ In Class Case
Nov 4 - 8		<u>Mid Term Break</u>
Nov 11	9	<u>Class Discussion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Group presentations #4◆ Comprehensive Case - approach◆ In Class Case
Nov 18	10	<u>Midterm Test #2 – Part 1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 2 hour in class◆ Response written on laptop computer and submitted via Quercu

Nov 22	11	<u>Midterm Test #2 – Part 2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 9 – 1 pm ◆ 4 hours ◆ Midterm will be written on laptop computer and submitted via Quercus
Dec 2	12	<u>Class Discussion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Take up term test #2 ◆ End of course