

The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania

ACCOUNTING 102 – Managerial Accounting Course Syllabus Fall, 2010

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Office Hrs: TBA

WebCafe: <http://webcafe.wharton.upenn.edu>

REQUIRED MATERIAL:

Horngren, Datar, Foster, Rajan, and Ittner *Cost Accounting: A Managerial Emphasis, 13th Edition*, (and Solutions Manual), Prentice-Hall, Inc., 2009

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course emphasizes the use of accounting information for internal planning and control purposes, as opposed to the external disclosure focus of financial accounting. We will learn alternative methods of preparing managerial accounting information in the first part of this course, and we will spend the remainder of the course examining how these methods are used by companies. Managerial accounting is a company's internal language, and is used for decision-making, production management, product design and pricing, performance evaluation, and motivating employees. Well-designed managerial accounting systems maximize economic profits (all relevant benefits minus all relevant costs).

What you learn in this course complements and builds upon what you learned in financial accounting, and what you are learning in your economics, finance, marketing, management, operations, and statistics courses.

Unless you understand managerial accounting, you cannot have a thorough understanding of a company's internal operations. What you learn in this course will help you understand the operations of your future employer (and enable you to be more successful at your job), and help you understand other companies you encounter in your role as competitor, consultant, or investor.

COURSE OPERATION:

The course meets three times a week - lectures on Monday and Wednesday and a recitation on Friday.

Monday and Wednesday – lectures and office hours

Although there is an 80-minute time-slot assigned for the class, **normally, the lecture will be 65-70 minutes.** We will be available in the classroom for the remaining 10-15 minutes of the 80-minute period to answer questions about the day's material and any more general questions you may have.

Most of you will not need to stay for the office-hour period following the lecture (unless you have a specific question).

Fridays – Recitations

Christine Parker, the Teaching Assistant for the course, will conduct the Friday recitation sessions. During those recitations, she will review the previous week's material, answer questions, and discuss and interpret solutions to assigned homework problems. She will not cover new material.

Please note that some recitations and/or review sessions may be held at different times from those indicated in your class schedule. (These will typically occur near the time of an exam.) This will be done to maximize the number of students able to attend these sessions.

WEBCAFE:

To access the webCafe for Accounting 102, go to the internet URL:

<http://webcafe.wharton.upenn.edu>

On that page, click on ACCT to display links to accounting course webCafe rooms, and then click on your section number.

Non-Wharton students must obtain a Wharton computer account in order to access webCafe. You can sign up at: <http://accounts.wharton.upenn.edu>

WebCafe contains, among other items, the course syllabus, assignment schedule, and information on the TAs' office hours and office and recitation locations. We will post the lecture notes for each class to webCafe on the day preceding the day of the class.

To read most of the materials posted, you will need a copy of the Adobe Acrobat reader. To obtain a copy, go to:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

or click on the webCafe Icon "Download Acrobat Reader."

If you have problems with the webCafe, contact ktam@wharton.upenn.edu.

OFFICE HOURS:

TA office hours will be posted on webCafe.

In addition to Friday recitations, Christine will hold regular weekly office hours in SHDH 205. And, during the week prior to an exam, she will hold additional office hours .

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEM:

Whether you are aware of it or not, all of your life you have been, are, and will be evaluated based on a relative performance evaluation (RPE) system. These systems are colloquially called “curves.” An example of a curve is the college application process: the fact that you are at Penn/Wharton means that you were ranked in the upper 5% to 20% of applicants. The key to dealing with an RPE system is not to become anxious, but to accept the system, understand it, and learn to work gracefully within it. You will be applying these systems to your subordinates as you move through life, and you need to know how to do so effectively.

Your grade for this course will be based on a weighted average of three exams, which are scheduled as follows:

	<u>Date</u>		<u>Weight</u>
Exam I:	October 7 (Thursday)	6:00 – 8:00 pm	30%
Exam II:	November 9 (Tuesday)	6:00 – 8:00 pm	35%
Exam III (Final):	December 17 (Friday)	3:00 – 5:00 pm	35%

Please note that the above weighting scheme will be strictly adhered to. There is no possibility of earning extra credit or of changing the above weights.

The grade distribution is determined so that approximately 70% of the class enrollment (following the end of the drop period) receives A’s or B’s. I hope that this relaxed grading scheme will relax you, so that there will be more learning, more cooperation, less over-studying, and less competition over grades.

Note that the grade distribution is set based on enrollment following the end of the drop period, and to the extent that students subsequently withdraw from the course, the percentage of the *final* enrollment who receive A’s or B’s will be *greater* than 70%. **This policy means that no student who remains in the course is negatively affected by the fact that other students have withdrawn.**

Students at the bottom of the distribution with a very poor weighted average scores (e.g., a weighted average score of less than 40%) will likely receive an F. Students taking the course on a Pass/Fail basis must receive a grade of D- or higher to get a "Pass."

EXAMINATIONS

All examinations are closed-book and closed notes, with one exception. Students will be permitted to use one page (8 ½" x 11", one side only) of notes during the examination.

EXAM ACCOMMODATIONS AND CONFLICTS:

If you need additional time to complete an exam because of a university-recognized disability, please inform your instructor (by e-mail) and the Office of Student Disabilities Services (SDS) *within two weeks of the start of classes*. You will be provided with the accommodations that are approved by that Office.

If you have a class or an exam for another course which is to be given at the same time as a scheduled exam, you must notify your instructor (not the TA) by e-mail within two weeks of the start of classes. Your e-mail must include your COMPLETE CLASS AND EXAM SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY OF THE CONFLICT. In those cases of an acceptable exam conflict, arrangements will be made for you to take the exam at an alternate time. Note that if such an arrangement has been made and you fail to attend the exam at the arranged time, you will receive a grade of zero for the exam. If your schedule changes such that you no longer have a “conflict” with the regularly scheduled exam, you should notify your instructor by e-mail as soon as possible.

In other cases, documented (written) evidence (i.e., from a doctor – a letter from Student Health is NOT sufficient) that you were **seriously ill, or unavailable for some other reason**, at the scheduled time of an exam is the only valid excuse for missing an exam. In order to be excused from an exam, you must email your instructor as soon as possible (prior to the exam, if possible), and you must provide the original copy of the required documentation. (A photocopy or other facsimile is not sufficient.) **Please note that a job interview, your attendance at a social event or a participation in a sporting event are not normally considered to be a sufficient reason to miss an exam.** However, if you notify your instructor sufficiently far in advance, an attempt will be made to accommodate the situation.

Students who fail to attend an exam without making arrangements with the instructor in accordance with the preceding requirements will receive a grade of 0 for the exam.

If a student misses an exam (with a valid excuse), he/she will be required to take the make-up exam. Make-up exams will be given **only** on the make-up exam date, which is scheduled by the University (typically during the first week of classes for the **following** semester).

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE:

I will not refuse a student's request to withdraw from the course. However, while we are willing to approve withdrawals up to the day before the final, **the undergraduate division has the final authority**, and, in most previous cases, it has refused all withdrawal requests submitted after the university deadline (**see below**). However, we urge students who are thinking of withdrawing in order to avoid a grade of C to think carefully about the costs of losing credit for the course and receiving a W versus the benefit of potentially getting a higher grade in the future.

Be aware that, in order to withdraw from the course, you must meet the university deadline and requirements regarding withdrawals. In particular, note that the university withdrawal deadline is Friday, November 19, 2010. Therefore, if you wish to withdraw after November 19, you will be required to submit a petition to the Wharton Undergraduate Division to obtain its approval.

Please obtain the School's approval before you ask for mine (which I will give).

RE-GRADES:

I and the TA follow a grading scheme that is designed to award partial credit. Occasionally, we will make mistakes, and we are eager to correct them subject to the following limits. If you believe that there was a *mistake* in the grading of your exam, you must submit the original exam (with no adjustments), and a *written explanation* of the points of contention. *within one calendar week following the return of the exam*, **We will only re-grade exams if they: (1) were originally written in non-erasable pen, and (2) used no correction tape, white-out, etc.** *Please note, any exam submitted for re-grade is subject to a complete review*, which may result in an increase or decrease in the total exam score. If the re-grade request is made after one calendar week or without an accompanying explanation, no re-grade will be permitted.

All re-grade decisions are *final*.

FAIRNESS AND INTEGRITY:

We emphasize fairness to all students taking the course. Please do not do anything that is unfair to other students, or ask your instructor to make exceptions that are unfair to other students.

We expect you to follow the code of Academic Integrity in this course and in all your courses:

<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html>.

In order to ensure fairness and on behalf of the overwhelming majority of honest students, we will refer anyone suspected of cheating to the Office of Student Conduct. The Office of Student Conduct will determine if cheating occurred, and if so, what punishment will be administered. There are no exceptions to this policy under any circumstances.

There is some probability that the I or the TA will find a student who has cheated. Please note that when a student is convicted of cheating by the Office of Student Conduct, the and minimum punishment is a grade of F for the course and a one-semester suspension. Cheating is wrong from an ethical standpoint, and cheating does not make sense practically, because **the expected costs to the cheater far outweighs any small benefits.**

Accounting 102 Class Schedule Fall, 2010

<u>Session</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Text Book - Reading</u>	<u>Assigned Problems</u>
PART I: PRODUCT COSTING					
1.	Sept 8	Wed	Introduction to Course	Ch. 1	
2.	Sept 13	Mon	Cost Concepts I	Ch. 2	2-18,19,22
3.	Sept 15	Wed	Cost Concepts II / Budgeting	Ch. 6 (185-194)	2-31; 6-17, 18, 19
	Sept 17	Fri	Recitation		
4.	Sept 20	Mon	Job Costing	Ch. 4 (96-109)	4-21,22
5.	Sept 22	Wed	Job Costing for Manufacturing	Ch. 4 (109-121)	4-17,20,24
	Sept 24	Fri	Recitation		
6.	Sept 27	Mon	Process Costing	Ch. 17 (exclude 617-618)	17-16, 17, 24, 25
7.	Sept 29	Wed	Process Costing (continued)		
	Oct 1	Fri	Recitation		
8.	Oct 4	Mon	Financial Accounting Effects	Ch. 9 (298-308)	9-21, 28
9.	Oct 6	Wed	Catch-up and Review		
	Oct 7	Thurs	EXAM I 6 – 8 p.m. (All material covered in Sessions 1-9)		
	Oct 11	Mon	FALL TERM BREAK – CLASS CANCELLED		
	Oct 13	Wed	CLASS CANCELLED DUE TO EXAM		
	Oct 15	Fri	Recitation Cancelled		
			DROP PERIOD ENDS		

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PART II: COST ALLOCATION

10.	Oct 18	Mon	Cost Estimation	Ch. 10 and Appendix, (exclude 352-358)	10-26, 33, 40, 41
11.	Oct 20	Wed	Activity Based Costing	Ch. 5	5-16, 27, 37
	Oct 22	Fri	Recitation		
12.	Oct 25	Mon	Activity Based Costing Customer Profitability Analysis	Ch. 14 (508-515)	14-22, 30
13.	Oct 27	Wed	Cost Allocation	Ch. 14 (500-508) Ch. 15 (exclude 546-553)	14-18; 15-16, 24, 33
	Oct 29	Fri	Recitation		
14.	Nov 1	Mon	Service Departments	Ch. 15 (546-553), Problem for self-study	15-19, 20
15.	Nov 3	Wed	Cost-Volume-Profit Analysis	Ch. 3	3-35, 38, 39, 46
	Nov 5	Fri	Recitation		
16.	Nov 8	Mon	Catch-up and Review		
	Nov 9	Tues	Exam II 6:00-8:00 pm (All material covered in Sessions 10-16)		
	Nov 10	Wed	Class Cancelled		
	Nov 13	Fri	Recitation Cancelled		

<u>Session</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Text Book - Reading</u>	<u>Assigned Problems</u>
PART III: DECISION MAKING					
17.	Nov 15	Mon	Decision Making I	Ch. 11	11-21, 22, 36
18.	Nov 17	Wed	Decision Making II, Pricing	Ch. 12	
	Nov 19	Fri	Recitation		
			WITHDRAWAL PERIOD ENDS		
PART IV: PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND INCENTIVES					
19.	Nov 22	Mon	Responsibility Accounting and Performance Evaluation	Ch. 6 Ch. 22 (771-773)	6-19, 6-22
20.	Nov 24	Wed	Control and Variable Pay; Introduction to Variance Analysis	Ch. 7, Ch. 13 (462-473) Ch. 8	7-17, 22 21-18, 19
	Nov 26	Fri	THANKSGIVING BREAK – Recitation Cancelled		
21.	Nov 29	Mon	Capital Budgeting and Project Selection	Ch. 21	
22.	Dec 1	Wed	Performance Measures	Ch. 23 (exclude 811-812)	23-18, 22 (parts 1-3,5)
	Dec 3	Fri	Recitation		
23.	Dec 6	Mon	Transfer Pricing	Ch. 22 (773-786)	22-20, 25, 26
24.	Dec 8	Wed	TBA		
	Dec 10	Fri	Recitation		
	Dec 17	Fri	Exam III 3:00 - 5:00 pm (All material covered in Sessions 17-24)		