

The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania

ACCOUNTING 102 – Managerial Accounting Course Syllabus Summer, 2013

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Office Hours: After class, or by appointment

REQUIRED MATERIAL:

Horngren, Datar, and Rajan, *Cost Accounting: A Managerial Emphasis, 14th Edition*, (and Solutions Manual), Prentice-Hall, Inc., 2011

You may also use the 13th edition of the text (Horngren, Datar, Foster, Rajan, and Ittner). If you do, you will have to refer to the file posted on Canvas that maps the problems for the 14th edition into the 13th edition. (Note that many of the problems that are in the 14th edition are not in the 13th edition.)

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 four times a week

Monday through Wednesday – lectures and office hours

CANVAS:

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

<https://wharton.instructure.com>

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 Canvas.

Canvas contains, among other items, the course syllabus, the class schedule, and class notes as well as other readings and assigned materials

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>

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>
Quizzes (In-Class)	First day of each week	First 35 min of the class session	50%
Final Exam	June 27	Full Class Session	50%

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.

Quizzes

There will be five (5) quizzes in total and they will be closed book, closed notes. All quizzes will be assigned equal weight in the determination of the final grade for the course. They will not be comprehensive in scope. That is, they will be based only on the topics discussed in the classes of the previous week. (Refer to the class schedule.)

Only the four quizzes with the highest scores (%) will count in the determination of the final grade for the course. (If you miss a quiz for any reason, there will not be a make-up.)

Final Exam

The final exam will be comprehensive in scope. (Therefore, it will be based on the topics covered in all of the class sessions.)

Grading

1. A student who completes all of the in-class quizzes (5) and earns a grade of at least B-, based on the weighted average score for the best four quizzes, will not be required to take the final exam. If he (she) elects not to take the final exam, his (her) final grade for the course will be determined based on the weighted average score for the best four quizzes.
2. The final grade for the course for a student who elects to or is required to take the final exam will be determined based on the greater of
 - a) The weighted average score of the four best quizzes (accounting for 50%) and the final exam (accounting for 50%)
 - b) The weighted average score of the four best quizzes.

If a student who is required to take the final exam fails to take that exam without the permission of the instructor, the student will be assigned a score of zero for the exam. In this case, the student's final grade for the course will be determined in accordance with a) above, only.

The distribution of final grades for the course will be determined so that approximately 70% of the class enrollment will receive A's (A+ to A-) or B's (B+ to B-). It is hoped 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 will be based on the number of students who complete the first quiz. (To the extent that students subsequently drop or 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 will be negatively affected by the fact that other students have dropped or withdrawn.** (Typically, the average final grade for the course is close to B+.)

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 a final grade of F.

QUIZ AND EXAM ACCOMMODATIONS:

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

QUIZ AND EXAM 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 quiz/exam, you must submit the original quiz/exam (with no adjustments), and a *written explanation* of the points of contention. within one calendar week following its return., **We will only re-grade quizzes/exams if they: (1) were originally written in non-erasable pen, (2) used no correction tape, white-out, etc., and (3) have not been edited or marked up in any way following their return and prior to the submission of the re-grade request.** *Please note, any quiz/exam submitted for re-grade is subject to a **complete review***, which may result in an increase or decrease in the total 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:

I emphasize fairness to all students taking the course. Please do not do anything that is unfair to other students, or ask me to make exceptions for you that are unfair to other students.

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

http://www.upenn.edu/provost/images/uploads/Academic_Integrity.pdf.

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

There is some probability that 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 minimum punishment is a grade of zero (0) for the quiz or exam 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.**