

**The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania**

**ACCOUNTING 102 – Managerial Accounting  
Course Syllabus  
Summer Session II, 2015**

**Instructor:** Jason Xiao

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**Office Hours:** Thursday 4:00-5:00, or e-mail for an appointment.

**TA Office Hours:** Tuesday 12:30-1:30 (SHDH 420)

**REQUIRED MATERIAL:**

Davila and Oyon, *Malea Fashion District: How Successful Managers Use Financial Information to Grow Organizations*, 2nd Edition, Vease, 2013.

Shim and Siegel, *Shaum's Outlines: Managerial Accounting*, 2nd Edition, McGraw-Hill Education, 2011.

**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 for two hours four times a week - lectures on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Normally, the lecture will be approximately 60 minutes and we will review the practice problems for approximately 30 minutes. I will be available in the classroom for the remaining time to answer questions about the day's material and any more general questions you may have.

## CANVAS:

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

<https://canvas.upenn.edu>

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

Canvas contains, among other items, the course syllabus, assignment schedule, and information on the TAs' office hours and locations. We will make the lecture notes for each class available on Canvas by 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>

If you have problems with Canvas, contact [iwane@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:iwane@wharton.upenn.edu).

## PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEM:

Your grade for this course will be based on four homework assignments (20%), a midterm (40%), and a final exam (40%). I intend to maximize your opportunities to earn a high grade in this course. Calculation of your final grade will be based on the greater of the following two scales.

### 1. Flat

A: 93+	B-: 80-82	D+: 67-69
A-: 90-92	C+: 77-79	D: 63-66
B+: 87-89	C: 73-76	D-: 50-62
B: 83-86	C-: 70-72	F: 49-

### 2. Curve

The grade distribution is determined so that approximately 70% of the initial class enrollment receives A's or B's. Note that the grade distribution is set based on initial enrollment, and to the extent that students 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 withdraw.** Students at the bottom of the distribution with very poor average scores (e.g., an average score of less than 50%) 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."

I hope that this grading scheme will relax you, so that there will be more learning, more cooperation, less over-studying, and less competition over grades.

## **HOMEWORK:**

I will assign one homework assignment per week, excluding the final week of class. These assignments will be due on the following Monday. They are graded out of 5 points each based on effort alone. So long as you turn in an attempt at the assignment, you will receive a full 5 points. The intent of these assignments is to help provide practice problems similar to those you may see on the exams.

## **EXAMINATIONS:**

All examinations are closed book and closed notes.

## **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 one week of the start of classes**. You will be provided with the accommodations that are approved by that Office.

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 the exam. In order to be excused from the exam, you must email your instructor as soon as possible, and you must provide the original copy of the required documentation. (A photocopy or other facsimile is not sufficient.)

**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 you miss a quiz for any reason, then the final examination is required.**

If a student misses the exam (with a valid excuse), he/she will be allowed 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), or as approved by the professor.

## **WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE:**

I will not refuse a student's request to withdraw from the course. While I am 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, I 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. Please obtain the School's approval before you ask for mine (which I will give).

## **RE-GRADES:**

The grading scheme is designed to award partial credit. Occasionally, graders will make mistakes, and I am eager to correct the mistakes 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. I 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 us 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 we will find a student who cheats. Please note that when a student is convicted of cheating by the Office of Student Conduct, the minimum punishment is 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 outweigh any small benefits.

**TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE:**

Session	Date	Day	Topic	Reading (Malea) Chapter(s)
1	7/2	Thursday	Intro/Strategic Cost Management Process	
2	7/6	Monday	Cost Concepts I	1
3	7/7	Tuesday	Cost Concepts II/Budgeting	2
4	7/8	Wednesday	Job Costing	4
5	7/9	Thursday	Job Costing for Manufacturing	4
6	7/13	Monday	Process Costing	4
7	7/14	Tuesday	Process Costing (cont.)	4
8	7/15	Wednesday	Financial Accounting Effects	7
9	7/16	Thursday	Activity Based Costing	10
10	7/20	Monday	Midterm	
11	7/21	Tuesday	Activity Based Costing/Customer Profitability Analysis	14
12	7/22	Wednesday	Cost Allocation/Service Departments	13
13	7/23	Thursday	Cost-Volume-Profit Analysis	12
14	7/27	Monday	Decision Making I	6
15	7/28	Tuesday	Decision Making II, Pricing	5, 13
16	7/29	Wednesday	Responsibility Accounting and Performance Evaluation	15
17	7/30	Thursday	Control and Variable Pay; Intro to Variance Analysis	9
18	8/3	Monday	Variance Analysis (cont.)	9
19	8/4	Tuesday	Capital Budgeting and Project Selection	12
20	8/5	Wednesday	Review	
21	8/6	Thursday	Final	