

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

**ACCOUNTING 102 – Strategic Cost Analysis  
Course Syllabus  
Summer Session II, 2019**

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**Office Hours:** Wednesday 4-6pm, Room 420 Steinberg Hall-Dietrich Hall (next to Wharton Printing)

**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.

**TEXTBOOKS:**

Shim, Jae K. and Joel G. Siegel, *Schaum's Outlines, Managerial Accounting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, McGraw Hill

Davila, Antonio and Daniel Oyon, *Malea Fashion District, How Successful Managers Use Financial Information to Grow Organizations, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, 2009

**COURSE OPERATION:**

The course meets for two hours four times a week - lectures on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We will cover new materials every day as well as homework problem sets. I will be available in the classroom for any remaining time to answer questions about the day's material and any more general questions you may have.

**CANVAS:**

To access the course website, go to <https://canvas.upenn.edu> and choose ACCT 102 – Summer 2019. Various course materials, including class notes and exam and homework solutions, will be distributed exclusively through Canvas. Make sure you have access to this website. Each enrolled Penn student can use their PennKey username and password for access.

**PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEM:**

The course grade is based on relative performance evaluation (i.e., a curve), but no forced grade distribution is used. Your grade will be based exclusively on the weighted average of two exams and in-class questions. The schedule and weight of exams and in-class questions is as follows

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Midterm	July 24 (Wednesday)	In class	40%
Final	August 8 (Thursday)	In class	40%
Homework	July 15 to August 5	Schedule on Canvas	20%

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

Grades will be distributed so that approximately 80% of the class enrollment (following the end of the drop period) receives A's or B's. 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 80%. **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 a final grade of F.

Homework will be graded on a three-point scale based on effort and completion. If you have demonstrated reasonable effort at attempting ALL parts of a particular homework assignment, you will receive full credit for that homework assignment.

Class participation will count for students on the margin between grades.

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**

There will be 4 homework assignments to be completed during the course. The homework assignments will be posted on Canvas and announced in class. Every homework is due on every Monday starting July 15<sup>th</sup>. Homework assignments can be completed in group but **all homework must be submitted individually**.

Homework assignments must be submitted **electronically** through Canvas by 2 pm on the due date. Directions for submitting homework will be distributed via Canvas, and I strongly encourage you to submit your homework answers well in advance of the 2 pm deadline. Late submissions, multiple submissions, and hard-copies are not accepted.

The submission schedule for all homework assignments are available on Canvas.

Please refer to performance evaluation on grading scheme for homework assignments.

## EXAMINATIONS

All examinations are closed-book and closed notes, with one exception. Students will be permitted to use two pages (8 1/2" 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 one week 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 by e-mail, within one 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 participation in a sporting event are not considered to be sufficient reasons to miss an exam.**

**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 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 instructor.

**WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE:**

I will not refuse a student's request to withdraw from the course. However, while I am willing to approve withdrawals, **the undergraduate division has the final authority**. Please consult the university's policies regarding the relevant deadlines and financial obligations with respect to drop or withdraw from a course, as well as grade type changes.

Be aware that, in order to withdraw from the course, you must meet the university deadline and requirements regarding withdrawals. **Please consult the university's policies regarding summer withdraw deadline.** Please obtain the school's approval first before asking for mine.

**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, (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 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:**

**I 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.**

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](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 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 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**.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Please refer to Canvas for class schedule.