ACC 542 Syllabus - Spring Quarter 2014-15

Contact Information

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- **Office Hours:** By email or Skype: "nancyhill.depaul" by appointment only
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- **Preferred Contact:** via email first
  You can expect a response within 12 hours.

Course Overview

This course provides an introduction to cost and managerial concepts and techniques. The principal objective of this course is to learn how to use internal accounting information to make sound managerial decisions. Students will understand how to use management accounting analysis to complement their own business intuition and common sense. Students that master this course will take away a set of tools and a thorough understanding of their application that is very useful in preparation for future course study and in answering complex business problems. The course will strive to enhance your ability to understand and assess the relationship between managerial accounting information and the underlying economics of the firm and markets in which it competes. The primary focus of the course is on the informational needs and decisions of internal managers within the organization (business units), rather than external financial reporting constituencies such as shareholders, bondholders and banking institutions.

Emphasis will be placed on understanding the underlying economic substance of business transactions and considering whether the economics of these transactions are accurately reflected in your cost and managerial accounting analysis. The focus in our course is on understanding versus memorizing formulas. Further, the emphasis in this course is on the application, interpretation and use of accounting information rather than its creation and accumulation.

Topics include cost accumulation (job, process, standard costing, and activity-based costing), cost behavior, breakeven analysis, budgeting, contribution approach to income measurement, information for decision-making, transfer pricing, and performance measurement.
Course Prerequisites

ACC 500 is the course prerequisite

This is an online course. You will need at minimum:

- Frequent access to a computer that connects to the Internet.
- A working e-mail account that you check regularly (and that is updated in Campus Connection)
- Access to a software suite such as Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point). If you do not have access to Office, you can download a free, open source alternative such as Open Office (http://www.openoffice.org) that will give you the same basic functionality.
- The ability to view video files, either in a streaming (Flash) or downloadable (QuickTime, iTunes, 3GP) format.

Required Materials

Cost Accounting, 15/E
Authors: Charles T. Horngren, Srikant M. Datar, and Madhav Rajan, 15th Edition
Publisher: Pearson

CUSTOM COPY: ISBN-9781269937771
You may instead use the full textbook: Hard Copy or E-Copy as long as you have the 15th Edition.

Books can be purchased from the DePaul Bookstore, or online from http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/depaul.htm

Required Assessments - Assignments & Exams

Under "Content" see the Schedule for the list of due dates for graded assignments and exams.

Learning Objectives

- Recognize and define cost accounting terminology
- Prepare product and process costs using various costing systems
- Analyze activity-based cost management
- Solve accounting issues using cost-volume-profit analysis
- Apply decision models and make recommend cost-based solutions for managers
- Prepare budgets and variance analysis and interpret the results for managers
- Value inventory and determine financial income under GAAP and Variable Costing
- Analyze firm performance through key ratios
Assessment

Your overall course grade is based on quizzes, required homework, two mid-term exams and one final exam. The specific breakdown of your overall course grade is:

- 4 Quizzes 10%
- 5 Homework Assignments 15%
- Midterm 1 25%
- Midterm 2 25%
- Final Exam 25%

Total = 100%

Grades for quizzes are available within one week of submission. Grades for the homework assignments are available within one week of your submission. Grades for midterms 1 and 2 are available within one week of submission. Grades for the final exam and the overall course grade are available within one week of the exam.

Final course grade will be assigned according to the following scale. A 'curve' for the class is rarely applied for graduate classes.

- 93 or above A 76 to 77 C+
- 90 to 92 A- 70 to 75 C
- 87 to 89 B+ 68 to 69 C-
- 80 to 86 B 60 to 67 D
- 78 to 79 B- Below 60 F

Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate reasonable accommodation based on your needs, contact me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted:

- The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at +1 (773) 325-1677, Student Center #370.

Additional Accommodations

This course includes instructional content delivered via audio and video. If you have any concerns about your ability to access and/or understand this material in its default format, please notify me within the first week of the course so accommodations can be made.
**Assistance with Writing – The Writing Center**

Consider contacting or visiting the [Writing Center](#) to discuss your assignments for this course or any others. You may schedule appointments (30 or 50 minutes) on an as-needed or weekly basis, scheduling up to 3 hours worth of appointments per week. Online services include Feedback-by-Email and IM conferencing (with or without a webcam). All writing center services are free.

Writing Center tutors are specially selected and trained graduate and undergraduate students who can help you at almost any stage of your writing. They will not do your work for you, but they can help you focus and develop your ideas, review your drafts, and polish your writing. They can answer questions about grammar, mechanics, different kinds of writing styles, and documentation formats. They also can answer questions and provide feedback online, through IM/webcam chats and email. Obviously, the tutors won’t necessarily be familiar with every class or subject, but they are able to provide valuable help from the perspective of an interested and careful reader as well as a serious and experienced student-writer.

Schedule your appointments with enough time to think about and use the feedback you’ll receive. Bring your assignment handout and other relevant materials to your appointments.

**Student Evaluations**

At the end of this course, you will be provided with the opportunity to evaluate this course. Course evaluations provide valuable feedback that can improve teaching and learning. The greater the level of participation, the more useful the results. As students, you are in the unique position to view the instructor over time. Your comments about what works and what doesn’t can help faculty build on the elements of the course that are strong and improve those that are weak. Isolated comments from students and instructors’ peers may also be helpful, but evaluation results based on high response rates may be statistically reliable (believable). As you experience this course and material, think about how your learning is impacted. Your honest opinions about your experience in and commitment to the course and your learning may help improve some components of the course for the next group of students. Positive comments also show the department chairs and college deans the commitment of instructors to the university and teaching evaluation results are one component used in annual performance reviews (including salary raises and promotion/tenure). The evaluation of the instructor and course provides you an opportunity to make your voice heard on an important issue – the quality of teaching at DePaul. Don’t miss this opportunity to provide feedback!

**Academic Integrity**

Work done for this course must adhere to the University Academic Integrity Policy, which you can review in the Student Handbook or by visiting [Academic Integrity](#) at DePaul University.