



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

**Accounting 312**  
**Fundamentals of Managerial Accounting**  
**Summer 2013**

**Course Syllabus**

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**Professor** Shannon Chen  
**Office** CBA 5.344L (subject to change)  
**Office Hours** Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:00 pm and by appointment  
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**Course Information** ACC f312  
Unique #71350  
Monday-Thursday, 10:00am-12:00pm  
UTC 1.132

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**Course Objectives**

This course provides an introductory overview to managerial accounting. ACC 311 focused on accounting information used by *external* stakeholders; in contrast, this course focuses on the accounting information used by *internal* stakeholders. Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand the role of managerial accounting in organizations.
- Understand and distinguish the characteristics and behavior of different types of costs including variable, fixed, sunk, controllable, opportunity, etc. Understand how these costs are presented on financial statements.
- Distinguish between different costing systems and understand how they are used.
- Understand the role of budgeting in organization management.
- Understand how accounting information is used in decision-making processes within an organization.

**Required Materials**

***Managerial Accounting***, by Balakrishnan, Sivaramakrishnan, and Sprinkle (1<sup>st</sup> edition, 2009)

The textbook is the foundation for this course. The overall course schedule follows the layout of the chapters in the textbook, and each lecture will be directly related to the chapter listed. In addition, all homework problems will be from this text. **We will spend a substantial amount of time in class working through practice problems, so please be sure to bring your textbook to class every day.**

Blackboard will be used for course management. Any announcements, additional readings, study materials, etc. will be posted there or sent via e-mail through Blackboard. During the first few days of class, it is your obligation to ensure that you have access to the class site on Blackboard and that the email account you use is correctly recorded in the UT-Austin Registrar system. It is also your responsibility to regularly check your e-mail and the class site on Blackboard.

A financial calculator is recommended but not required for this course. If you plan to purchase a financial calculator, please keep in mind that the department *does not allow* graphing calculators or other calculators with programming or text memory capabilities to be used on exams.

### **Supplemental Materials**

Lecture notes, homework solutions, and exam solutions will be posted to Blackboard regularly throughout the course. Please check Blackboard daily for these materials.

### **Course Format**

This will be a very fast-paced class. We will be covering twelve chapters in five weeks. As such, it is extremely important that you keep up with required readings and homework problems. Your best chance for success in this course is to read the relevant chapter and attempt the assigned homework problems *prior to coming to class*. In class, I will highlight critical learning points from the chapters, work through examples, and answer your questions. By familiarizing yourself with the material before class, you will be better positioned to understand the information presented during lecture. Your participation in class is also crucial to your success. I encourage you to ask questions and seek clarification on things you did not completely understand in the chapter. It is your responsibility to learn the material. It is up to you to ensure that you understand the material and are able to apply the concepts learned in class to other situations with different fact patterns.

### **Course Policies**

One implicit objective in this class is to encourage students to develop a professional attitude. Specifically, you are expected to:

- Come to class and be prepared. Attendance is not graded, but I believe your attendance will improve your probability of success in this course.
- Participate and make contributions. You can do this by asking and answering questions, and providing input when we work on problems in class together. Keep in mind that excellent participation may help you if I am making a fine distinction between grades.
- Arrive on time at the beginning of class and minimize class disruptions caused by entering/exiting during class. If you are running late, please enter class as quietly as possible and take a seat. I would rather you arrive late to class (while minimizing disruptions during your entrance) than miss an entire session.
- Please limit your use of your laptop/tablet, if you choose to bring it to class, to note-taking and other activities directly related to the class.
- Be respectful to myself and other students by turning off your cell phone. If you are expecting an important call, please be considerate and sit near the door so that you may take the call outside the classroom with minimal disruption to other students.

### **Grading**

Your grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Quizzes	100
Midterm 1	125
Midterm 2	125
Final Exam	<u>150</u>
	500 total points

Thus, quizzes are worth 20% of your grade while the midterms are each worth 25% of your grade. The final exam is worth 30% of your grade. The class average for this course has

typically been in the 2.7 - 2.9 range, and I expect the grade distribution for this section to be similar. You may assess your performance based on the following point totals:

A	465 (93%)	C+	385 (77%)
A-	450 (90%)	C	365 (73%)
B+	435 (87%)	C-	350 (70%)
B	415 (83%)	D	300 (60%)
B-	400 (80%)	F	< 300 (<60%)

Please note that there is no guarantee that I will curve grades. However, I may curve the final grades, if necessary, based on the class average and the academic standards for the course. A grade of "Incomplete" will be given only in the rarest of circumstances and according to university policy. You will not have the opportunity to raise your course grade by doing "extra credit" work either before or after the end of the semester.

### Exams

There will be two midterms and a final exam consisting of short answer, multiple choice, and computational problems. The mix of question types and the total number of questions will vary across the midterms and final exam. As such, I will provide a detailed breakdown of question mix and the weighting of questions prior to each exam. The first midterm will cover Chapters 1-6. The second midterm will cover Chapters 7, 8, 10, and 14. The final will be cumulative with a slight emphasis on material from the later part of the course. All exams are closed-book, closed-notes, closed-smart phone, closed-laptop, and are to be completed by you individually. If you are unable to take an exam due to an illness or any other emergency reason, you should notify me before the exam, if possible, and *set up a meeting with me* as soon as possible to discuss your absence. I have final authority to determine if your absence is excused. Students with an excused absence from a midterm exam may add the weight of that exam to the weight of the final exam (i.e., the final exam would be worth 55% of the total grade of a student missing one of the midterm exams).

Unexcused absences will result in an exam grade of 0.

The final exam is mandatory. Unexcused absences from the final will result in an exam grade of 0. The dates for the midterms and final exam are listed on the Class Schedule (last page of the syllabus). The midterms will be taken during class time on the dates listed.

### Quizzes

There will be six in-class quizzes throughout the course. You will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz at the beginning of class. You are expected to complete the quizzes on your own without reference to the textbook, notes, your neighbor, etc. Quiz dates are also listed on the Class Schedule. Each quiz will consist of five multiple choice questions and will be worth 20 points. I will drop your lowest quiz grade so that the maximum total quiz grade is 100 points. No make-up quizzes will be offered in the event you are absent or come to class late as you have an opportunity to drop the lowest grade. The assigned homework problems and lecture notes are excellent study tools for the quizzes. I strongly encourage you to work all homework problems listed on the Class Schedule on a timely basis.

### Homework

Homework problems from each chapter are listed on the Class Schedule. I will not collect and grade homework, but again, attempting the problems prior to class is strongly encouraged. You may expect quiz and exam problems to look very similar to the homework problems.

### Request for Regrades

I will post solutions to each exam on Blackboard after all students have taken the exam. If you would like all or part of an exam (excluding the final exam) to be regraded, you must submit a written request to me by the end of the second class after which the exams are returned (e.g., if an exam is returned on Monday, you must submit a written request for regrade by the end of class on Wednesday). In your request, you must identify which question(s) you would like to be regraded and what information you would like me to consider when reviewing your request. As such, showing your work on your exam and detailing any assumptions you make is extremely important. Adjustments related to computational errors in totaling your score should also be handled this way. I will notify you of any change in your grade within one week after you submit your request.

### Dropping the course

Students must go through the official procedures to drop the course. A student who stops attending the class and fails to officially drop will receive a grade of F. Consult the Academic Calendar on the Registrar's website (<http://www.registrar.utexas.edu/calendars/index.html>) for specific deadlines.

### Office Hours

I encourage each of you to take advantage of my regularly scheduled office hours to discuss any questions you might have. I would like to talk to each of you at least once. If you are unable to make it to my regularly scheduled office hours, please schedule an individual appointment with me via e-mail. It is my job to help you learn and succeed in this class, and I will help whenever possible. However, I expect you to be proactive in your learning by asking questions, working with your classmates, attending office hours, etc.

In an effort to ensure we have a successful semester together, I will distribute a short instructor feedback survey, to be completed anonymously, during the first half of the semester. Please provide me feedback on how the course is going and how you feel you are doing in the course. I can make this class more successful if I hear from you. I also welcome your feedback during office hours and via e-mail.

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## **Important Disclosures**

### Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>.

### Academic Integrity

The McCombs School of Business and the Department of Accounting have no tolerance for acts of scholastic dishonesty. The responsibilities of both students and faculty with regard to scholastic dishonesty are described in detail in the Policy Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty for the McCombs School of Business.

By teaching this course, I have agreed to observe all of the faculty responsibilities described in that document. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe all of the student responsibilities described in that document. If the application of that Policy Statement to this class and its assignments is unclear in any way, it is your responsibility to ask me for clarification. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to

disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: copying tests or assignments, representing (copying) the work of another person as one's own or allowing another person to represent your work as their own, collaborating without authority with another student during an exam or in preparing academic work, using or having on your desk unauthorized materials or aids to complete a quiz or exam (e.g., cheat sheets, solutions, graphing or programmable calculators, pagers, cellular telephones, Palms, etc.), continuing work on an exam after a stop time has been announced, etc.

Students are expected to adhere to a strict ethical standard in this course.

You should refer to the Student Judicial Services website at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/depts/sjs> or the General Information catalog to access the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty as well as further elaboration on what constitutes scholastic dishonesty.

### **Religious Holidays**

By UT-Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

### **Campus Safety**

Please note the following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety>:

- Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.
- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation should inform the instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.
- Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050
- Further information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

### **Quantitative Reasoning**

This course carries the Quantitative Reasoning flag. Quantitative Reasoning courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for understanding the types of quantitative arguments you will regularly encounter in your adult and professional life. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your use of quantitative skills to analyze real-world problems.

## Class Schedule

Wk	Date	Topic	Ch.	Homework	Quiz	
1	June 6	Introduction and Overview, Accounting Information for Decision Making	1	1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 15, 20, 29, 35, 67		
2	June 10	Identifying and Estimating Costs and Benefits	2	1, 3, 4, 6, 9-13, 17, 29, 32, 37, 38, 40, 41, 52		
	June 11	Cost Flows and Cost Terminology	3	1-10, 16, 18, 23, 29, 32-37	1	
	June 12	Cost Flows and Cost Terminology (cont.) and Techniques for Estimating Fixed and Variable Costs	3, 4	Ch. 3: 11-12, 38, 41, 47, 50, 51, 56; Ch. 4: 1-15, 19, 21, 25, 29, 30, 34, 35, 38, 39, 42, 45, 51, 54		
	June 13	Cost-Volume-Profit Analysis	5	1-11, 15-17, 19, 22, 24, 25, 32, 33, 34, 35	2	
3	June 17	Cost-Volume-Profit Analysis (cont.) and Decision Making in the Short- Term	5, 6	Ch. 5: 38, 40, 41, 44, 45, 47, 48, 53; Ch. 6: 1-15, 19, 21, 26, 29, 30, 33, 35		
	June 18	Decision Making in the Short-Term (cont.) and review		32, 37, 41, 43, 48, 51		
	June 19	<b>MIDTERM 1 ON CHAPTERS 1-6</b>				
	June 20	Operating Budgets: Bridging Planning and Control	7	1-7, 8-15, 16-21, 23, 31, 33, 34, 39		
4	June 24	Operating Budgets: Bridging Planning and Control (cont.)	7	24, 25, 27, 28, 37, 40 (a & b only), 41-44, 45, 49, 51, 52, 60		
	June 25	Budgetary Control and Variance Analysis	8	1-17, 20, 22-25, 27, 30, 32, 33	3	
	June 26	Budgetary Control and Variance Analysis (cont.)	8	34-38, 40, 43, 48, 51, 54, 55, 63		
	June 27	Job Costing	14	1, 2, 4-8, 16, 17, 20, 26, 27, 29	4	
5	July 1	Job Costing	14	9-15, 30, 33-36, 39, 40, 44, 47		
	July 2	Activity-Based Costing and Management and review	10	2-15, 17, 19, 30, 32, 33, 36, 37, 40, 46, 48	5	
	July 3	<b>MIDTERM 2 ON CHAPTERS 7, 8, 14, 10</b>				
	July 4	<b>No Class – Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!</b>				
6	July 8	Managing Long-Lived Resources: Capital Budgeting	11	1-15, 19, 22, 24, 26, 27, 31, 33, 35, 37-40		
	July 9	Managing Long-Lived Resources: Capital Budgeting (cont.), and Performance Evaluation in Decentralized Organizations	11, 12	Ch. 11: 41, 43, 47, 55; Ch. 12: 1-11, 18, 21-25, 31-33, 36, 39		
	July 10	Performance Evaluation in Decentralized Organizations (cont.)	12	12-15, 40, 41, 44, 45	6	
	July 11	Final Exam Review				
<b>COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM, TIME AND DATE TBA</b>						