Syllabus: MON / WED ONLY
Accounting 312: Fundamentals of Managerial Accounting
Spring 2017

Class Hours: MW 8:00-9:30 (Unique #: 02450)
MW 11-12:30 (Unique #: 02480)
MW 12:30-2 (Unique #: 02495)

Location: UTC 4.104
Location: UTC 4.102
Location: UTC 4.102

Professor: J. William Kamas CPA, MBA
E-mail: J.Kamas@mccombs.utexas.edu
Office: GSB 5.126H
Phone: (512) 232-6786
Office Hrs: TBD

TA: Skylar DeTure skylardeture@gmail.com
Office: CBA 1.310A
TA: Christina Peck christinapeck@utexas.edu
Office: CBA 4.304A
Office Hours: TBD

Required Materials
2. McGRAW-HILL CONNECT and COURSESMART, on-line study and homework managers
3. ACC 312 CASE PACK, from UT Copy Center (GSB 3.136). Available in early February.

CANVAS will be used for course management and any additional readings or study materials will be posted there. I also will use Canvas for communicating with the class.

During the first week of class, you must ensure that:
- you can access the class site on Canvas and have set up your communication preferences;
- your Connect access (including LearnSmart) is functioning properly.

This course is supported by UT’s Peer-Led Undergraduate Studying (PLUS) program. PLUS study groups provide an opportunity to collaboratively practice skills and knowledge you need for success in this course. Attending study groups regularly is a great way to ensure that you are keeping up with the material so you don’t fall behind; feel free to attend any study group at any point in the semester. Groups will start in early February and meet Sunday-Wednesday; more information on times and locations will be available through Canvas and announced in class. Additional information on PLUS, including an introductory video, may be found at http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slc/support/plus.

Learning Objectives
If you stay engaged with the course by participating in class, reading the assigned text, completing the assigned work, and preparing well for cases and exams, you should obtain the results listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Result</th>
<th>What We’ll Do</th>
<th>How We’ll Measure the Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understand how accounting systems provide data useful for management decisions in all business areas.</td>
<td>Discuss chapter readings, cases, and current topics together in class.</td>
<td>Interesting and lively class discussions about cases and application of materials, including current business news.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain experience structuring business problems and analyzing management decisions.</td>
<td>Work practice problems together in class and discuss them.</td>
<td>Homework, cases, and exam performance (grades).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This course carries the Quantitative Reasoning Flag. QR 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 Preparation and Success
You are encouraged to ask questions in class, both to seek technical clarification of points discussed and to understand how a particular topic relates to your personal interest in business.

Class attendance and doing the study questions and homework are the two keys to success in this class. Students who do well are generally those who attend class regularly and can participate in class discussions because they have prepared. Although problems may seem fairly intuitive when we do them in class, you will be surprised how hard it is to set them up and solve them on your own. Practice is key.

Classroom Standards
This classroom is subject to “business meeting” etiquette:
- Silence your phones and no texting or other phone activity during class.
- Laptops/tablets are NOT allowed in my class. Anyone using such devices may be penalized: first offense, 5 point reduction in next exam score; subsequent offenses, half-letter final grade reduction each offense. Warnings/reminders will not be given after the 1st week of class.
- Be prepared to do calculations in class. Your phone calculator is fine in class, but it will not be allowed on the exam so you might do better to practice with a financial calculator. I recommend the HP 10bII+ financial calculator because it is (1) also useful for ACC 311 and FIN 357, (2) relatively inexpensive (about $30), and (3) non-programmable and therefore acceptable for exam use.
- No extraneous conversation or disruptive behavior.
- You should arrive on time. On the rare occasion when you don’t, please enter and set up quietly and engage with the class as quickly as possible.
- If you must leave early, please notify me in advance.

You MUST come to the class section in which you are officially registered. Class limits are set to ensure a quality experience for everyone. Also, during the semester we might do some activities in class, perhaps in teams, and the activities could be required for course credit as described below.

Assessment
Course grades will be determined using the following assignments and weights:

- Two (non-cumulative) Midterm Exams
  - Lower midterm 15%
  - Higher midterm 25%
- Final Exam (cumulative) 30%
- Case Assignments 10%
- Homework (Connect):
  - LearnSmart 10%
  - Review Problems 10%
  
100%

The BBA Program recommends a mean GPA of 3.0-3.2 for this course, but the actual grades assigned will be based on what you earn. All sections of ACC 312 follow the same grading policy, and you may assess your performance based on the traditional grade cutoffs of 90% = A-, 80% = B-, 70% = C-, 60% = D-, and below 60% = F. There will be no opportunity to raise your course grade by doing "extra credit" work either before or after the end of the semester. Incompletes will be given only in the rarest of circumstances and according to university policy.
Grade Appeals: If you believe a grading error has occurred, you must appeal within one week after the item is returned to the class or the grade is posted on Canvas or Connect. Submit a written explanation of your concern, attached to the graded item in question, to the TA Skylar DeTure. After one week has passed, no appeals will be considered.

Examinations
Examinations are individual work; no collaboration of any kind is allowed. There will be two non-cumulative midterm examinations. Midterm exams will be closed book/notes and will be held on the dates and times indicated in the Class Schedule. All students in all sections of ACC 312 will take the exams at the same time. We will try to return the graded exams one week after the exam date. Calculators that can store text are NOT allowed for exams and will be confiscated.

There will be a common, cumulative final exam given for all sections of ACC 312 at the end of the term. The final exam will be closed book/notes and we will advise you of the date for the final exam as soon as we receive it. Do not make travel arrangements until you are certain of your exam schedule! Anyone with a non-standard exam schedule (SSD or other approved exception) MUST make exam arrangements with me at least one week in advance, and before making any travel arrangements. No early exams will be given FOR ANY REASON, including to accommodate travel schedules.

Alternate exams: If you have another UT class or UT exam at the same time as one of the midterm exams, an alternate exam will be given, generally on the day after the scheduled exam. Similarly, if you have another UT final exam that directly conflicts with our scheduled final exam, there is a provision for an alternate exam. However, in all cases permission to take an alternate exam is at my discretion and the request must be made at least one week in advance. Note that conflicts such as classes at other educational institutions and work schedules will not constitute an acceptable reason to take an alternate exam. If you also have a class or exam conflict with the alternate midterm exam, we can, with my prior approval, make arrangements for you to make up the exam. Individual makeup midterm exams must be taken within 72 hours of the original exam date. These exams will be given at the Testing Center located on the fifth floor of the McCombs School, and I will work with you to schedule it. If you do not take the makeup exam as scheduled, you will receive a 0 on the exam. Requests must be directed to our TA Skylar DeTure.

If you miss an exam due to a severe illness or other emergency, you should notify me before the exam, if possible, and you must provide prompt notification and proof of emergency to Student Emergency Services (http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/). They will require proof of emergency and will provide me official acknowledgement of the emergency. However, I have final authority to determine if your absence is excused. If so, and if it is feasible for you to take the scheduled alternate exam or an individual makeup midterm exam (see prior paragraph), you may do so. Otherwise, students with an excused absence from a midterm exam will be required to add the weight of that exam (“lowest midterm” weight) to the weight of the final exam. Unexcused absences will result in an exam grade of 0.

Case Assignments
Collaboration on case preparation is encouraged, but assignments are individual work and they (and substitute papers) must be written individually, no collaboration allowed. We will discuss three cases during the course to provide context and additional dimensions to the concepts we are studying. We will spend the whole class addressing the case on the day indicated in the Course Schedule, so coming to class well prepared is critical. Read the case carefully and prepare answers to the questions in the case (these will not be handed in and I recommend working in groups to answer the questions). Each case will have a related assignment, due at the beginning of class, and I will provide specifics of the assignment at least a week in advance. No make-up assignments will be given, and anyone missing a substantial portion of a case class (including early departures) will receive a 0 on the assignment. However, in the event of a pre-excused absence, you may avoid a 0 by submitting a five-page paper (double spaced, 12-pt Times Roman font, 1” margins, due within one week) addressing a topic of my choosing.
Homework (two types, both done in Connect – total of 20% of your grade)

Homework must be completed individually in Connect, however you are permitted to collaborate with classmates on figuring out how to structure the solution to assigned questions. Two types of homework are due in this class, both administered via Connect:

- During your preparation before class, you must complete the LearnSmart module for that class, denoted by the LS icon in the Connect assignments list. This will guide you through the textbook, and to earn credit you will answer comprehension questions correctly in the practice phase of LearnSmart. Your LearnSmart grade will be the percentage of each module’s questions that you have answered correctly. Questions must be answered in Connect by 8:00 a.m. on the day of class. There are 19 LearnSmart assignments worth 10% of your grade and the first is due on Monday, January 23rd at 8am.

- Each week, Review Problems covering that week’s class material will be due to be submitted in Connect. The Course Schedule lists these problems. The Review Problems grade is the percent of all points on Review Problems that are correct as submitted. Solutions to these problems must be submitted in Connect by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday of that week. A solution will be provided in Connect after the submission window ends. There are 11 Review Problem assignments worth 10% of your grade and the first is due on Saturday, January 28th at 5pm.

Late homework will not be accepted. Note that for most questions, Connect will change the numbers in the problem for each student, so your data will differ from the textbook and your solution will not be identical to your classmates’ solutions. Connect will grade these questions, provide solutions to Review Problems (after all sections of ACC 312 have submitted their homework), and indicate areas where you need to do additional study.

If you have difficulty using Connect or LearnSmart, or encounter a problem with the technology, please email your question to the course TA, listed on the first page of this syllabus. Depending on the problem, the TA may be able to help or you might need to contact the Connect Help Desk (click Help from within Connect).

If you have questions about how to solve the exercises or problems, please see the TA during his/her office hours. Or come see me during my office hours.

Please note that no homework assignments will be dropped. However, LearnSmart will offer multiple opportunities to demonstrate your mastery of the material, and we have configured Connect to allow you multiple opportunities to check your work on Review Problems prior to submission. So you have ample opportunity to do well on homework assignments.

Other Assignments

Additional quizzes and other graded work may also be assigned, depending on my assessment of class progress and preparation. Examples would include (but are not limited to) quizzes in Canvas, unannounced in-class quizzes, extra problem assignments, extra case work, in-class check questions, and chapter outlines. If I choose to make such assignments, their scores will be treated as part of the LearnSmart homework grade.
## Important Notifications

**The Course Schedule is an integral part of this Course Syllabus.**

### 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://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/accommodations-and-services/](http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/accommodations-and-services/).

### Religious Holy Days

Per the UT Austin General Information Catalog, you must notify me “as far in advance as possible” (I expect at least 14 days advance written notice) of your pending absence due to the observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss an examination or other assignment in order to observe a religious holy day, and you notify me appropriately, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence. [http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/academic-policies-and-procedures/attendance/](http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/academic-policies-and-procedures/attendance/).

### Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

The McCombs School of Business has 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 BBA Program’s Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty at [http://my.mccombs.utexas.edu/BBA/Code-of-Ethics](http://my.mccombs.utexas.edu/BBA/Code-of-Ethics). By teaching this course, I have agreed to observe all faculty responsibilities described in that document. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe all student responsibilities described in that document. If the application of the Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty to this class or its assignments is unclear to you 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. Dishonesty harms other students, the integrity of the University, and the value of our academic brand, so policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. You should refer to the Student Judicial Services website at [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct) to access the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty as well as further elaboration on what constitutes scholastic dishonesty.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: copying work on 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 authorization with another student during an exam or in preparing academic work, using or having on your desk unauthorized material or aids to complete a quiz, group exercise, or exam (e.g., cheat sheets, solutions, graphing or programmable calculators, cell phones, etc.).

In the Assignments section above, you can find specific guidance regarding individual and group work for each of the evaluation elements in this course.

ALL acts of academic dishonesty receive significant penalties and are reported to Student Judicial Services and attach to your record. This record is consulted as part of application processes at UT (e.g., study abroad applications) and after (e.g., law school and MBA applications, which generally require you to provide access to this record). IT’S NOT WORTH IT!

### Campus Safety


- Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when an official announcement is made. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember, 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.
- 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.

For concerns about individual behavior, call the Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050. Up-to-date information regarding emergencies and emergency procedures can be found at: http://www.utexas.edu/emergency.

Privacy in Canvas
Information in Canvas is protected by your UTEID login. Please be aware that I will use a merged Canvas site for all sections of the course that I am teaching this semester. This will allow students in other sections to see that you are enrolled in the course and send you email from within Canvas. However, they will not actually learn your email address and no other personal data will be revealed through Canvas. If you have any concerns, please contact the ITS Help Desk at 512-475-9400 for help removing your name from the view of other students.
Using Your Calculator for ACC 312 Homework Assignments in Connect

Carefully observe the rounding instructions in Connect. If no specific guidance is provided, do not round to less than Four Decimal Places.

Please make sure your calculator does not round to less than four decimal places (e.g., 0.2078 does not round to 0.208 or shorter). Four decimal places will be adequate for any homework or exam problems.

Here are the instructions for the recommended HP 10bII+ calculator (if you have a different calculator, check your manual or search on-line). The default on this calculator is two decimal places, which is too short for many problems.

Instructions for HP 10bII+:

Specifying Displayed Decimal Places

To specify the number of displayed decimal places:

1. Press \( \text{Disp} \) followed by \( 0 \) for the desired decimal setting.

2. \( \text{Disp} \) followed by \( \text{KL} \), \( \text{KL} \), or \( \text{AM} \) changes the display mode. Pressing \( \text{KL} \) provides the best estimate and displays as many digits as required. \( \text{KL} \) is the value for 10, and \( \text{AM} \) for 11.

Table 2-29 Example displaying the number of decimal places

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keys</th>
<th>Display</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \text{Disp} ) ( 0 )</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Clears display.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \text{Disp} ) ( 3 )</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>Displays three decimal places.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( 4 ) ( \div ) ( 6 ) ( \times ) ( \text{Disp} ) ( 9 )</td>
<td>5.727</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \div ) ( 1 ) ( 2 ) ( 5 ) ( 6 ) ( = ) ( \text{Disp} ) ( 2 )</td>
<td>5.73</td>
<td>Restores two decimal places.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \text{Disp} ) ( 9 )</td>
<td>5.727360000</td>
<td>Displays nine decimal places.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Displaying the Full Precision of Numbers

To set your calculator to display numbers as precisely as possible, press \( \text{Disp} \) \( 9 \) \( \text{Disp} \) \( 9 \) \( \text{Disp} \) \( 9 \) \( \text{Disp} \) \( 9 \). (Trailing zeros are not displayed.) To temporarily view all 12 digits of the number in the display (regardless of the current display format setting), press \( \text{Disp} \) \( 9 \) and hold \( \text{Disp} \). The number is displayed as long as you continue holding \( \text{Disp} \). The decimal point is not shown.