

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
HELLER SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
HS 251b
MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING - WEDNESDAY
SPRING 2018

Instructor:	Hagit Weihs	TA:	Liz Keeffe
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Email:	hagit@brandeis.edu		
Class Time:	Wednesday 9:00-11:50		
Office Hours:	Wednesday 12:00-1:00		

PREREQUISITE: HS 250 OR EQUIVALENT

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this course is to provide a general introduction to the concepts, problems and issues related to managerial accounting. Managerial accounting predominantly addresses the internal use of economic information regarding the resources used in the process of producing goods and providing services. Internal users of accounting information are all of those individuals that are involved in the business decision-making process of the economic entity. In the course, you will become acquainted with some of the conventional methods of internal reporting used in planning, control and decision-making. Further, discussions of ethical dilemmas that potentially present challenges to managers dealing with accounting issues within the organization will be explored and discussed. Fundamental aspects of cost behavior and cost accounting will also be addressed, but always from the perspective of the manager who must make decisions rather than the accountant who prepares the information.

The primary emphasis of managerial accounting is to address accounting issues and decisions that arise within the organization. A critical element that is considered in all management accounting problems is a cost/benefit analysis of the activities involved in problem resolution. From determining whether or not to improve the accuracy with which costs are measured to performing analyses such as evaluating the costs and revenues involved in dropping a service or product line, the internal manager continually faces the fine balance between mission and margin.

LEARNING GOALS:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to (1) understand the nature of product and service cost measurement and behavior, (2) analyze costs using cost/volume/profit analysis, (3) employ a number of cost allocation techniques, (4) analyze a variety of short term business problems (outsourcing, special orders, etc.) using differential cost approaches, (5) evaluate the costs/benefits associated with capital budgeting problems and (6) prepare, analyze and interpret budgets and variance analysis reports.

TEXTBOOK:

Managerial Accounting, Garrison, Noreen and Brewer, **15th Edition** (McGraw Hill/ Irwin)
You may purchase the soft bound (Brandeis bookstore) or hard copy of this text. All page numbers are the same across both versions. *Please make sure that you purchase the correct edition.*

Selected cases shown on the course schedule that are not in the text will be distributed by the instructor.

GRADING:

Quiz	20%
Mid-Term Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%
Homework	10%

GENERAL POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is **REQUIRED**. Records of attendance will be kept for each class. Please notify me in advance when you are unable to make it to class. Students missing more than two classes for excused absences will be unable to pass the class.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to actively participate in class discussions. Class participation involves being regularly engaged in the discussion/lecture and making a positive contribution by asking thoughtful questions, sharing relevant experiences, requesting clarification and making comments. All forms of participation should be conducted in a manner that is respectful of fellow students and the professor.

HOMEWORK: In an accounting class, keeping up with assigned homework problems on the syllabus is critical to your success. If you do not take the time to challenge yourself and struggle with the issues in each problem, you will, in all likelihood, perform very poorly on the exams. Homework will be collected on a surprise basis throughout the semester. Homework that is passed in **SHOULD BE YOUR WORK AND YOUR WORK ALONE. HOMEWORK THAT IS REFLECTIVE OF ANOTHER SOURCE WILL BE CONSIDERED PLAGAIRISM.** You will be allowed one homework “free pass” on a day that you choose during the semester. Solutions to homework problems will be available on **LATTE** on the day each assignment is due in class. Graded homework assignments will be available for pick up by the next class meeting. If you would like to review your homework with the **LATTE** solutions as they become available, I would suggest you make a copy of it prior to handing it in.

QUIZZES AND EXAMS: **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS OR QUIZZES.** Further, there will be absolutely no opportunity to assign the weight of a missed quiz or exam to another exam. If you miss an exam or quiz, you will receive a grade of zero. Therefore, please make every effort in advance to ensure that you will be in attendance on the exam/quiz dates shown on the syllabus.

Performance feedback will be provided to students in the form of grades and written comments on exams.

The reading and assignment schedule presented in this syllabus is a tentative schedule and is subject to change.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is central to the mission of educational excellence at Brandeis University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person- be it a world-class philosopher or your lab partner - without proper acknowledgement of that source. This means that you must use footnotes and quotation marks to indicate the sources of any phrases, sentences, paragraphs or ideas found in published volumes, on the internet, or created by another student. Violations of university policies on academic integrity, described in Section 3 of *Rights and Responsibilities*, may result in failure in the course or on the assignment, and could end in suspension from the University. If you are in doubt about the instructions for any assignment in this course, you must ask for clarification.

Notice: If you have a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and require accommodations, please bring it to the instructor's attention prior to the second meeting of the class. If you have any questions about this process, contact Mary Brooks, disabilities coordinator for The Heller School at maryeliz@brandeis.edu.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Lecture Topic and Assignment (due next class)</u>
1/10	1	Introduction to Management Decision Making and Understanding Cost Behavior in an Organization Reading: Chapters 1, 2 (PAGES 27-32, and bottom of PAGES 45-47 ONLY), 3 (PAGES 83-103) E2-1, E2-2, E2-3, E2-9, P2-24, E3-6, P3-23 Case Assignment: Mother To Child (from instructor)
1/17		NO CLASS
1/24	2	Allocating Common Costs to Products and Services: How Much Does It Really Cost to Produce a Product or Provide a Service? Reading: Chapter 3 E3-1, E3-2, E3-4, E3-11, E3-19, E3-20 Case Assignment: Walking Hand in Hand (from instructor)
1/31	3	Alternative Approaches to Overhead Cost Allocation P3-22, P3-24, P3-25, P3-27, P7-16 Case Assignment: C3-30 Teledex
2/7	4	Introduction to Cost Volume Profit Analysis Reading: Chapter 2 (PAGES 33-51) & 5 E2-8, E2-13, P2-18, P2-19, P2-22 E5-4, E5-5, E5-6, P5-19, P5-22 Case Assignment: Bristol Healthy Beverage Corp. (from instructor)
2/14	5	Cost, Volume Profit Analysis/Differential Cost Analysis QUIZ (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5) Reading: Chapter 12 Ch. 2: E2-7 ; Ch.12: E12-3, E12-4, E12-9, E12-14, P12-22, P12-23, P12-28 Case Assignment: Happy Homes (from instructor)
2/21		NO CLASS – FEBRUARY VACATION

<u>Date</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Lecture Topic and Assignment (due next class)</u>
2/28	6	Differential Cost Analysis Reading: Chapter 12 E12-2, E2-5, E12-7, P12-18, P12-26
3/6	7	<u>TUESDAY NIGHT MID-TERM EXAM</u> (Ch. 1, 2, 3, 5, partial: 12)
3/14	8	Budgeting and Profit Planning Reading: Chapter 8 E8-1, E8-2, E8-3, E8-4, E8-11, E8-15, P8-17
3/21	9	Budgeting and Profit Planning Reading: Chapter 8 P8-27, P8-28 Case Assignment: Crown Enterprises (from instructor)
3/28	10	Variance Analysis and Performance Evaluation Reading: Chapter 9 P9-19, P9-22, P9-23, P9-24
3/28		LAST DAY TO DROP OR CHANGE TO AUDIT
4/4		NO CLASS – PASSOVER AND SPRING RECESS
4/11	11	Variance Analysis and Performance Evaluation Reading: Chapter 10 P10-9, P10-12, P10-14, P10-15, P10-16
4/18	12	Capital Expenditure Decisions Reading: Chapter 13 E13-12, E13-14, E13-15, E13-25, P13-24, P13-28, E13C-3, E13C-1, E13C-2, E13C-4
4/24	13	<u>TUESDAY NIGHT - FINAL EXAM</u>