Academic Year 2026/2027

Cost Accounting, Planning & Control

Master of Science in Business Administration

Syllabus

Prof. Antonio Chirico

Course Purpose

This course will focus on the use of accounting information for cost analysis, internal planning and control purposes.

Course Description

1. Concepts and fundamentals of Management Accounting which pervade business decisions (i.e. financial accounting vs management accounting; direct cost, variable cost, etc…);

2. Cost Accounting System (i.e. full costing vs direct costing);

3. The planning function (i.e. how to build budgets);

4. Relevant Cost for Decision Making (the use of information to make alternative choices in non-routine decision situations)

Main Course Topics

Management Accounting Concepts

Key words: cost objects, direct/indirect costs, cost drivers, variable/fixed costs, contribution margin, breakeven point, and cost-volume-profit analysis.

Cost Accounting Systems

Key words: job costing and process costing, cost allocation and computation of overhead rates.

Main Course Topics

Activity-Based Costing and Cost Allocation

Key words: hierarchy of costs; traditional cost systems and Activity-Based Costing (ABC)

Budgets and Standard Cost Systems

Key words: standard costing systems; flexible budgets and standard costs; analysis of Variances (i.e. volume variances, price variances, etc…)

Relevant Cost Analysis

Key words: relevant/ non relevant costs; analysis of decision problems

Course Strucure (1/2)

The course is divided into two modules:

MODULE 1: COST ACCOUNTING

MODULE 2: PROFIT PLANNING

Each module is divided into 3 sections

Course Strucure (2/2)

1. COST ACCOUNTING:

- Section I: Concepts and Fundamentals of Management Accounting;
- Section II: Cost Accounting Systems and Cost Analysis;
- Section III: Relevant Costs for Decision Making and Control.

2. PROFIT PLANNING

- Section IV: Budgeting Process for Planning and Controlling
- Section V: Segment Reporting, Decentralization and the Balanced Scorecard
- Section VI: Managerial Accounting in practice: cases study on budgeting (final case study discussion)

Teaching Methods

The course will be a combination of lectures, problem-solving, case work, and interactive class discussion.

Main References

Books:

Garrison, Norreen, Brewer, *Managerial Accounting* (17th Edition, McGraw/Hill International Edition). Students are requested to study chapters: 1-14.

Articles:

Reading materials and articles will be provided by the lecturer.

Class materials:

Slides downloaded from the course web page

Criteria for student evaluation: assessment

Assessment	Assessment Task	No. of tests to be taken
1.	Assignment and Class discussion	almost 2
2.	Mid Term Examination - I	1
3.	Mid Term Examination - II	1
4.	Presentation of a budget case study (*)	1
5.	Final Examination (*)	1

(*) Mandatory

Criteria for student evaluation: final examination

Final examination is divided into written and oral parts.

Written exam is always mandatory if:

a. the average mark of the mid term examinations is less than 18/30; or
b. students will not participate to mid term examinations; or
c. students will refuse the mark of the mid term examinations.

Criteria for student evaluation: written and oral exam

Written exam – The format will be the follow:
Part A: multiple choice quizzes and true/false quizzes;
Part B: exercise ("Managerial Accounting in practice");
Part C: open questions (from 1 to 3).

Oral exam - Students will be asked to discuss their written answers and to focus on some specific theoretical issues.

Course Schedule

Mon.–Tue.– Wed. 9:00–11:00 Room P5

Applications Schedule (dott. Gabriele Saponaro)

Thursday 9:00 –11:00

Office Hours

Prof. Antonio Chirico: Tuesday 16:00–18:00

For further information please contact me at this mail address:

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