AMIS 212 – Introduction to Managerial Accounting

Professor: Kristina Zvinakis  
Web Page: http://fisher.osu.edu/~zvinakis_1/courses/212  
Office: 458 Fisher Hall  
Office Hours: Mon 10:00 – 12:00; Wed: 1:00 - 3:00  
Phone Number: 614.292.6855  
e-mail: zvinakis@cob.osu.edu

Teaching Assistant: Stephanie Lewis  
Office: 120H Mason Hall (1st floor of the Business Library)  
Office Hours:  
T: 10:30-1:30  
Th: 12:30-3:30  
F: 9:30-11:30

1. Required Materials
   Text: Garrison and Noreen, Managerial Accounting, Tenth Edition

2. Optional Materials
   Instructor class notes (available on class website)  
   Homework problem solutions (available on class website)  
   Prior year’s quizzes and exams (available at CopEz in the Tuttle Garage)

3. Objectives
   AMIS 212, Introduction to Managerial Accounting, is designed to help you understand the types of cost information managers use in making decisions concerning the daily and long run operation of their firms. Managerial accounting differs from financial accounting in that the preparation of cost accounting information is not guided by a fixed set of principals or standards. Managerial accounting is guided primarily by the principles of common sense and profit maximization. In this class, you and I will learn how accountants gather, synthesize, present and explain cost information that is used to improve managerial decision making.

4. Keys to Success
   To be successful in this course, you are expected to attend class. This means that you are expected to arrive on time and to remain for the entire class period. Your success in this course will be enhanced if you also:

   - prepare in advance by reading and attempting assigned homework before coming to class;
- participate in class by asking questions and responding to requests for discussion. I will post questions prior to each class that will be used to motivate thinking and class discussion. You should prepare, prior to coming to class, to provide answers to those questions;
- review your class notes and the suggested solutions to the assigned problems after class to improve your understanding; and
- use both the teaching assistant’s and my office hours and review sessions throughout the quarter to clarify particularly difficult material.

While you may occasionally be tempted to miss class, please remember that success in this course is highly correlated with attendance. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility (not mine or the TAs) to ensure that you understand the material covered in the class you missed.

5. Prerequisites

The prerequisites for AMIS 212 are AMIS 211 and Econ 200. You are encouraged to drop this class if these prerequisites, or their equivalent, have not been met. These course prerequisites appear in the Course Bulletin associated with the Master Schedule.

6. Electronic Mail and Web Page Information

Many times during the course of the quarter I will communicate with you via e-mail. You are responsible for the content of these messages. If your e-mail account is not active, I highly recommend activating it before the end of the first week of the quarter. E-mail accounts can be activated in any public lab on campus (590 Baker Systems is open 24 hours a day). Self-guided instructions as well as information about setting up e-mail disks are available in all of the public labs. You do not need a diskette to set up your e-mail account but you will need a diskette to access and read your e-mail in the labs (when using the Eudora program installed on the lab computers). Lab hours and more information about e-mail can be found here: http://www.oit.ohio-state.edu/scc.html

Additionally, the web page maintained for this class provides useful course information. You should access this page on a regular basis to ensure you are up to date and aware of what is going on in AMIS 212.

**Class Notes** Class notes for each class - a PowerPoint file of slides - will be posted to the class web page the day before each class. To access these notes:

1. Go to http://fisher.osu.edu/~zvinakis_1/courses/212
2. Click on Class Notes (left hand side of web page)
3. Enter the login and password
4. Click on the appropriate class date

At this point, a window should open that asks whether you want to open the file you have clicked on or save it.

If this does not happen begin the process again, but this time, **left click** (rather than right click) on the class date and one of the options you will have is “Save file as...”
Choose this option, name the file, and save it as a .ppt file. Then, open the PowerPoint program and open the file you have just saved.

7. Academic Standards

A rigorous academic environment will be maintained with respect to the quality of the course and grading. Grades will be determined based on your performance on the following:

- Exam 1: 225 points
- Exam 2: 225 points
- Quizzes: 225 points
- Final exam (comprehensive): 325 points
- Maximum possible points: 1000 points

8. Quizzes, Interim and Final Examinations

Quizzes The quiz dates are listed on the Course Outline that appears at the end of this syllabus and on the course web page. A total of 6 quizzes will be given. You will be allowed to drop your lowest score so that a total of 5 quizzes will count toward your course grade. There are no make-up quizzes. Therefore, if you miss a quiz, that will count as your dropped quiz. Any other quizzes missed will be counted as a zero in determining your grade. Quizzes are worth approximately 45 points each, for a total of 225 points or 22% of your grade. The problems on the quizzes will be similar to the assigned homework problems.

Interim and Final Exams There are two interim exams in this course and a comprehensive final exam. The first two exams will be given on Monday, April 21, and Monday, May 12, from 7:30-9:30 pm. The final exam will be given on Monday, June 9, from 7:30-9:30 pm.

You are required to take all exams. There are no make-ups for any exam. The location of each exam will be posted on the class website and announced in class. Each student is responsible for managing his/her own personal schedule to be present at these exams, particularly the two interim evening exams. If you miss an exam because of an illness or other dire and irreconcilable conflict, you should notify me as soon as possible and present written documentation of your absence (e.g., note from physician). I have final authority to determine if your absence is justified. Your grade will be determined at the time that your absence is excused. Note that this is an individual determination based on the facts and circumstances of each case.

Grade disputes Any concerns or questions about grading on a quiz or exam must be resolved in the week after the graded quiz or exam is returned in class. Please keep in mind that this time frame applies whether or not you were present in class to receive your graded quiz or exam.

IMPORTANT: Bring #2 lead pencils, a calculator, and your current OSU ID card to all examinations! Programmable calculators may not be used in AMIS 212 quizzes or exams.
9. Dropping the Course

If you decide to drop this course, you must officially drop the course; a student who stops attending the class and fails to officially drop will receive a grade of E. In the first week of the quarter, you can drop this class through BRUTUS. After the first Friday of the quarter, the procedure for dropping a course is handled through your college office. Consult the Master Schedule for specific deadlines and instructions.

10. Office Hours

I will have regularly scheduled office hours for consultation on matters pertaining to the course. Additionally, the teaching assistant for this class will have numerous office hours each week that should be easily accessible for all students. You are encouraged to take advantage of these hours to discuss problems and to secure assistance where needed throughout the semester.

11. Academic Misconduct

Neither the Fisher College of Business nor I will tolerate academic dishonesty. That is, we expect your grades to be the result of your own work. The responsibilities of both students and faculty with regard to academic misconduct are described in detail in Code of Student Conduct, a compilation of rules of conduct and major policies and procedures affecting students. 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.

Students who violate University rules on academic misconduct are subject to disciplinary penalties. In accordance with Faculty Rule 3335-5-487, all instances of alleged academic misconduct will be reported to the department chairperson and the Committee on Academic Misconduct. Academic misconduct is grounds for failing the course and may be grounds for further sanctions. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, giving or receiving information during an exam or quiz, providing other students with information about the content of a quiz or exam, using notes or a formula sheet during a quiz or exam and submitting plagiarized work.

Because dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on academic misconduct will be strictly enforced.

12. Other Resources

The Academic Learning Lab, part of the Younkin Success Center, offers workshops on study skills and effective learning habits. If you would like to learn more about the services they provide, visit their website, http://all.successcenter.ohio-state.edu/index.htm, or visit them at 1640 Neil Avenue, 250 Younkin Success Center.

Counseling and Consultation Services, located at 1640 Neil Avenue, 4th Floor, 292-5766, offers a variety of helpful services for anyone having difficulty getting through the quarter. You can learn more about the services that are offered here: http://www.ccs.ohio-state.edu
Even if you are sure you don't need any help, I would encourage you to visit both of these facilities, in person or via their web sites, to learn what they offer.


Accountants

**Revenge of the nerds**

Applications to accounting courses in America are flooding in

"FORGET terrorism," says Osama bin Laden on the cover of *Private Eye*, a British satirical magazine, "I'm going to become an accountant." Accounting professors in America have been fretting that, thanks to a series of scandals, especially the fall of Andersen, even fewer young people will choose to become accountants. Instead, many more than usual have applied to study accounting in the months since Enron went bust.

At the University of Texas in Austin, for instance, the number of people who applied for this year's graduate accounting course has jumped by over half. At the University of Southern California's Leventhal School of Accounting, 185 people applied for its undergraduate accounting program starting this autumn, compared with 110 last year. At several of America's top accounting schools, says James Benjamin, head of the accounting department at Texas A&M University, many more undergraduates have applied than in most recent years.

One explanation is the uncertain state of the job market: the Certified Public Accountant qualification has always been seen as a safe bet in troubled times. Yet America's run of earnings restatements has also impressed on people that accounts and accountants matter. The dull, green-eyed account image is being replaced by something altogether more creative, sexy even. After watching demand for their subject fall by a quarter over the past four years, accounting professors are delighted at the reversal.

"To keep the interest of their new students, however, they must change the way they teach them," says Robert Sack, an academic. Courses, he says, should focus less on the rote application of rules and more on getting students to think for themselves. Would-be accountants should also ponder where to study, declares Richard Joseph, a lecturer at the University of Texas. Enron's main auditor from Andersen, David Duncan, who pleaded guilty to misdemeanours, graduated from the University of Texas's main rival, Texas A&M; but "the Enron whistleblower, Sherron Watkins, she's one of ours."


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Outline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Course Overview: Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Basic Cost Terms and Concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cost Behavior and Estimation (cont)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cost Behavior and Estimation (cont)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Activity Based Costing (ABC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Activity Based Costing (ABC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FIRST MIDTERM: 7:30-9:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>FIRST MIDTERM: 7:30-9:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Variable Costing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Budgeting (cont)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Variance Analysis (cont)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>SECOND MIDTERM: 7:30-9:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>SECOND MIDTERM: 7:30-9:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Performance Evaluation (cont)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Performance Evaluation (cont)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Performance Evaluation (cont)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Performance Evaluation (cont)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Performance Evaluation (cont)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>June 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>June 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>June 9 (M)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Q** – refers to questions at the end of the chapter  
**E** – refers to exercises at the end of the chapter  
**P** – refers to problems at the end of the chapter