The George Washington University

Course Description
In this course, we move away from financial accounting and reporting which is designed to provide information to external parties. The topics we’ll learn, in this course, are more useful to a firm’s internal decision-makers. This material is different from financial accounting with costs and benefits being the two primary concepts.

We’ll start with accounting for production costs. We then move on to cost objects and overhead cost allocation to cost objects. The third topic of study will be cost behavior and business analyses that exploit cost behavior. Relevant costs, particularly opportunity costs, are next. We finally turn to two related topics – budgeting and performance evaluation.

Learning Objectives & Teaching Methods
This short 7-week course in Managerial Accounting presents an opportunity to learn cost concepts, situational decision-making, budgeting (which is formal forecasting of financial statements), and use of budgets for performance evaluation. By the end of the course, you will be able to develop cost models, be able to model certain common business decisions, and be able to analyze their effects on the firm’s profit and equity.

I will use notes, problem sets, and/or videos to present my thoughts and ideas on each topic. The textbook will give you a different and more complete presentation of the topic. Facilitation sessions will provide another perspective on the topic, problem solving, and answers to your most burning accounting questions. The facilitation sessions are designed to most help students who have studied the topic and formed their own view of it. The instructor sessions will be on Wednesday at 9:00 PM ET. The full schedule is in the Outline section of the syllabus.

I expect you to be responsible for learning the material. If you are struggling with a concept, it is your responsibility to reach out for help.

I hope that you enjoy learning material in this course and are able to apply it to other courses and to your daily lives – both within the family and at work.

Instructor & Facilitators
Name: Andy Boettcher
Telephone: (309) 824-7791
Email: asb1@gwu.edu

The best way to get hold of me is via email or text message. I do have full-time employment during the day so I may not immediately (aka within 15 minutes) reply during those hours.

After having taken financial accounting, you realized the importance of dedicating sufficient time to studying and learning when you take accounting courses and of using the homework as a means of testing your understanding of concepts. There is a fair amount of detail in accounting - after all we are trying to model the real world of business in numbers and we are talking about money which is very important to people - so it is important to give yourself sufficient time to understand and be able to remember the detail. Make sure you start right away and don’t fall behind in your learning.

Please realize that study alone cannot do a complete job on helping you understand the material - you need to think about what you are learning and apply it to your own experience.

Course material & Learning Methods
Textbook

OR

For students that had the Third Edition from taking Financial Accounting, they are welcome to continue using it. Otherwise, please use the Fourth Edition.

The textbook contains both material to be learned and exercises and problems to test and strengthen understanding. I have listed the exercises and problems for each chapter at the end of this syllabus in the Outline of the Course section.

Connect
In addition to the textbook, McGraw-Hill offers online problems, called Connect, to help cement knowledge. To be clear, Connect is required if you choose the homework option (see the grading section). In addition, students doing the exam option may find the additional problems helpful. However, there is extra credit offered through Connect for either option (see the grading section). Connect access codes are packaged with a new textbook. Connect can also be purchased online at our section’s Connect web address: http://connect.mheducation.com/class/a-boettcher-summer-2016-3edition

Or http://connect.mheducation.com/class/a-boettcher-summer-2016

LearnSmart
Besides the text and Connect, McGraw-Hill offers an adoptive learning/teaching solution called LearnSmart. LearnSmart is an adaptive platform that customizes lessons based upon each users learning needs. The LearnSmart material is only available from Edmonds, 4th Ed.

Course Slides and Discussion Board
Each week, I will present notes and learning topics. These are a synthesis of the textbook and prior course lectures. They use a mix of concept overview and problem application. Each week there will be a facilitation session using Collaborate on GW’s Blackboard run by the instructor. I expect you to read the text and complete the concept review problems each week before the facilitation session. Let me again advise you to start with the concept review problems early.

If you have difficulty understanding a concept, solving a particular concept review/homework/extra credit problem, or understanding its solution post your difficulties on the appropriate discussion forum on Blackboard. If you know how to solve a posted problem or want to explain the concept please feel free to post your solutions, explanations, or suggestions so that all may benefit (I highly recommend doing this as a way of cementing your own knowledge). In any case, I will post my thoughts and solutions as well.

Use your instructor for questions that you have posted on the discussion forums but for which you have not received adequate answers or understanding.

Facilitators and Tutoring
The instructor is there to help you learn accounting - he can help you with understanding concepts as well as with mental blocks when you do homework problems. Please start getting familiar with the material and doing concept/homework problems right away - it’s important.
GWU also offers on-campus tutoring at Funger Hall. The times and days have not been posted yet. I will post an announcement when they are available.

**Grading Scheme & Exam administration**

There are two different grading schemes for the class. You will need to select from the ‘Exam’ method or the ‘Homework’ method. In addition to the required elements of the course, there is also extra credit available that will add up to 3% to your final score.

Exam: There will be two exams, a midterm and a cumulative final. The midterm is worth 35% and the cumulative final is worth 55% of your final grade.

Homework: There will be 6 chapter homework assignments on Connect that will be worth 60% of your grade. The cumulative final will be 30%. Yes, you don’t have to take the midterm with this option.

Regardless of the grading scheme you choose, there is a discussion board question that is worth 10% of your final grade. It is expected that you respond to the question, “How would/do you apply managerial accounting in your organization/day to day role,” as well as respond at least two (preferably more) of your classmates.

You are welcome to do both methods and I will take the higher of the two grade methods. You will not have to inform me of your decision as I calculate your grade using both methods. In either case, your score will assigned via:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Minimum Score</th>
<th>Maximum Score</th>
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<tr>
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<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>77</td>
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<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>76.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>72.9</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Homework</th>
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<tr>
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<td>30%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>.8*55%</td>
<td>.8*30%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>60%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Extra Credit</td>
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<td>90%</td>
<td>.9*3%</td>
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<td>84.70%</td>
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<td>90.70% A-</td>
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The two exams will be administered on Blackboard and will consist of multiple choice, short answers, fill in the blanks and so on. The dates of the exams are given in the detailed course outline at the end of this syllabus. If you have a conflict, please contact me immediately.

Extra Credit: There will be 6 extra credit assignments on Connect. I will drop your lowest score. That is, if you complete all 6 extra credit assignments, your lowest score will not count. You do not need to complete all 6 extra credit assignments to receive the extra credit. The extra credit will add up to 3% to your final grade. For example, if you average 90% for the 5 extra credit assignments, then you will receive 2.7% added to your final grade.
The homework and extra credit will be administered on Connect and will consist primarily of fill in the blanks.

I’ve tried to balance course simplicity with student’s feedback on having a more diversified grading base, but welcome your feedback in this regard.

**Some Study Techniques**
Most of you are working full time, have busy family lives, and are taking other courses. Online accounting will require additional expenditures of time – depending on the ease with which you understand it – anywhere from 8 to 12 hours a week. Accounting can be difficult to master, so plan to commit time regularly each week and start early.

Viewing, reading and understanding each week’s material can take unexpected amounts of time – because accounting consists mainly of concepts and definitions that create a structure around business transactions and decisions. Many of these concepts you are familiar with in a loose kind of way – revenue, income, cost, payment, purchase, benefit, opportunity, price etc., and often this very familiarity can make learning difficult because you think you understand the definition – but you do not actually. This is why doing the homework problems is so important – to test if you have understood the material.

You have the syllabus – so read ahead as much as you can when you can. Reading ahead is always a good idea.

Before you start doing the homework, make a short list of concepts, techniques, and ideas you think you have learned from reading the chapter. When doing homework problems, be sure to attempt a solution first without looking at the solutions I have provided for you. If you do have to look at the solution to a problem, try to do it in short steps. In other words, study (meaning understand) just the part of the solution you were stuck at, then try to continue doing the problem on your own.

If you can’t figure out how to continue solving the problem, then look at the next part of the solution and continue on your own and so on. Once you have got to the end of the problem, stop a moment and write down all the concepts and techniques that you think learned from having done the problem. You know you have understood the concepts in a chapter reasonably well when you can solve the homework problems in the book without looking at the solutions and when you can answer the facilitator’s questions at the facilitation session- so that’s your goal.

**Outline for MBAD 6213.HC Course**

**Week Beginning**

1. **M May 16** – all sessions are at 9:00 PM ET
   a. Class introduction, setup, and syllabus overview
   b. Edmonds Text: Chapter 10: Introduction. Concept review problems: Ex 10 – 6, 11, 13, 14, 16; P 10-19, 22 (To be clear the homework problems are in Connect). The Ex stands for Exercises and the P standard for Problems.
   c. Connect Chapter 10 Homework – Due Wednesday May 25th 3:00 AM EDT
   d. Connect Chapter 10 Extra Credit – Due June 27th at 3:00 AM EDT
   e. Instructor Sessions: Tuesday: Class and Syllabus Overview, Thursday Chapter 10

2. **Su May 22**
   b. Connect Chapter 12 Homework – Due Wednesday June 1st at 3:00 AM EDT (Happy Memorial Day!)
   c. Connect Chapter 12 Extra Credit – Due June 27th at 3:00 AM EDT
   d. Instructor Sessions: Thursday May 26th

3. **Su May 29**
   a. Edmonds Text: Chapter 11: Cost behavior & CVP analysis. Concept review problems: Ex 11 – 1, 2, 5, 12, 14; P 11 – 22, 27, 28, 29
   b. Connect Chapter 11 Homework – Due June 6th at 3:00 AM EDT
c. Connect Chapter 11 Extra Credit – Due June 27th at 3:00 AM EDT
d. Instructor Sessions: Thursday June 2nd

**Midterm (chapters 10-12) open from Thursday, June 2nd at 11:59PM EDT to Monday, June 6th at 3:00 AM EDT**

4. Su Jun 5
   a. Edmonds Text: Chapter 13: Relevant information. Concept review problems: Ex 13 – 1, 5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, 19; P 13-24, 28
   b. Connect Chapter 13 Homework – Due June 13th at 3:00 AM EDT
   c. Connect Chapter 13 Extra Credit – Due June 27th at 3:00 AM EDT
d. Instructor Sessions: Thursday June 9th

4. Su Jun 12
   1. Edmonds Text: Chapter 14: Profit planning and cost control. Concept review problems:HW Problems: Ex 14-3, 4, 7, 8, 14; P 14-18, 22
   2. Connect Chapter 14 Homework – Due June 20th at 3:00 AM EDT
   3. Connect Chapter 14 Extra Credit – Due June 27th at 3:00 AM EDT
   4. Instructor Sessions: Thursday June 16th

5. Su Jun 19
   2. Connect Chapter 15 Homework – Due June 27th at 3:00 AM EDT
   3. Connect Chapter 15 Extra Credit – Due June 27th at 3:00 AM EDT
   4. Discussion Question Due June 20th at 3:00 AM EDT
   5. Instructor Session: Thursday June 23rd

**Cumulative final exam. Open from 11:59 PM EDT on June 23rd to Monday, June 27th at 3:00 AM EDT.**