

School of Management

MMBA 509 ACCOUNTING FOR MANAGERS

Trimester 3, 2013

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

LECTURER AND COURSE CO-ORDINATOR

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COURSE ADMINISTRATOR

Amanda Cunningham

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Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 18 November 2013 to Friday 14 February 2014

Mid-Trimester (Christmas) Break: Saturday 21 December 2013 to Sunday 5 January 2014

Examination Period: Monday 17 February to Saturday 22 February 2014 (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

- 1 Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before **Friday 29 November 2013**.
- 2 The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is **28 January 2014**.

After the last date stated in 2, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an '*Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late*' including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lectures: Tuesdays 5.40pm – 8.00pm in **GBLT2**

Mid-term Test: Thursday 16 January 2014, 5.40pm – 7.10pm. (**RHLT2**)

Final Exam: During final exam week: 17 February – 22 February 2014

Course Delivery

This course is delivered in eleven 2 hour twenty minute classes over 11 weeks. The classes will be a combination of teacher-led lectures, student analysis of case studies or examples and class discussion.

Expected Workload

Workload expectations for this course are 10 hours per week for the 11 teaching weeks (2.3 hours of lectures, and 8 hours individual study).

Prescription

An introduction to the concepts of financial and management accounting, covering the content of financial statements; concepts of value and profit, cost behaviour and cost-volume-profit relationships; cost allocation principles.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of key financial concepts;
2. demonstrate understanding of external and internal financial reports;
3. communicate effectively with financial, and other, colleagues in making strategic decisions.

The mid-term test, individual assignment and final examination will assess the extent to which these skills have been mastered.

Course Content

The Master of Business Administration Programme aims to produce professional managers capable of fulfilling strategic roles within international corporate and government enterprises. Managers make extensive use of accounting information in their day-to-day work and accounting information is fundamental to corporate governance in that it provides the means of making the organisation's management accountable to outsiders such as owners.

The course is taught at a level that assumes no prior knowledge of accounting, but participants whose first degree is in accounting will naturally have some advantage in dealing with the course material. Participants who do not have any accounting in their first university degree will benefit from careful study of the assigned readings.

An understanding of basic financial concepts is considered by most, if not all, senior managers to be of critical importance to their, and their organisations, success. Yet, for many, those concepts seem elusive and confused by jargon. This course is designed to overcome these difficulties and to enable students to understand the contribution to users' decision-making of externally and internally reported financial information.

The course content is set out in tabular form on pages 5 and 6 of this course outline.

Readings

Accounting and Finance for Non-Specialists, by Peter Atrill & Eddie McLaney, 8e, Pearson Education Limited (2013). (This can be purchased from the VUW Bookshop on the ground floor of Rutherford House.)

Plus additional hand-outs from lecturers.

Assessment

Mid-term Test	90 minutes	25%	Thursday 16 January 2014	5:40-7:10pm	RHLT2
Individual assignment		25%	To be submitted by 5pm on Friday 14 February 2014		
Final Examination	3 hours	50%	TBA		

Mid-term test (25%) 90 minute open book test – In the mid-term test, students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of concepts introduced in the management accounting section of the course.

Individual Assignment (25%) – The assignment will be designed to help develop students' knowledge and understanding of external financial reporting concepts and basic analysis of financial statements. The precise topic of the assignment will be given to students in the second week after the break in January 2014.

Final (open book) Examination (50%) – In the final three hour examination, students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge of the fundamental concepts of external and internal financial reporting and an ability to apply these concepts to problem situations. Students may take into the examination any written material they please.

Penalties

In fairness to other students, individual assignments submitted after the deadline will be subject to a penalty of 5% of the total marks available per day of lateness. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted. A “zero” mark will be applied. In the event of unusual, unforeseen circumstances (e.g., serious illness, family bereavement), students should discuss waiver of the penalty with the course co-ordinator **prior** to the deadline date.

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. A copy of submitted materials will be retained on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

Examinations

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period. The final examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the following period:

Monday 17 February to Saturday 22 February 2014.

Mandatory Course Requirements

In addition to obtaining an overall course mark of 50 or better, students must submit the written assignment and gain a mark of at least 40% in the final examination.

Victoria MBA Grading Standards are as follows:

Excellent Category

A- (75 – 79%) to A (80 – 85%) to A+ (85% and above): The learning is demonstrated to a very high level of proficiency, i.e. it is at a standard that makes it exceptional at Master's level.

Very Good Category

B+ (70 – 74%): The learning is demonstrated at a high standard. Students have reached a level that clearly exceeds “competency”.

Good Category

B (65 – 69%): The learning is clearly demonstrated without being exceptional in any way. Students can be thought of as fully competent.

Satisfactory Category

B- (60 – 64%): The learning is demonstrated without being exceptional in any way. Students can be thought of as competent.

Marginal Category

C (50 – 54%) to C+ (55 – 59%): The learning is demonstrated to a minimally acceptable level. There may be flaws but these are not serious enough to “fail” the student.

Unsatisfactory / Failure Category

E (0 – 39%) to D (40 – 49%): The learning is absent or performed to a very low level, or the performance is seriously flawed.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information

Communication will generally be by means of Blackboard. This includes notices, lecture material, references and assignments.

Student Feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Link to general information

For general information about course-related matters, go to <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

Note to Students

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

Schedule of Lectures

Date	Topic
Pre-course reading	Chapter 1 of Atrill and McLaney (2013) <i>Introduction to accounting and finance.</i>
Lecture 1 Tue 19 Nov 2013	Understanding Internal Financial Information (ML) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comparison of management and financial accounting ▪ Cost behaviour ▪ Direct Costing ▪ Absorption Costing ▪ ABC Reading: Chapters 7 and 8
Lecture 2 Tues 26 Nov 2013	Relevant Costs for Decision Making (ML) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunity Costs ▪ Cost Volume Profit Analysis ▪ Short Term Decisions Reading: Chapter 7 + Reading to be distributed
Lecture 3 Tue 3 Dec 2013	Management Control (ML) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management Control ▪ Knowledge transfers ▪ Controllability ▪ Performance Evaluation Reading: Chapter 9 + Reading to be distributed
Lecture 4 Tue 10 Dec 2013	Budgeting and Beyond (ML) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Budgetary Control (Ch9) ▪ Measuring performance using budgets ▪ Beyond budgeting Reading: Chapter 9 + Reading to be distributed
Lecture 5 Tue 17 Dec 2013	Concepts of Financial Accounting – an introduction (KS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accounting and user needs ▪ The roles of accounting ▪ New Zealand Framework for the preparation and presentation of financial statements ▪ Costs and benefits of accounting information ▪ Contrasting financial and management accounting (revisited) (Chapter 1 of Atrill and McLaney)
Saturday 21 December 2013 to Sunday 5 January 2014	Mid Term Break

<p>Lecture 6 Tue 7 Jan 2014</p>	<p>Target Setting and Recent Developments in Accounting (ML)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jensen (2001) ▪ Life Cycle Costing ▪ Quality ▪ JIT ▪ Balanced Score Card <p>Reading to be distributed</p>
<p>Lecture 7 Tue 14 Jan 2014</p>	<p>Measuring and Reporting Financial Position (KS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building blocks of financial information ▪ Accounting equation and structure of external financial statements ▪ The statement of financial position ▪ Selected asset and liability issues (Chapter 2 of Atrill and McLaney)
<p>Thurs 16 Jan 2014</p>	<p>Mid-term test (RHLT2) 5:40pm-7:10pm</p>
<p>Lecture 8 Tue 21 Jan 2014</p>	<p>Measuring and Reporting Financial Performance (KS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The income statement ▪ Relationship between the income statement and balance sheet ▪ Selected revenue and expense issues, including depreciation, bad debts and other impairment (Chapter 3 of Atrill and McLaney)
<p>Lecture 9 Tue 28 Jan 2014</p>	<p>Measuring and Reporting Cash Flows (and other statements) (KS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The cash flow statement ▪ Distinguishing the messages from cash and accrual ▪ Statement of Movements in Equity (Chapter 5 of Atrill and McLaney)
<p>Lecture 10 Tue 4 Feb 2014</p>	<p>Analysing and Interpreting Financial Statements (KS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial ratios ▪ Profitability, efficiency, liquidity, gearing and investment ratios ▪ Limitations of ratio analysis (Chapter 6 of Atrill and McLaney)
<p>Lecture 11 Tue 11 Feb 2014</p>	<p>Advanced topics in financial accounting including valuation issues, comprehensive income etc (KS)</p> <p>Review of Financial Accounting Material (<i>Readings to be distributed</i>)</p>
<p>Mon 17 Feb 2014 to Sat 22 Feb 2014</p>	<p>Final Exam during Exam Week (TBA)</p>