

**MANNING SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**  
**60.601 Accounting Information for Management Decisions Fall 2013**  
**Section 201: Tuesday 3:30 PM – 6:20 PM**



**Prof. George Joseph, Ph.D., ACA**

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**Office Hours:** *MW 11:00 am - 12:15pm; T 6:20 – 7:00 pm*  
*Friday by appointment only*

*Course Web: [http://faculty.uml.edu/gjoseph/Teaching/60\\_601.aspx](http://faculty.uml.edu/gjoseph/Teaching/60_601.aspx)*

*BlackBoard: <http://continuinged.uml.edu/online>*

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**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Focuses on the manager's view as opposed to the accountant's view of the decision process and related quantitative and qualitative information needs. The course material examines accounting information that will achieve faster, better, and cheaper operations. New strategic cost management models, such as ABC and target costing, are explored and contrasted with traditional cost approaches.

**PLACE IN CURRICULUM:** The prerequisite requirements for this course are matriculation and completion of the foundation core courses.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

*Atkinson, Anthony, Robert S. Kaplan and S. Mark Young. Management Accounting. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (Prentice Hall)*

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** Management accounting systems provide the information to support planning and management control. All managers would therefore benefit from an understanding the use of management accounting information.

This course applies the knowledge and concepts in managerial accounting to a variety of business situations, firms and industries to help students appreciate the importance of its use in decision-making. The course will cover topics that include foundations such as cost structures and concepts, budgets, job and activity based costing. Finally, this course will develop your ability to understand and analyze accounting information in business situations and communicate it adequately to support business decisions.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** The course is intended to enable you to develop qualitative and quantitative skills to apply to decision-making and the ability to continue to develop knowledge in a changing world. The following are specific goals of the course:

- Understand the role of accounting information in different organizations and industries.
- Develop quantitative and critical thinking skills through structured problem-solving and case analysis
- Communicate business concepts and accounting information effectively in oral and in written form
- Be a contributing partner in a team-based environment
- Consider legal, ethical, global and technology-related implications in problem solving, case presentations and discussions
- Identify external information from journals and other sources, organize and apply it to organizations to *to gain further insights into accounting concepts and develop continuous learning skills*

## TEACHING METHOD AND LEARNING APPROACH:

*Class lectures will introduce and illustrate the foundational concepts.* An important part of the course is developing quantitative skills in analyzing and applying accounting information. Therefore, the course will include both topical problem solving (structured) and a diverse set of cases that will include management accounting information for quantitative and qualitative analysis. The case approach will also provide insights into the complexity of problems confronted by managers in real-life situations. The text is particularly suitable for this purpose, as it provides in-depth treatment of the topics that are particularly relevant to real-life applications and useful in case analysis. To make this a learning experience, the class must become a community of learners, who are excited about the learning process. Group discussions and projects will also encourage collaborative learning.

## EVALUATION:

Grades will be based on in-class participation, group activities (including group problem solving and case write-up and a case project), exams and quizzes as below:

**Class Participation:** Class participation includes topical, exercises, problems and case discussions. Each student should be fully prepared to discuss problems and cases. In addition, group problem solving will be used to encourage an environment of group collaborative learning. Students are expected to be courteous in class and ensure that others have a fair opportunity to participate to cultivate a learning environment. Do not chat or in any other way distract attention when the class is in progress. Class attendance and punctuality are also important to ensure there are no distractions that can reduce the effectiveness of classroom activities.

**Group Cases:** Cases, as indicated in the schedule, will be assigned to each group. Case solutions will need to be presented in class; the presenting group must also present a case write-up. The solutions should be prepared in a professional manner, appropriately organized, grammatically correct, with proper spelling, using Word and Excel, as necessary. *More details on the project are provided in a separate note.*

**Quizzes and Exam:** Quizzes and the exam will test your understanding of concepts, critical thinking and problem solving skills and the application of concepts to different situations. Regular quizzes are intended to ensure you keep up-to-date on the schedule and will serve to review your basic understanding of concepts. The final exam will also assess your achievement of learning objectives of the course.

The following will be the examination and grading policy:

<b>METHOD</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
Final Exam	300
Quizzes	200
Group Cases	250
In-Class Problems	250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,000</b>

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

Students are expected to be familiar with, and adhere to, the ethical standards and guidelines set by the University in the UML Student Catalog and applicable to all courses. The standards and guidelines will apply to any situation involving plagiarism, cheating, or other incidences of misconduct. Furthermore, please exercise reasonable standards of common courtesy throughout all class sessions such as turning off your cell phones and not eating in class. Given the interactive nature of the course, it is also critical that there is mutual respect in the classroom. Students should exercise courteous behavior in class and ensure that others have a fair opportunity to participate to cultivate a learning environment. Do not chat or in any other way distract attention when the class is in progress.

On days when inclement weather, personal sickness, or other issues prevent the professor from attending class, either “make up” time will be scheduled at the discretion of the professor, or material will be posted on-line (in Blackboard) so that you can continue to work on the course materials from remote locations.

### **About Your Professor**

George Joseph (Ph.D. in Accounting from Temple University and an MBA from Pittsburgh State University) is a Chartered Accountant from India. He has worked in professional accounting firms (including an affiliate of the international accounting firm, Coopers and Lybrand) and industry. Prior to joining the faculty at University of Massachusetts Lowell, he taught managerial accounting, systems and other accounting courses at Savannah State University, Temple University and Spring Arbor College. Dr. Joseph’s current research interests include strategic cost management and systems. He has published a number of research articles in such journals as *Accounting and the Public Interest*, *International Journal of Accounting Information Systems*, *Accounting Education: An International journal*, *Management Accounting Quarterly*, *Accounting and the Public Interest* among others. Dr. Joseph is widely traveled, and has a range of professional and cultural experience.

You can contact Dr. Joseph at 978-934-2842, or by email at [george\\_joseph@uml.edu](mailto:george_joseph@uml.edu).

**Fall 2013 COURSE CALENDAR – 60.601**  
**Schedule of Course Topics and Assignments**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Reading Assignments &amp; Discussions</b>	<b>Problems, Cases, Project</b>
09/10	Course Introduction, Ch. 1 (Management Accounting: Information that creates value)	Ch.1 Exercises: 12,13, 15-20
09/17 09/24	Ch. 3 (Using Costs in Decision-making)	Ch.3 Exercises: 23 – 48; Problems 54, 56-60. <b>Case 1: AVS (VC and FC in wine making industry, decision-making (Ch.3-72)</b>
10/01 10/08	Ch. 4 (Accumulating and Assigning Costs to Products)	Ch.4 Exercises: 24-45, 50-52
10/15 10/22	Ch. 5 (Activity-Based Cost Systems)	Ch.5 Exercises: 18-21, 25-31, 35
10/29 11/05	Ch. 6 (Measuring and Managing Customer Profitability)	Ch.6 Exercises: 16-23, Problems 26-29 <b>Case 2: Midwest Office Products (Ch.6-33)</b>
11/12	Ch. 7 (Measuring and Managing Process Performance)	Ch.7 Exercises: 30,31,36-42, 59
11/19 11/26	Ch. 8 (Measuring and Managing Life Cycle Costs)	Ch.8 Exercises: 32-40, 45 <b>Case 3: Mercedes-Benz (Ch.8-47)</b>
12/3 12/10	Ch. 10 (Using Budgets to achieve Organizational Objectives)	Ch.10 Exercises: 45-48; Problems 53-55,59-60, 63-64 <b>Case 4: Judd's Reproductions (Ch.10-78)</b>
12/13- 12/19	<b>Final Exam week</b>	

*This syllabus and course schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be announced in class and online.*

Some important dates:

1. September 17 -- Last day to withdraw without record
2. November 13 -- Last day to withdraw with "W"

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