

## Dillard College of Business Administration

SYLLABUS: Cost Analysis and Control  
ACCT 5213 Section 270

Spring 2024

Wednesday in Dillard Building 178  
7:00 p.m. until 9:50 p.m.

### Contact Information

Instructor: Catherine Gaharan  
Office: Dillard Building 210  
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and by appointment  
E-mail: [catherine.gaharan@msutexas.edu](mailto:catherine.gaharan@msutexas.edu)

### Course Materials

Text: A fairly recent edition of a good undergraduate managerial accounting text.  
Recommended, not required - *Cornerstones of Managerial Accounting* (a fairly recent edition) by Mowen, Hansen, Heitger

Desire2Learn: You will find the following at this site:

- Syllabus
- Course content
- Grades

### Course Description

Cost analysis is a graduate level presentation of managerial accounting topics. Through the use of case analysis, the student will apply methods and techniques of cost and managerial accounting to business decision situations. A major objective is an appreciation of the subjective elements in these situations as well as application of quantitative methods presented in the text.

### Course Prerequisites

Accounting 2143 and 2243 or equivalent, and consent of the graduate coordinator.

### Learning Goals

#### General Learning Goals:

Teambuilding and collaboration to achieve group objectives: Students will work in groups to prepare and present the company analyses and the business plans used in this course.  
Competency in writing for common business scenarios: Groups will prepare and submit a grammatically correct written report for each company and for each business plan. These reports must reflect a clear and logical flow of ideas leading to a sound analysis.

Effective communications: Each member of the group will present part of the company analysis/business plan. The student's score will be based on how effectively the student analyzes the business, identifies problems, and suggests solutions.

Problem solving and decision-making abilities through critical analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of business information: Students will demonstrate problem solving and decision-making ability as they synthesize information into coherent and defensible analyses.

Adapt knowledge to new and unfamiliar circumstances: The companies and business plans included in this course represent a mixture of a wide variety of business situations. Students must apply knowledge gained both through education as well as through experience in order to determine optimal analyses to these business problems.

Course Specific Learning Goals: After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Recognize and to define different concepts of cost
- Apply different methods of analyzing and accounting for product and service costs
- Understand the relationship between cost, volume, and profit and apply it to planning and budgeting
- Measure and evaluate the differences between budgeted and actual performance
- Determine the costs relevant to specific business situations.

### **Course Policies**

Company analysis: Each team of students will present an analysis of a specific company to the class and will submit a formal written analysis of the company. Students are responsible for obtaining company data through EDGAR, company websites, and other business sources.

Analysis of business plan: Each team of students is responsible for presenting a business plan to the class and for submitting a formal written analysis of the plan. Presentations and written analyses will include a brief background, in-depth identification and analysis of possible problems, and detailed solutions to the problems. Some plan analyses will require more in-depth study of the text and/or additional research of the industry the business is in.

Participation: Each member of the class is expected to contribute to the discussion of each company/business plan in their group.

Teambuilding: Each team member is expected to contribute fully in completing the objectives of the team. Team members will be assigned specific parts of the problem to analyze.

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected, and roll will be taken. Please refer the MSU Student Handbook for Class Attendance Policy and Authorized Absences.

Late Assignments: Each company/business plan will be presented in class on its assigned date. There will be no opportunity to present an analysis after its assigned date. The written analysis is due via email no later than 6:00 p.m. CST one week after it is scheduled to be presented and will not be accepted after the due date.

Incomplete Grade: A grade of "incomplete" is given only in the case of emergencies; complete documentation for the situation is required. The rare case of an "incomplete" must be satisfied within 30 days of the beginning of the next long semester.

Extra Credit: There are no opportunities for extra credit in this class.

Syllabus Change: This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change. Syllabus changes will be communicated in class and via Desire2Learn.

Academic Integrity: All acts of academic dishonesty will result in a **failing** grade for the course, and the College and/or University may take further action. Work submitted in

this course must be your own. Use of information other than your own must be properly cited. Please note that I take this policy very seriously. For the University policies on academic integrity, refer to the MSU Student Handbook on Standards of Conduct.

Disability policy: Students with a disability must be registered with Disability Support Services to receive classroom accommodations.

Concealed handguns: Senate Bill 11 allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus. Areas excluded from concealed carry are marked.

Classroom Behavior: Refer to Midwestern State University's Code of Student Conduct contained in the Student Handbook.

Grading and Evaluation:

The semester average is based on 400 total points, consisting of:

Company analysis and presentation, worth 100 points based on:

- the appropriateness of the analysis
- the effectiveness of the presentation
- the ability to identify problems
- the quality of the suggested solutions to problems
- the student's ability to defend the proposed solutions.

Analysis and presentation of business plan, worth 100 points based on:

- the appropriateness of the group's analysis
- the effectiveness of the group's presentation
- the ability to identify problems
- the quality of the suggested solutions to problems
- the group's ability to defend the proposed solutions.

A formal written report of each company and of each business plan, worth 50 points each based on:

- the students' ability to develop a cohesive report free from grammatical and formatting errors with an overall clear and logical flow of ideas leading to a sound conclusion.

Class participation, worth 50 points based on:

- the quality of the student's evaluations of the presentation (for example, merely restating someone else's comments is not quality; however, adding substantially to previous comments and/or rationally disagreeing with previous comments could be of quality).

Team evaluations, worth 50 points based on:

- team members' evaluations of each member's contribution to the analyses from each of the two teams, for the business plan analysis and for the company analysis. Students who do not complete the team evaluation for each teammate will be penalized ten points for each team member not evaluated.

Note: For any team whose members cannot work together, each member must prepare a separate company analysis/business plan and a separate formal report. The grade for each member of that team will be reduced.

An average of at least 90% results in a grade of A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D, <60% F.

Questions Regarding Course Grade: Grades are confidential by law. Therefore, grades will be posted only on Desire2Learn for this class.

### **Class Procedures**

The class will review cost and managerial accounting concepts from the text and from power point presentations. Selected accounting concepts will be presented at the beginning of the semester. The following topics will be discussed:

- Introductory Material
- Basic Concepts
- Cost Behavior
- Cost-Volume-Profit Analysis
- Job Costing
- Profit Planning
- Standard Costing
- Performance Evaluation
- Short-Run Decision Making
- Cost of quality

During the fifth class meeting and during each class meeting thereafter, company analyses and then business plans will be presented. Following each presentation, the class will participate in critiques and added discussions of the presentation.

Students will submit as a Word document attached to an email his or her portion of the formal report no later than 6:00 p.m. CST one week after the case presentation. The team may elect to present a single report which includes the three parts combined, instead of separate reports. A late submission will not be accepted; however, reports may be submitted early.

Class grouping: Students are divided into two groups: Maroon (found on the Maroon class list) and Gold (found on the Gold class list). Maroon students will work with Maroon analyses only. Gold students will work with Gold analyses only. Due dates are the same for each group.

### **Course Schedule**

<u>Date, 2024:</u>	<u>Topic and Case</u>
Jan 17 – Feb 7	Introduction, review, prepare analyses
Feb 14 – Mar 20	Company analyses
Mar 27 – Apr 24	Business plan analyses
May 1	Final Exam and Semester wrap-up

Notes: Companies/business plans and presenters are included on the schedules of companies/business plans for each group, found in D2L.

Guidelines for presentations, for report write-up, and for company and business plan analyses are included separately in D2L.