COURSE OBJECTIVES
An understanding of the evolving role that managerial accounting has played and is expected to play in servicing the informational needs of managers in their planning, organizing, and controlling functions. Planning encompasses short- and long-term operating, tactical, and strategic decision making. The managerial accounting function can be conceived of as serving three somewhat distinct but related purposes:

Two key themes through the course are the following: While "cost accounting" systems were first introduced to serve managerial needs, they were soon also used for computing product costs for inventory valuation for external reporting. The latter purpose then came to dominate the orientation of the single system one commonly found in most organizations. A single reporting system cannot perfectly serve all four needs. However, reflecting organizational inertia and the high information processing costs of an earlier era, one often still finds a single system in place, primarily oriented towards the GAAP requirements for external reporting. With advances in information technology, this is changing and the ability to analyze, aggregate, and report along many dimensions can be expected to improve. The appropriate dimensions will vary with the setting at hand and universal prescriptions are not appropriate. We shall further explore this theme in the context of the new competitive and technological environment.

The cost of alternative in a decision setting is the sacrifice involved in adopting it -- which is context dependent. However detailed the reporting system, not every context can be anticipated and reported upon. Periodic reporting systems can, at best, direct attention and support a preliminary conclusion. Managers will generally need to access more raw data to conduct a sound and definitive analysis. The key notions here are those of sunk costs, out-of-pocket costs, incremental costs, relevant costs (and benefits), and opportunity costs. These notions will be introduced and examined against the backdrop of the processes of cost accumulation, assignment, allocation, and absorption that underlie traditional cost accounting systems so as to impart a thorough appreciation of the contributions and limitations of historical product costs for decision making.

PEDAGOGY & CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:
A mix of Lectures, Problems and Cases will be employed. You should read the assigned readings before class and bring the text to class. Our discussions will supplement the text and often not go over everything in the text. You are nevertheless responsible for all the material assigned from the text. Questions are encouraged at all times. Class participation is essential. You will be invited by name to respond to questions or make comments. Regularly scheduled homework and quizzes are an integral part of your learning experience and also your evaluation.

EVALUATION:

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COURSE SCHEDULE

I. INTRODUCTION:
Session 1 - ROLE OF MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING
Overview of managerial functions, managerial informational needs, and management accounting's role in servicing these needs. Differences between the informational needs of managers and outsiders, and between managerial accounting and financial accounting.
Read Chapter 1

Session 2 - COST TERMS, CONCEPTS & TERMINOLOGY
Costing objects; Fixed vs. Variable Costs; Direct vs. Indirect Costs Product vs. Period Costs.
Reading: Chapter 2
Homework Assignment: See Homework Manager

II. PRODUCT COSTING SYSTEMS

Session 3-5 - JOB ORDER COSTING
Reading: Chapter 3
Homework Assignment: See Homework Manager

Session 6 - ACTIVITY BASED COSTING
Reading: Chapter 8
Homework Assignment: See Homework Manager

III. COST INFORMATION FOR DECISION MAKING
The critical role of cost information is analyzing alternative courses of action in managerial decisions is discussed.

Session 7-8 - COST VOLUME PROFIT ANALYSIS & DECISION MODELS
Reading: Chapter 6
Homework Assignment 5: See Homework Manager

Session 9-10 - PROFIT ANALYSIS & DECISION MODELS
Reading: Chapter 6 & Chapter 13
Homework Assignment: See Homework Manager
III. PROFIT PLANNING AND BUDGETING

Session 11, BUDGETS AND PROFIT PLANNING FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS
The role of budgets in planning, control, and decision making is discussed. The importance of the master budget, its major components, and interrelationships of the various components is examined.
i. Preparing a Revenue Budget
ii. Preparing a Cost Budget
iii. Capital Budgeting

Reading: Chapter 9
Homework Assignment: See Homework Manager

Session 12 – Review

Final Exam