

ACCT 6331.5w1  
Cost Accounting: Foundations  
and Evolutions

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**Course Syllabus**  
**ACCT 6331**  
School of Management  
The University of Texas at Dallas

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## Course Information

### Course

Course Number/Section	ACCT 6331.5w1
Course Title	Cost Accounting
Term and Dates	Spring 2024: January 16 <sup>th</sup> – May 10 <sup>th</sup> .
Class meetings	Wednesdays 7:00 – 9:45 via MS Teams

### Professor Contact Information

Professor	Surya Janakiraman
Office Phone	972 883 6370
Email Address	Use eLearning Message to send private message.
Office Location	JSOM 4.806

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Office Hours	Mondays	5:00 – 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>
	Wednesdays	5:00 – 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>

You may also come in person to my office.

### TA Contact Information

Name: Lanru Ai  
Email: lxa200024@utdallas.edu  
Office hours: TBD

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### Class Attendance

This course is a synchronous online course. We will meet every Wednesday 7:00 – 9:45 PM through MS Teams. Every student is **expected to attend classes with their cameras on**. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. I have sent a calendar link to join the class. I am copying that link below:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

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### Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. You are expected to be fully engaged in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures. Class

participation is documented by the instructor. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

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### **Class Recordings**

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

The instructor may record meetings of this course. Any recordings will be available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

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### **Class Materials**

The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

*(including required prior knowledge or skills)*

There is no pre-requisite to this course.

### **Course Description**

Achieving success within any organization, regardless of its profit-seeking or non-profit nature, necessitates the integration of cost accounting principles and methodologies. Cost accounting serves as a vital source of essential information for managers, aiding them in the realms of planning, decision-making, control, and performance assessment. Managers rely on cost data to ascertain the costs associated with products, services, and even customers. In the context of a fiercely competitive and global business landscape, managers draw insights from cost accounting systems to consistently formulate strategic responses to competitors' actions. Furthermore, cost accounting data plays a pivotal role in determining the costs of products and services for both internal management and external financial reporting. This course is dedicated to exploring how cost accounting significantly enhances managers' decision-making capabilities, given the rising importance of cost accountants as indispensable members of their respective companies' decision-making teams.

In a concise overview, this course delves into the mechanisms through which organizations generate accounting information to facilitate effective planning, decision-making, and control. The course places emphasis on three key dimensions:

1. **Cost Analysis:** Cost analysis constitutes the foundational pillar of management accounting. It is from the concept of cost that numerous advanced management accounting principles are derived. This course comprehensively addresses methodologies for determining costs, techniques for accumulating and allocating costs, and the intricate understanding of cost flows within organizational structures.
2. **Planning and Control:** Building upon the knowledge acquired from cost analysis, this segment delves into the practical utilization of cost information for making decisions both in the short term and the long term. This encompasses the concept of responsibility accounting, which involves attributing costs to specific organizational units, as well as the measurement and evaluation of performance.
3. **Performance Evaluation:** Vital to an organization's functioning, performance evaluation and reward systems are instrumental in aligning the objectives of workers, managers, and stakeholders. This course acquaints participants with the strategic use of cost accounting data in the process of performance evaluation.

In sum, this course provides a comprehensive exploration of how cost accounting plays an integral role in organizational processes, encompassing planning, decision-making, and control. Through a systematic study of cost analysis, planning, control, and performance evaluation, participants gain valuable insights into optimizing resource allocation, fostering effective decision-making, and enhancing overall organizational performance.

## Student Learning Objectives

The learning objectives for the course are:

1. Gain fluency and mastery over different costing techniques. Develop expertise over the mechanics of various job and process costing systems.
2. Get a deep understanding of cost allocation methods with a particular focus of why and how a particular cost allocation method is chosen for a given situation.
3. Advance the knowledge of setting up benchmarks for performance evaluation and computing variances. Develop the expertise to interpret various variances in a way that help develop solutions for deviations from goals.
4. Comprehend the critical role of management control systems in organizations by gaining deep insight into transfer pricing mechanics and performance evaluation systems.
5. Develop expertise in capital budgeting techniques.
6. Acquire expertise in the use of data analytics related to accounting.

## Required Textbooks and Materials

This course **requires the following text book and access to WileyPlus:**

Title: Cost Accounting With Integrated Data Analytics

Authors: Karen Congo Farmer and Amy Fredin

Wiley Publishers (1<sup>st</sup> edition)

ISBN: 9781119983521

**You need to have access to WileyPlus.** “WileyPlus access” includes access to e-textbook, quizzes, data analytic bootcamps, and assignments. Access to WileyPlus will be valid until the end of the semester. In addition, you have the option of purchasing a permanent e-copy of the textbook or looseleaf edition of printed textbook. I recommend that you make use of one of these options so that you will be able to refer to cost accounting materials for CMA/CPA exams.

## Integrated Data Analytics:

In today's rapidly evolving business landscape, the acquisition of data analytic skills has emerged as an undeniable catalyst for success. As organizations grapple with an unprecedented influx of data from various sources, the ability to extract actionable insights from this abundance of information has become a defining factor in achieving and sustaining competitiveness. Data analytics empowers business professionals to navigate complexities, make informed decisions, and unearth hidden patterns that would otherwise remain obscured. By harnessing the power of data, businesses can accurately anticipate market trends, customer preferences, and operational efficiencies, enabling them to proactively adapt strategies, optimize processes, and drive innovation. In essence, data analytic skills have transcended the realm of being a mere asset; they have become an indispensable toolkit for leaders and professionals to not only survive but truly thrive in the dynamic and data-driven business environment of today and tomorrow.

The importance of learning data analytic tools cannot be overstated in today's data-driven world. As organizations amass vast volumes of information, the ability to extract meaningful insights and make informed decisions becomes a strategic imperative. Proficiency in data analytic tools equips individuals with the skills to navigate, analyze, and visualize data efficiently, enabling them to uncover patterns, trends, and correlations that would otherwise remain hidden. By harnessing the power of these tools, professionals can enhance problem-solving, optimize processes, and contribute to informed strategic planning. Moreover, in a rapidly evolving business landscape, where agility and adaptability are paramount, mastery of data analytic tools empowers individuals to stay ahead of the curve, ensuring their relevance and impact in an increasingly competitive environment. Whether it's Excel or Tableau for versatile data manipulation, PowerBI for dynamic visualization, or Alteryx for streamlined data preparation, these tools offer a gateway to innovation, efficiency, and success across various industries and roles. I will emphasize the use of Excel, PowerBI, Tableau and Alteryx in this course.

Learning Excel opens a gateway to enhanced efficiency and precision in data management and analysis. Its versatile features allow for seamless organization, manipulation, and visualization of data, enabling professionals to streamline processes, make data-driven decisions, and present insights effectively. Excel's wide-ranging applicability, from simple calculations to complex modeling, makes it an indispensable tool across industries, equipping learners with a foundational skill to excel in various business roles. With Tableau, individuals gain the ability to explore data from multiple angles, identify trends, and present insights in a compelling manner. As organizations increasingly rely on data to inform their strategies, Tableau's role in facilitating data-driven decision-making cannot be overstated. PowerBI

empowers learners to transform raw data into compelling visual narratives, fostering a deeper understanding of business trends and driving data-backed decision-making. Its intuitive interface and integration with diverse data sources make it a dynamic tool for professionals seeking to present information persuasively, unlock actionable insights, and stay ahead in an increasingly data-centric business landscape. Alteryx, as a powerful data analytics platform, offers learners the capability to automate complex data preparation, blending, and analysis processes. By mastering Alteryx, individuals can dramatically reduce the time spent on data cleansing and transformation, allowing for more focus on deriving meaningful insights. This proficiency accelerates decision-making, enhances problem-solving, and nurtures a proactive approach to business challenges. Alteryx's ability to handle big data and its integration with advanced analytics tools make it a pivotal asset for those aspiring to wield data as a strategic advantage and drive impactful outcomes in the modern business environment.

## Course Access in eLearning

This course uses material that is available in eLearning. You can login to the course at: <https://elearning.utdallas.edu>.

If you have any problems with your eLearning account you may contact 1-866-288-3192

## Proctored Exams

This course will use [Honorlock](#) – an online exam proctoring tool. To successfully take an exam, you must have a web camera with microphone, a laptop or desktop computer (no tablets/phones), Chrome browser, a reliable internet connection and your photo ID. You will be prompted to install the Honorlock Chrome Extension (which you can remove after you finish the test). You will then access the exam within your eLearning course and go through the authentication process. The web camera will monitor you throughout your test. Please see the [Testing Guidelines](#) and [Support Information](#) for additional information.

## Course Outline/Schedule

Session	Date	Topic of discussion	Textbook reference
1	January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Purpose of Cost Accounting Refresher on Cost Terms Cost Behavior and Cost Estimation	Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3
2	January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Cost Behavior and Cost Estimation Cost-Volume-Profit Analysis	Chapter 3 Chapter 4

3	January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Relevant Costs for the Decision Maker Mastering the Master Budget	Chapter 5 Chapter 6
4	February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Capital Budgeting Choices and Decisions Job Costing	Chapter 7 Chapter 8
5	February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Job Costing Activity Based Costing	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
6	February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Variance Analysis and Standard Costing	Chapter 10
7	February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Catchup	
<b>8</b>	<b>March 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Exam I (Via Honorlock)</b>	<b>Chapters 1 - 10</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>March 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Spring Break (No class)</b>	
10	March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Process Costing	Chapter 11
11	March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Absorption versus Variable Costing Data Analytics in Cost Accounting	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
12	April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Data Analytics in Cost Accounting Support Department Costing	Chapter 13 Chapter 14
13	April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Support Department Costing Joint Costs and Decision Making	Chapter 14 Chapter 15
14	April 17 <sup>th</sup>	The Art and Science of Pricing to Optimize Revenue Management Control Systems and Transfer Pricing	Chapter 16 Chapter 17
15	April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Business Strategy, Performance Measurement, and the Balanced Scorecard	Chapter 18
16	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Accounting for Spoilage Catchup	
<b>17</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Exam II (Via Honorlock)</b>	<b>Chapters 10 - 18</b>

## Practice problems

The suggested solutions for the following problems are provided to you (check the link “*suggested solutions to selected problems*” under each module in eLearning). It is highly recommended that you try to solve the following problems before you consult the solutions. You can expect at least 25% of the questions in exams to be similar to some of the following problems.

Chapter	Topic	Core assignment material
1	Cost Accounting Has Purpose	Refer to Blackboard
2	Refresher on Cost Terms	
3	Cost Behavior and Cost Estimation	
4	Cost-Volume-Profit Analysis	
5	Relevant Costs for the Decision-Maker	
6	Mastering the Master Budget	
7	Capital Budgeting Choices and Decisions	
8	Job Costing Visualized	
9	Activity-Based Costing	
10	Variance Analysis and Standard Costing	
11	Process Costing	
12	Absorption versus Variable Costing	
13	Data Analytics	
14	Support Department Costing	
15	Joint Costs and Decision Making	
16	The Art and Science of Pricing to Optimize Revenue	
17	Management Control Systems and Transfer Pricing	
18	Business Strategy, Performance Measurement, and the Balanced Scorecard	

## Student Assessments

### Grading Information

Grading scheme:

Chapter quizzes <sup>a</sup>	20%
Exam I	25%
Exam II	25%
Data Analytic assignments	30%
Total	100%

<sup>a</sup> For the purpose of course grade, I will consider the top 10 chapter quiz scores. Chapter quizzes are due one day before the day of the exam (@ 11:59 PM) in which the chapters are covered.

## Grading Policy

The following scale reflects, on average, how points were translated into letter grades, in the past, when I taught this course. However, please keep in mind that the cutoff for letter grades do change from year to year and the following scale should be considered as “the expected scale” and not to be treated as “firm commitment”. **The grading scale can change anytime during the semester at my discretion.**

Scaled score	Letter Equivalent
95% and above	A
90% – 94%	A-
85% – 89%	B+
80% – 84%	B
75% – 79%	B-
70% – 74%	C+
65% – 69%	C
Less than 65%	F

Treat the above translation table as a rough guideline. Translation of the total point score into a letter grade will be based on my judgment. This translation process will be based on many factors including the student’s relative performance (with respect to the rest of the students in the class), the consistency of performance across all the components of assessment (such as quizzes, exams and assignments), and the standards that are expected in our masters’ program.

## Course Policies

### (i) Makeup Exam

*Typically, I do not offer makeup exams. If you miss an exam without obtaining prior permission, a grade of zero will be assigned automatically. It's crucial that you are present in class to complete the exams. However, if you have a legitimate reason for being unable to take an exam – such as a medical emergency – it's important that you contact me before the scheduled test or exam. Your prompt communication will enable us to address the situation appropriately. Work related / personal travel is NOT acceptable as reason to miss a scheduled exam.*

### (ii) Extra Credit

You can’t make up any shortfall in a test or exam or assignment by offering to do additional work for extra credit. I would urge you to put in that effort BEFORE you sit for a quiz or an exam.

### (iii) Class Participation

Consistent class attendance and active engagement in class discussions are essential components of your performance in this course. Your regular presence and involvement in class discussions hold significant weight. When determining the letter grade based on the weighted score, I will take into account your class attendance and participation.

The University has policies and discipline procedures regarding scholastic dishonesty. Detailed information is available on the [Scholastic Dishonesty](#) web page. All students are expected to maintain a high level of responsibility with respect to academic honesty. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

### **Comet Creed**

*This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:*

*“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”*

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### **Academic Support Resources**

The information contained in the following link lists the University’s academic support resources for all students.

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

### **Course Evaluation**

As required by UTD academic regulations, every student must complete an evaluation for each enrolled course at the end of the semester. An online instructional assessment form will be made available for your confidential use. Please look for the course evaluation link on the course Homepage towards the end of the course.

### **UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*

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