

Grande Prairie Regional College
Department of Arts, Commerce and Education
Course Outline
ACCT 454 (3)
Decision Analysis
Winter 2003

Instructor: Ken Riley
Office: C307
Office hours: Tues. & Thurs. 1:00 – 2:30 PM or by appointment
Telephone: (w) 539-2017; (h) 532-7849
E-mail: kriley@gprc.ab.ca

Time and Place: Monday & Wednesday: 08:30 – 9:50 AM
B206

Course Description:

The course covers the use of accounting information for decision-making. The course begins with advanced discussion of topics such as cost-volume-profit analysis, resource allocation, and assigning resource costs to production centers. It studies the use of activity-based costing, activity-based management, and strategic cost management concepts such as value chain analysis and target pricing. The course includes discussion performance measurement, the balanced scorecard and executive compensation issues.

Prerequisites:

- AU ACCT 355, MATH 215 or MGSC 301 and MGSC 312 or
- GPRC AC 3220 or GPRC BA 2140
- ST1410 or ST1510 or BA 2060
- MG3120

Students are advised to confirm the transferability of the course with the appropriate professional accounting organization.

Content Description:

The learning objectives for this course are as follows:

- To understand and apply the concepts of managerial accounting at an advanced level.
- To develop the ability to work and participate constructively in a group setting
- To develop the ability to write clearly and concisely.

Course Materials:

Advanced Management Accounting, Third Edition; Kaplan, Robert S. and Atkinson, Anthony A.; Prentice-Hall, New Jersey, 1998.

Athabasca University Study Guide for ACC 454.

Athabasca University Course Manual and Assignments for ACC 454.

Evaluation:

The grading system employed in this course will be:

Assignments	40%
Participation:	10%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	30%

Assignments:

Three (3) hand-in assignments, as outlined in the Course Manual, will be given during the year. Other material may be assigned as well. These are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Cases should be prepared, where possible, in the format that will be discussed in class.

Because of the importance of the proper use of English in business generally and in professional situations specifically, papers will be graded accordingly. Marks on assignments and the case will be given for content and for written presentation. Written presentation includes, but not limited to, concise writing, appropriate use of point form, appropriate use of formatting/headings. Marks also will be deducted for poor grammar, incorrect spelling, poor sentence construction etc. if it detracts from the quality of the paper.

It is anticipated that many students will wish to use groups to prepare the hand-in assignments. It is expected that each student will fully participate in the discussion and the preparation of the assignments. To help ensure this participation, each member of the group will constructively evaluate himself/herself and the other members of the group. Based on this evaluation, marks for the assignments may be revised from that given the group.

Participation:

Each student is expected to come to class having read the material and completed any assignments. Marks will be based on the contribution made to the class by the student; note that both quantity and quality of the contribution will be assessed.

Midterm Examination:

A midterm examination is scheduled for Feb. 19th.

Final Examination:

A final examination will be held with time and place to be announced.

COURSE TIMELINES:

Week of:

- January 6:** General Introduction
Chapter 1 – Understanding Cost Behaviour
- January 13:** Chapter 2 – Short Term Budgeting, Resource Allocations and Capacity Cost
- January 20:** Chapter 3 – Assigning Resource Costs to Production Cost Centers
- January 27:** Chapter 4 – Activity-Based Cost Systems
- February 3:** Chapter 5 – Activity-Based Management
Assignment #1 Hand-in
- February 10:** Chapter 6 – Cost Based Decision Making
- February 17:** **Mid Term Exam**
- February 24:** Reading Week
- March 3:** Chapter 7 – Decentralization
- March 10:** Chapter 8 – Balanced Scorecard
Assignment #2 Hand-in
- March 17:** Chapter 9 – Financial Measures of Performance
- March 24:** Chapter 10 – Financial Measures of Performance, Other
- March 31:** Chapter 11 – Measuring Customer, Internal Business Process and Employee Performance
- April 7:** Chapter 13 – Incentive and Compensation Systems/Contracts
- April 14:** Chapter 14 – Formal Models in Budgeting and Incentive Contracts
Review (if possible)
Assignment #3 Hand-in

Note: Dates are approximate and may vary slightly.