I. **General Information**

Course number: ACCT 320  
Title: Cost Accounting  
Units: 4 credits  
Prerequisites: ACCT 201 and ACCT 202 with a grade of “C” or better  
Course Coordinator: Dr. Ping Lin  
Date Prepared/Revised: April 2016

II. **Catalog Description**

Theory and practice of cost accounting. Managerial use of cost accounting data for planning, controlling and decision making. Emphasis on cost accumulation and management information systems.  
Letter grade only (A-F). Laboratory and/or class computer applications required.

III. **Curriculum Justifications**

The curriculum is designed to teach critical thinking skills through such managerial accounting topics as the role of cost accounting information for management and business strategy development. As for business functions, the course covers topics such as cost accumulation systems for inventory valuation and income determination. For quantitative and technical skills, the course addresses such profit planning tools such as cost-volume-profit analysis and budgeting.

IV. **Course Objectives**

- **Learning goals – Critical Thinking:** (a) Students will be able to understand the role of accounting information in management decision making and how management accounting contribute to business strategy development. (b) Students will be able to understand the implication of different product cost terms, such as product vs. period costs, expired vs. unexpired costs, direct vs. indirect costs, and fixed vs. variable costs.

- **Learning goals – Business Functions:** (a) Students will be able to use normal costing system to determine overhead application rate, allocate overhead to products and services, and dispose under or over-applied overhead. (b) Students will be able to understand the cost flow in a job order costing system, prepare schedules of cost of goods manufactured, cost of goods sold and present income statement.

- **Learning goals – Quantitative and Technical Skills:** (a) Students will be able to conduct break-even and cost-volume-profit analysis for both single and multiple products; and to determine margin of safety and operating leverage. (b) Students will be
able to understand the relationship between company strategy and budgets, and prepare master budgets, including cash budget.

Assessment of student learning is conducted with quizzes, mock exams and exams with both multiple choice questions.

V. Outline of Subject Matter

This is an example of a course schedule that may be changed to accommodate unpredictable variations in the pace of coverage, students’ needs and so on. If changes in the schedule are made, students will be held responsible for these changes as announced in class. The topics listed below must be included in the course. Additional topics can be added into the course based on the instructor’s personal preferences in teaching this course. The required topics are also those that are included in the course assessment for ACCT 320.

Topics and examinations:
1. Introduction to Cost Accounting
2. Cost Terms and Classifications
3. Cost Behavior Analysis and Cost Estimation
4. Break-Even and Cost-Volume-Profit Analysis
5. Product Costing Methods -- Job Order Costing and Process Costing
6. Activity-Based Costing and Activity-Based Management
7. Budgeting for Profit Planning and Financial Modeling
8. Standard Costs and Variance Analysis
9. Performance Evaluation, Transfer Pricing, and Decentralization
10. Relevant Costs and Short-Term Decisions
11. Long-Term Investment and Capital Budgeting Decisions

VI. Methods of Instruction (each instructor fills in their own methods used — as an example, see below)

- ACCT 320 is generally taught in sections with 30-45 students. Class sessions usually feature Powerpoint presentations, discussions and student group assignments and presentations.
- There is no standardized text for all sections of ACCT 320. Some examples of the texts that are used include:
VII. Instructional Policies

- Policy on Classroom Behavior:
  - The instructor has the right to specify the rules for classroom behavior.
- Policy on Make-up Exams and Assignments:
  - The instructor develops his or her own policy.
- Policies on Withdrawal, Late Withdrawals, and Incompletes:
  - The instructor shall use the current university policy on dropping and withdrawal from classes set forth in the schedule of classes.
- Academic Integrity:
  - Students in this course will be expected to comply with the current CSULB Policy on Academic Integrity outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity.
- Campus Computer/Network Usage:
  - Students use the computing resources in this course and have to agree to be subject to the guidelines of the “Policy Governing Access to and Use of CSULB Computing Resources”.
- Disabilities:
  - Students with disabilities are responsible for notifying their instructor as early as possible of their needs for an accommodation of a verified disability. A student with a disability is urged to consult with Disabled Student Services as soon as possible in order to identify possible accommodations to enhance academic success.