Syllabus

Course title
IMA preparation

Course code
25427

Scientific sector
SECS-P/07

Degree
Master in Accounting and Finance

Semester and academic year
2nd Semester 2019/2020

Year
2nd Year

Credits
3

Modular
No

Total lecturing hours
18

Total lab hours
Not foreseen

Total exercise hours
Not foreseen

Attendance
Suggested, but not required

Prerequisites
The frequency of a management accounting course at introductory level is highly recommended.

Course page

Specific educational objectives
The course refers to the complementary educational activities chosen by the student and belongs to the scientific area of Business Administration.

The course reviews the main topics included in the CMA certification exam offered by the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA).

At the end of this course students should be able to:
- Demonstrate proficiency in understanding and interpreting financial statements, including the appropriate measurement and reporting standards underlying various financial transactions;
- Apply the most appropriate techniques required for strategic planning, budgeting and forecasting;
- Recommend key performance measures (cost drivers and revenue drivers), responsibility centers and a periodic internal reporting methodology given a business scenario;
- Recommend a course of action using cost estimation, marginal analysis and pricing methodologies under specific market conditions;
- Identify and evaluate relevant decisions regarding long-term financial management, raising capital, capital investments and international corporate finance;
- Discuss the issues organizations face in applying their
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Dott. Nicola Dalla Via, Office E5.10b, <a href="mailto:nicola.dallavia@unibz.it">nicola.dallavia@unibz.it</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientific sector of the lecturer</td>
<td>SECS-P/07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching language</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office hours</td>
<td>Please refer to the lecturer’s web page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturing assistant</td>
<td>Not foreseen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching assistant</td>
<td>Not foreseen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office hours</td>
<td>No assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of topics covered</td>
<td>The course reviews the main topics included in the CMA certification exam offered by the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA). More in detail, the course covers the following topics: Planning, budgeting and forecasting Performance management Cost management Internal controls Technology and analytics External financial reporting decisions Financial statement analysis Corporate finance Decision analysis Risk management Investment decisions Professional ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching format</td>
<td>The course will combine in-class explanation and problem solving. Students are expected to participate actively in class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning outcomes</td>
<td>Knowledge and understanding</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Knowledge of financial statements and understanding of financial statement analysis and evaluation tools for various business decisions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Demonstrate an understanding of the role that budgeting plays in the overall planning and performance evaluation process of an organization</td>
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<td>- Knowledge of cost measurement techniques and of the nature and types of cost drivers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Demonstrate an understanding of internal control risk and the management of internal control risk</td>
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- Knowledge of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) fundamental concepts
- Demonstrate an understanding of the different types of financial market, exchanges, and marketable securities
- Knowledge of the ethical principles and standards for management accounting and financial management professionals

Applying knowledge and understanding
- Analyze financial statements using proper accounting ratios
- Identify budget components and prepare budgets by using different methodologies
- Analyze performance against operational goals and explain favorable and unfavorable variances
- Assess the level of internal control risk within an organization and recommend risk mitigation strategies
- Perform a cost-volume-profit (CVP) analysis and recommend a course of action
- Compare different data analytics techniques and determine the most appropriate tool to use
- Apply capital budgeting methods to determine acceptable projects and define appropriate decision criteria

Making judgments
- Recommend performance measures and a periodic reporting methodology given operational goals and actual results

Communication skills
- Discuss the strategic value of cost information regarding products and services, pricing, and overhead allocations
- Communicate in basic writing the results of a financial statement analysis, as well as the outcomes of budgets and forecasts, and provide relevant suggestions for managers and stakeholders

Learning skills
- Develop and apply problem-solving techniques to managerial questions and exercises as those included in the CMA certification exam
- Ability to review the topics listed in the “Content Specification Outlines – CMA Examinations” in an autonomous manner
- Identify the most appropriate sources of professional documentation for continuous learning

| Assessment | Individual written test that consists of both theoretical |
questions and practical exercises. Theoretical questions focus on assessing knowledge and understanding, whereas practical exercises assess the ability to apply knowledge, develop managerial decisions and make business judgments.

**Attending students:**
Midterm and final written exam

**Non-attending students:**
Final written exam

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<tr>
<th>Assessment language</th>
<th>English</th>
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| Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks | **Attending students:**
Midterm 40%
Final written exam 60%
The midterm consists of multiple-choice questions (both theoretical and calculation questions).
The written exam consists of multiple-choice questions (both theoretical and calculation questions) and one essay question (open question)

**Non-attending students:**
Final written exam 100%
The written exam consists of multiple-choice questions (both theoretical and calculation questions) and one essay question (open question).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplementary readings</td>
<td>Additional readings and exercises will be provided during the course.</td>
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