COMILLAS
UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA
ICAI ICADE CIHS

Syllabus
2026 - 2027

TECHNICAL SHEET OF THE SUBJECT

Data of the subject	
Subject name	Accounting
Subject code	IBS-MBA-527
Mainprogram	Official Master's Degree in Business Administration - MBA
Involved programs	Máster Universitario en Administración de Empresas (MBA) [First year] Máster Universitario en Ingeniería de Telecomunicación y Mást. Univ. en Administración de Empresas [First year] Máster Universitario en Ingeniería Industrial y Máster Universitario en Administración de Empresas [First year]
Credits	2,0 ECTS
Type	Obligatoria
Department	Departamento de Gestión Financiera
Coordinator	Alessandro Carpenzano (acarpenzano@comillas.edu)
Course overview	General Accounting Principles and Regulations. Valuation and measurement criteria. Annual financial statements: balance sheet, income statement, notes to the financial statements, and statement of changes in equity. Determination of costs and internal performance indicators for value chain analysis. Analytical operating results. Assessment of the company's financial and economic performance against the objectives and standards defined by management, through the use of accounting information and financial analysis and control tools. This process is aimed at supporting managerial decision-making and implementing corrective actions to ensure organizational performance is aligned with the company's plans and strategic objectives.

Teacher Information	
Teacher	
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SPECIFIC DATA OF THE SUBJECT

Contextualization of the subject

Contribution to the professional profile of the degree

This course provides students with the accounting knowledge and analytical skills required to understand and interpret financial information as a key foundation for business decision-making. Accounting information supports decisions in areas such as finance, strategy, marketing and business model design, allowing managers to assess the economic and financial consequences of different alternatives and their impact on business performance and value creation.

Particular emphasis is placed on moving beyond the mechanical preparation of financial statements and developing the ability to interpret their economic meaning. Through practical exercises, real-world examples and financial statement analysis, students will learn to connect accounting information with broader managerial and strategic decisions.

Prerequisites

Students are expected to have acquired, through their previous studies or through dedicated preparatory courses, the ability to understand the double-entry bookkeeping mechanism and to identify the effects of accounting transactions on a company's financial performance, financial position, and overall economic and financial equilibrium.

Competencies - Objectives

Competences

GENERALES	
CG01	Analytic and synthesis cognitive capacities applied to business situations and managing and organisation problems.
CG02	Management of data and information as key elements for decision-making and for identification, formulation and resolution of business problems.
CG03	Problem-solving and decision-making skills at a strategic, tactic and operational level with regard to a business, considering the interrelationship between the different functional and business areas.
CG04	Application of concepts and theories on business organizations in order to discover new business opportunities and acquire long-term competitive advantages.
CG05	Ethical commitment with a behaviour based in moral principles and those principles of the organisation when facing moral dilemmas and corporate social responsibility issues.
CG06	Time management capacity with the purpose of improving personal and team efficiency within business organizations, its environment and its management.
CG07	Critical reasoning and argumentation according with the understanding of knowledge and know-how on business administrations, their external context and their administration and management processes.
ESPECÍFICAS	

CE11	Understanding accounting in a globalised context: based on the International Financial Reporting Standards, capacity to design and analyse consolidated financial statements in order to carry out a financial diagnosis and, once the current situation has been established, apply the relevant accounting policies (taxes, financial instruments, etc.) which are deemed most appropriate to optimise the company's resources and viability of certain projects in the company's decision making processes.
CE12	Capacity for preparing and managing the financial and accounting information of a company through the use of advanced analysis techniques and control tools.

THEMATIC BLOCKS AND CONTENTS

Contents - Thematic Blocks

Core Topic: Financial Accounting

- Purpose and assumptions of financial statements
- Financial statement: Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity, Cash Flow Statement (direct and indirect method)
- Non-current assets (tangible and intangible): Recognition, Depreciation, Impairment test
- Inventory: recognition and measurement
- Receivables (trade and financial): recognition and measurement
- Payables and loans: Amortization plan for the loan
- Accruals and deferrals
- Financial statement analysis tools (overview): Sales trends, Profitability, Key financial statement items analysis (ratios), Credit analysis

Supplementary Topic: Managerial Accounting

- Costing Systems: Full Costing
- The value creation process
- Profit & Loss Account in Management Accounting
- Costs Models: Direct Costing, Absorption Costing, ABC
- Budgeting and Costs Control

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

General methodological aspects of the subject

The accounting course aims to provide participants with a solid foundation upon which to build future business-related knowledge.
All topics will be explained in class, with appropriate references to the International Accounting Standards (IAS/IFRS), enabling students to consult the relevant standards when needed, either during future courses or in the context of the business game, to identify the applicable rules for specific accounting items.

The use of **artificial intelligence** is permitted and encouraged during in class discussions and assignment-based activities as a means of developing students' ability to use these tools critically and responsibly. Students may use AI to research information, explore alternative approaches and support problem-solving, while the professor will provide guidance on appropriate and inappropriate uses, the reliability of AI-generated outputs and the importance of independent judgement.

In-class Methodology: Activities	
In the first part of the course, the approach will be more theoretical. As the course progresses, increasing emphasis will be placed on practical activities, including Excel-based exercises and real-world examples,to help studentsapply the conceptslearned in a concrete way. The course adopts a hands-on, application-oriented methodology, with the objective of continuously developing students' ability to properly integrate accounting into the business decision-making process. The teaching approach will be highly interactive, encouraging active participation through in-class exercises, which will be solved collaboratively.	CG01, CG02, CG03, CG04, CG05, CG09, CG07, CE10, CE11, CE12, CB08, CEO01-FINA, CEO04-FINA, CEO07-FINA
Non-Presential Methodology: Activities	
During each class, the profesor will seek to foster constructive dialogue with students on accounting-related topics connected to current events, as well as on other relevant issues proposed either by the students or by the profesor. For this purpose, students will frequently be given short assignments, mainly involving research on current topics or pre-class preparation tasks in which they will be asked to independently explore a concept that will be addressed in the following session, develop an initial understanding of its meaning, purpose, and practical relevance, and use this preliminary work as a starting point for class discussion and the subsequent development of the topic.	CG01, CG02, CG04, CG09, CE10, CE11, CE12, CB08, CEO02-FINA, CEO04-FINA, CEO07-FINA

SUMMARY STUDENT WORKING HOURS

CLASSROOM HOURS		
Lectures of an expository nature	Analysis and resolution of cases and exercises, individually or collectively	
15.00	5.00	
NON-PRESENTIAL HOURS		
Individual study and organized reading	Collaborative learning	Analysis and resolution of cases and exercises, individually or collectively
15.00	5.00	20.00
ECTS CREDITS: 2,0 (60,00 hours)		

EVALUATION AND CRITERIA

The use of AI to produce full assignments or substantial parts thereof, without proper citation of the source or tool used, or without explicit permission in the assignment instructions, will be considered plagiarism and therefore subject to the University's General Regulations.

Evaluation activities	Evaluation criteria	Weight
Written exam	Not less than 5 (out of 10)	50 %

Business Game - Work Group	Technical accuracy and clarity of the submitted work. Students may choose either a single group grade, implicitly indicating equal contribution by all group members, or an individual assessment for each student, specifying which part of the work was completed by each member of the group. In the latter case, the accuracy of the work completed does not in itself guarantee a passing grade, as the relative weight of each student's contribution to the overall group work will also be taken into account.	30 %
Oral presentation Business Game	Clarity and Presentation Skills. Individual assessment for each student	10 %
Class participation	presentation and discussion of assignments given in previous sessions, completion of exercises at the board, and active contribution to orderly and constructive classroom discussions.	10 %

Ratings

Students will have two opportunities to pass the course during the academic year: the ordinary examination and the retake (make-up) examination. The dates of both examinations will be communicated during the first week of the course.

To pass the course during in the ordinary exam, students must obtain a minimum grade of 5 out of 10 in the final exam and at least of 5 out of 10 in the full assessment.

Students who do not pass or do not attend the ordinary examination will be allowed to sit the retake examination.

Failure to attend the ordinary examination will automatically result in the student being required to take the retake examination, except in cases of serious and duly documented circumstances. Only one ordinary examination and one retake examination will be scheduled. Under no circumstances will alternative examination dates or individual arrangements be provided.

For students who attended the course in previous academic years, or who are exempt from the attendance requirement due to participation in Erasmus or other officially approved exchange programmes, the final grade will be based entirely (100%) on the examination grade.

The use of **artificial intelligence** software is not envisaged as part of the assessment or grading process. Students' work will be evaluated by the professor in accordance with the assessment criteria established for the course.

Any suspected inappropriate or excessive use of **artificial intelligence** in the preparation of submitted assignments will be subject to review. Such review will seek to determine whether the work genuinely reflects the student's own knowledge, competencies and achievement of the intended learning outcomes.

WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE

Activities	Date of realization	Delivery date
Final Exam	During the week of 10–13 November	

Re-take exam	During the second semester	

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

Basic Bibliography

Edmonds, Thomas C. *Loose-Leaf Fundamental Financial Accounting Concepts*. McGraw-Hill Education, 2021.

Thomas and Ward (EMEA), Introduction to Financial Accounting, 10ª Edición

Fullana Belda, C., & Paredes Ortega, J. L. (2020). *Cost management manual* (Vol. 9). Universidad Pontificia Comillas.

Kimmel Paul, Weygandt Jerry & Kieso Donald, Financial Accounting, 7th Edition, ED. Willey.

Horngren & Datar. "Cost Accounting, a managerial emphasis". (14th Ed.) Ed. Prentice Hall (2012)

Complementary Bibliography

https://www.ifrs.org/issued-standards/