Course Purpose:
This course is designed to give students an introductory knowledge of the informational basis used in economic decision-making. Emphasis will be given to the economic events which give rise to financial accounting entries, i.e. to the way in which real economic phenomena are reflected in accounting systems designed to provide information to parties external to private firms (such as owners, investors, potential investors, government agencies, and the public at large). Students will also learn about the use of spreadsheet programs in decision-making as an integral part of the course.

Course Objectives:
1. To develop knowledge of accounting information systems.
2. To develop an ability to apply accounting information in economic decision-making.
3. To develop knowledge of, and ability to use, a spreadsheet program, EXCEL.
4. To develop an understanding of a balance sheet, an income statement, a statement of changes in financial position, and a statement of cash flows.

Course Requirements:
1. Examinations - Interim examinations will be given on Monday, October 8, 2012 and Monday, October 28, 2012. A take-home final examination will also be given; it will be handed out on the last day of classes, Wednesday, November 14, 2012, and must be handed in no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 19, 2012. Problems will be similar to those found in homework assignments, and you will be expected to demonstrate skills learned in lectures, readings assignments, and homework assignments on these examinations. Given the nature of the subject matter, exams will be comprehensive in coverage although emphasis will be given to more recently presented material.
3. Homework - In addition to your own work undertaken independently, homework problems will be assigned. Homework assignments will be posted weekly in the Economics 260 course folder on Carleton’s server in the folder titled “Course Material.” Homework assignments should be completed in EXCEL, a hard copy printed out and handed in at the beginning of lab every
Course Requirements/(3) Homework (continued):

Thursday. Please print out your homework BEFORE coming to lab so that the labs can start promptly.

Given the number of problems to be graded, no late homework will be accepted. If you know that a class will be missed, let me know well-ahead of time (e.g. at least a week) so that I can let you know what the required homework is in advance. If illness or other college-accepted reason for absence occurs on short notice, the required homework assignment for the day will be waived. Under no circumstances will more than two homework assignments be waived.

Homework is an extremely important part of this course, and you are encouraged to prepare for examinations by solving additional exercises and problems from the text. Please note that by logging onto prenhall.com/reimers and clicking on the “Companion Website” link, you can practice exercises typical of the exercises and problems at the end of the chapter with immediate feedback. I strongly encourage you to use the “Companion Website” when you want to firm up your understanding of reading assignments, or when assigned homework is particularly challenging.

(4) Short quizzes – There will be a short, one question quiz on the reading material for the day given at the beginning of every lecture period. There will be no short quizzes given during labs.

(5) Grade determination - The course grade will be determined as follows:

- 50% - Two Interim Examinations (25% each)
- 20% - Homework, Short Quizzes, and Lab Assignments
- 30% - Final Examination
- 100%

(6) Daily Reading Assignments

Monday, September 10: Chapter 1

Wednesday, September 12: Chapter 2, pp. 51 – 65.


Wednesday, September 19: Chapter 3 and Appendix B, pp. 568 – 580.


Wednesday, September 26: Chapter 4.

Monday, October 1: Chapter 5, pp. 201 – 211.
**Course Requirements/(6) Daily Reading Assignments (continued):**

**Wednesday, October 3:** Chapter 5, pp. 211 – 235.

**Monday, October 8:** Exam #1, Closed book closed notes. No reading assignment. Exam covers Chapters 1, 2, 3, and Appendix B.

**Wednesday, October 10:** Chapter 6, pp. 267 - 283.

**Monday, October 15:** Mid-Term Break. No Class, No Office Hours

**Wednesday, October 17:** Chapter 6, pp. 283 - 291.

**Monday, October 22:** Chapter 7, pp. 317 – 329.

**Wednesday, October 24:** Chapter 7, pp. 329 – 340.

**Monday, October 29:** Exam #2, Closed book closed notes. No reading assignment. Exam covers Chapters 4, 5, & 6.

**Wednesday, October 31:** Reread Chapter 7, pp. 339 – 382 (i.e. including appendices).

**Monday, November 5:** Chapter 8, pp. 371 – 381.

**Wednesday, November 11:** Chapter 8, pp. 382 – 392 & Chapter 10, pp. 461 – 463.

**Monday, November 12:** Chapter 9, pp. 415 - 422.

**Wednesday, November 14:** Chapter 9, pp. 422 – 430.

An open book, open note two hour, take home final exam will be handed out in class on Wednesday, November 14. It must be turned in to Steve’s office (Willis 304) by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 19. Practice finals will be placed in the course folder on the server by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 9.