

**MBA K731
Project Management
Fall 2021 Course Outline- TENTATIVE**

**Information Systems Area
DeGroot School of Business
McMaster University**

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course aims to provide students with the basic tools and techniques of project management, to demonstrate the importance of project management knowledge for future career decision-making, and to reinforce project management skills by means of experiential learning and lecture-based methodologies. Both the social and technical aspects of project management are explored through case studies, hands-on use of project management software, and a comprehensive term project.

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor:

Dr. Nicole Wagner
nwagner@mcmaster.ca
Office: RJC 227, DSB A214
Office Hours: TBA

Teaching Assistants:

Chris Vecchi
vecchi@mcmaster.ca

Class time & location: **C01:** Tuesday 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
 C02: Thursday 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

All classes will be held online during this weekly time slot, connection details will be provided through the course website each week.

Course website: <http://www.avenue.mcmaster.ca>
The course website will be the primary mode of information dissemination. Please check this website regularly for posts concerning the course.

COURSE ELEMENTS

Credit Value: 3	Leadership: Yes	IT skills: Yes	Global view: Yes
Avenue: Yes	Ethics: No	Numeracy: Yes	Written skills: Yes
Participation: Yes	Innovation: No	Group work: Yes	Oral skills: Yes
Evidence-based: Yes	Experiential: Yes	Final Exam: No	Guest speaker(s): Yes

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The delivery of this course encompasses a wide range of methods including in-class activities, case studies, group work, presentations, lectures, readings and Microsoft Project lab work. This course explores the stages of managing a project, including project initiation, planning, implementation and control, and closing using quantitative and qualitative methods. This course aims to provide students with competencies in ten key project management areas: scope, time, cost, quality, human resources, risk, procurement, communication, integration, and stakeholder management. The methodologies and philosophies of the Project Management Institute (PMI) are discussed. Following this course, students could work towards the Project Management Professional (PMP) or other PMI certifications.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to complete the following key tasks:

- Discuss the project management processes and knowledge areas covered by the Project Management Institute's Body of Knowledge (PMBOK)
- Apply the project management knowledge areas, concepts, tools & techniques to initiate, plan, execute, control, and close projects
- Assess real-life project management issues & project risks by means of quantitative & qualitative techniques
- Develop solutions to project management issues leading to successful project management outcomes
- Define the specialized project management skills and the role of the project manager
- Utilize specified project management software to efficiently plan and manage projects
- Calculate the Earned Value Management parameters that are necessary for project control
- Identify the project stakeholders and manage their expectations

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS AND READINGS

Case Study: Instructions for accessing a case study via the Ivey Publishing website will be provided on Avenue; there will be a small cost for this case study (~\$3-5).

Required *Project Management: The Managerial Process, 8th edition*,
Larson & Gray McGraw-Hill Education. eText with Connect.
ISBN: 9781260242379, Suggested list price: CAD \$94.95

Alternative (Optional) *Project Management: The Managerial Process, 8th edition*,
Larson & Gray McGraw-Hill Education. Textbook with Connect.
ISBN: 9781260884661, Suggested List Price: CAD \$139.95

EVALUATION

Learning in this course results from all in-class and out-of-class activities. Students will be evaluated as individuals and as teams when teamwork is assigned. For teamwork, all team members share the same grade adjusted by peer evaluation. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Components and Weights

Assignment	Microsoft Project (individual)	15%
Case Memos	Case Study Assignments (individual)	5%
Online Exercises	MH Connect Exercises (individual)	20%
Term Project	Group Project Management (group)	40%
Engagement	Engagement in synchronous course components (individual)	10%
	Engagement in asynchronous course components (individual)	10%
Total		100%

All assignments must be handed in electronically through the course website by the deadline date and time specified for each component. The penalty for overdue assignments is 20% of the total assignment mark per day.

Grade Conversion

At the end of the course your overall percentage grade will be converted to your letter grade in accordance with the following conversion scheme:

LETTER GRADE	PERCENT	POINTS
A+	90-100	12
A	85-89	11
A-	80-84	10
B+	75-79	9
B	70-74	8
B-	60-69	7
F	00-59	0

Component Descriptions

Assignment - Microsoft Project (individual)

This assignment is worth 15% of your final grade and students should work on this assignment individually. This assignment is composed of a case study and a series of MS Project exercises that aim at improving students' MS Project software skills. Students will work through the exercises in order to carry out basic project planning tasks in the software. Students will then apply their MS Project skills and project management knowledge to answer questions about their analysis. An assignment document with further instructions will be discussed in class and posted on Avenue.

Case Memos (individual)

Early in the term, students will read and prepare a short case memo (answer a few questions) for two different case studies. Each of these case memos will be worth 2.5%, such that the total weight of this component is 5% of the final grade. Further instructions will be provided in class and on Avenue.

Online Exercises (individual)

Throughout the course, students will be asked to complete a series of online exercises using the McGraw-Hill Connect product (5 exercises worth 4% each for a total of 20% of the final grade). The online exercises will pertain to the assigned chapters for that week. Questions may involve submitting text-based answers (which will be manually graded by the TAs for the course), or multiple choice or numeric answers (which will be automatically marked by Connect). Questions requiring numeric answers will be “algorithmic” in nature where Connect will randomly replace numeric values in the question so that each student’s answer to the question will be different.

Term Project (group)

This assignment is worth 40% of your final grade and will be completed in groups. All group members are expected to contribute to the assignment equally and will share the same grade, adjusted for peer evaluation. The term project is designed to give students the experience of working on a small project team and planning a project on their own.

An assignment document with further instructions will be discussed in class and posted on Avenue. In general, groups will define a project of interest that would benefit from a project plan. Throughout the term, groups will work through several steps to develop a thorough plan for the project. All groups will present their plans at the end of the term.

Engagement

Engagement with the online course is worth 20% of your final grade, divided between synchronous engagement (10%) and asynchronous engagement (10%).

Synchronous elements of the course (online classes) will take place during the scheduled course time and students are required to attend in real-time. Opportunities for synchronous engagement include taking part in discussions during online classes by asking questions, responding to questions and polls, and reporting back to the class after break-out discussions.

Engagement marks will be based on both the quantity and quality of your synchronous contributions. Mere attendance without participation does not earn you any engagement marks. You may choose to engage by raising your hand and participating verbally, responding using non-verbal indicators as requested in class, or typing in the chat box.

To help give credit for synchronous engagement, students should identify themselves using their full first and last name when signing in for online classes. *You should also have your camera on and participate using video chat whenever possible.* If you are absent from any synchronous component for a legitimate reason, you should indicate that to the instructor through e-mail so that you are not penalized for lack of engagement during that class.

Asynchronous elements of the course are to be completed individually at the student’s own pace. Reading assignments through McGraw-Hill Connect SmartBook product (10 worth 1% each) will be assigned through the course website to support the delivery of key learning concepts. As students read the assigned chapters, SmartBook will automatically present questions about the chapter contents to assess understanding of the learning items selected by the instructor. To obtain full marks for reading an assigned chapter using SmartBook, you will need to complete all of the questions presented to you during the SmartBook reading. The reading assignments will be made available early in the term (in the corresponding content week on Avenue) with due dates throughout the term to support the learning objectives of the course. Students can then plan for the completion of these tasks at their discretion prior to the deadlines.

ACTIVITY	DELIVERY	DESCRIPTION	TOOL(S)
Readings	Asynch	Preparation for weekly synchronous meetings	Provided in Avenue or link to McGraw-Hill Connect
Online Exercises	Asynch	Follow-up assessment for weekly meeting topics	McGraw-Hill Connect
Group Discussions	Both	Synch: Breakout rooms during lecture Asynch: Microsoft Teams private groups	Synch: Zoom Asynch: Microsoft Teams
Live Lectures	Synch	One session per week during class time; topic and duration listed on course schedule	Zoom

Students can expect to spend approximately 3 hours per week (total) engaged in the synchronous and asynchronous delivery elements of the course.

Communication and Feedback

Students that are uncomfortable in directly approaching an instructor regarding a course concern may send a confidential and anonymous email to the respective Area Chair or Associate Dean:

<http://mbastudent.degroot.mcmaster.ca/contact/anonymous/>

Students who wish to correspond with instructors or TAs directly via email must send messages that originate from their official McMaster University email account. This protects the confidentiality and sensitivity of information as well as confirms the identity of the student. Emails regarding course issues should NOT be sent to the Administrative Assistant.

Instructors are encouraged to conduct an informal course review with students by Week #4 to allow time for modifications in curriculum delivery. Instructors should provide evaluation feedback for at least 10% of the final grade to students prior to Week #8 in the term.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at:

www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/turnitin/students/>

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure.

If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

MISSED ACADEMIC WORK

Missed Mid-Term Examinations / Tests / Class Participation

Where students miss a regularly scheduled mid-term or class participation for legitimate reasons as determined by the Student Experience – Academic (MBA) office, the weight for that test/participation will be distributed across other evaluative components of the course at the discretion of the instructor. Documentation explaining such an absence must be provided to the Student Experience – Academic (MBA) office within five (5) working days upon returning to school.

To document absences for health related reasons, please provide to Student Experience – Academic (MBA) office the Petition for Relief for MBA Missed Term Work and the McMaster University Student Health Certificate which can be found on the DeGroote website at <http://mbastudent.degroote.mcmaster.ca/forms-and-applications/>. Please do not use the online McMaster Student Absence Form as this is for Undergraduate students only. University policy states that a student may submit a maximum of three (3) medical certificates per year after which the student must meet with the Director of the program.

To document absences for reasons other than health related, please provide Student Experience – Academic (MBA) office the Petition for Relief for MBA Missed Term Work and documentation supporting the reason for the absence.

Students unable to write a mid-term at the posted exam time due to the following reasons: religious; work-related (for part-time students only); representing university at an academic or varsity athletic event; conflicts between two overlapping scheduled mid-term exams; or other extenuating circumstances, have the option of applying for special exam arrangements. Such requests must be made to the Student Experience – Academic (MBA) office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled exam along with acceptable documentation. Instructors cannot themselves allow students to unofficially write make-up exams/tests. Adjudication of the request must be handled by Student Experience – Academic (MBA).

If a mid-term exam is missed without a valid reason, students will receive a grade of zero (0) for that component.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) offers various support services for students with disabilities. Students are required to inform SAS of accommodation needs for course work at the outset of term. Students must forward a copy of such SAS accommodation to the instructor normally, within the first three (3) weeks of classes by setting up an appointment with the instructor. If a student with a disability

chooses NOT to take advantage of an SAS accommodation and chooses to sit for a regular exam, a petition for relief may not be filed after the examination is complete. The SAS website is:

<http://sas.mcmaster.ca>

RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

POTENTIAL MODIFICATION TO THE COURSE

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COURSE POLICIES

Your registration and continuous participation (e.g. on A2L, in the classroom, etc.) to the various learning activities of MBA K731 will be considered to be an implicit acknowledgement of the course policies outlined above, or of any other that may be announced during lecture and/or on A2L. **It is your responsibility to read this course outline, to familiarize yourself with the course policies and to act accordingly.**

Lack of awareness of the course policies **cannot be invoked** at any point during this course for failure to meet them. It is your responsibility to ask for clarification on any policies that you do not understand.

MBA K731 TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

Wk	Due Before Class	Synchronous Class	Due by end of Week
1		Sep 14-16 (2.5) Welcome & Overview Intro to Project Management	Ch1: Modern PM
2	Ch3: Org Structure & Culture	Sep 21-23 (2) Organizational Structures Managing Project Teams (Ch11) Term Project Kick-off	
3	Beijing Case Assignment Ch2: Strategy & Selection	Sep 28-30 (2) Beijing Case Discussion Project Selection Project Definition	Team Contract
4	Schlegel Case Assignment Ch4: Defining the Project	Oct 5-7 (2.5) Schlegel Case Discussion WBS Development	Ch4 Exercises
5		Oct 12-14 (3) Overview Presentation WBS Workshop	
6	Ch5: Estimating Times & Costs Ch6: Developing a Schedule	Oct 19-21 (1.5) Estimating Schedule Development	Ch6 Exercises
7	Ch8: Scheduling Resources Ch9: Reducing Duration	Oct 26-28 (1.5) Scheduling Resources & Costs Reducing Duration	
8		Nov 2-4 (3) MS Project Tutorial	Ch8 Exercises Ch9 Exercises
9	Ch7: Managing Risk	Nov 9-11 (2) Risk Management	Planning Charts
10	Ch13: Progress Evaluation	Nov 16-18 (2) Determining Project Progress Project Closure (Ch14)	Ch13 Exercises
11	MS Project Assignment	Nov 23-25 (2) Guest Speaker Term Project Check-ins	
12		Nov 30 – Dec 2 (2) Agile Project Management (Ch15) Change Management	
13	Term Project Report	Dec 7-9 (TBD) Term Project Presentations	Team Peer Evaluation