OPMA 6380, Summer 2010

Instructor: Alan R. Cannon, Ph.D.
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Course number, sections, day, time and place of classes:
OPMA 6380-001: Mon.-Wed. 1-3:30 p.m. in COBA 138

Office Hours: By appointment

Description of Course Content: This course is focused on research into operations strategy. As a doctoral seminar, it is constructed to reflect the central facets of the scholar’s life: reading, writing, and discussing/debating scholarly literature.

Student Learning Outcomes: Through this seminar, students should:

- Demonstrate greater understanding of foundational and current issues in research into operations strategy
- Develop and enhance abilities to formulate and conduct original research
- Develop and enhance abilities to evaluate others’ research with regard to: A) its actual or potential value; and B) its applicability in other research efforts
- Strengthen writing and presentation skills

Requirements:
- Doctoral standing.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:
- Regular journal readings as suggested by instructor.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates: The written portion of research proposals will be due on July 25. Research proposal presentations will be held on July 26. There will be a final examination on July 28.

Grading Policy: Students’ grades will be based on participation (40%), a research proposal (40%) and a final examination (20%).

Class participation comprises regular, valuable contribution to discussions regarding suggested readings. As part of this grade, students will also take turns leading the class discussion. Students should recognize that the baseline assumption is that each student will read and think through every paper.

For the research proposal, students are to develop an original research idea. Students have ample discretion in formulating and developing proposals, with the following caveat: The proposal will be evaluated, in part, on the degree to which it conforms to topics/approaches explored in this seminar. A research proposal will consist of an introduction, a literature review that leads into testable hypotheses, and a suggested method for testing the hypotheses. Students are not to collect data and/or test their hypotheses. Rather, they are to devote their full attention to crafting as complete a proposal as possible. As part of the research proposal, students will also evaluate fellow students’ work.

The final examination may, at the instructor’s discretion, be take-home.
Class preparation, homework, arrival, attendance and handouts: Regular class attendance is generally an absolute necessity. If you must miss class for some reason, you are still responsible for the material you missed. Any class attendance and lateness policies introduced in this class include by reference all provisions for grade adjustment or drop policies included in the applicable Graduate or Undergraduate Catalog in effect at the start of the semester. No student will be dropped from the class rolls for never attending class or for accumulating excess absences.

Work outside of class: On occasion I will assign out-of-class work such as essays, papers, problem sets, etc. Unless I specifically say so, these are to be done on your own. You are not to collaborate with (or receive assistance from) anyone else on these assignments.

Any outside-of-class work that you hand in should conform to common professional presentation standards. While I will grade handwritten work on its merits, such work will incur an automatic 30% penalty. For example, work that would have commanded a grade of 90 will, if handwritten, receive a grade of 63 (0.90*[100-30] points).

Laptops and other electronic devices: While there can be instances in which learning is enhanced by the use of laptops during class, the bulk of my experience suggests these are exceptions. Therefore, during all classroom sessions laptops (and/or PDAs, mobile phones, etc.) are to be closed and put away.

Absences based on Religious Beliefs: A student who misses an examination, work assignment, or other project due to the observance of a religious holy day will be given the opportunity to complete the work missed within 15 days following the due date of the assignment, test, or other project missed. To be eligible for such a make-up, the student must notify me in writing of classes scheduled on dates he or she will be absent to observe a religious holy day. Notification must be made within the first 15 (fifteen) class days through either a written correspondence, personal delivered, acknowledged and dated by me or written correspondence sent certified mail, return receipt requested to me. Failure to follow the rules provided above within the time frames listed will result in the absence being considered unexcused.

Drop Policy: Refer to the university drop policy as posted on the university website, www.uta.edu.

Americans With Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.
**Make-up Exam Policy:** There will be no make-ups in this course. If circumstances lead to your missing either the paper presentation or the final examination, you will receive an incomplete grade. Incomplete grades will be awarded *only* in those circumstances in which, because of events beyond the student’s control, either a presentation cannot be given or an exam cannot be taken. Incompletes will not be granted to students who simply fail to complete required assignments in the allotted time.

**E-Culture Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, I will communicate with you via your UTA email address; you must activate your account by going to [www.uta.edu/email](http://www.uta.edu/email).

Once this account is activated it will remain active as long as the student remains enrolled at UTA.

**Grade Grievance Policy:** The procedure outline in the 1997 catalog is as follows: “The student has one calendar year from the date the grade is assigned to initiate the grievance. The normal academic channels are the department chair or program director, academic dean, and the Provost. …”

**Course Schedule:** A tentative schedule for this term accompanies this syllabus. I reserve the right to adjust and/or alter the course outline as circumstances warrant.
June 7: Introduction

June 9: The Academic Life & Research

June 14: The Practice of Strategy

June 16: Views on Strategy: Economics
June 21: Views on Strategy: Behavioral/Organizational

June 23: Operations Strategy: The Process

June 28: Operations Strategy: The Content
June 30: Production Processes

July 5: Technology

July 7: Vertical Integration/Capacity
July 12: Supply Chain Management

July 14: Quality
July 19: The Organizational Context


July 21: Research Methods Issues


July 26: Proposal Presentations

July 28: Final Exam