



Syllabus



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COURSE SYLLABUS

MGMT 601: Seminar: Contemporary - 4 Credits

Online

Fall, 2008

September 13 - December 12; (**Thanksgiving Break: November 22-28**)

Last Updated: August 2, 2008



Instructor: Instructor: Nicholas Nugent

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Course Description

What are the current forces of change that keep managers awake at night and how do effective managers respond to these contemporary issues that affect their business and the business community in general? In this seminar, learners examine how such issues as globalization, technology, the environment, business ethics, and business-government relations impact how businesses are managed. They also examine how leaders manage leaner and flatter organizations comprised of diverse employees working in teams. Learners explore the broad impacts of these contemporary management issues through reading, research, case studies, and active discussions.

Prerequisites

MGMT 500 Principles of Management.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the course, learners will be able to:

1. Identify, research, and critically analyze contemporary management issues developments for their impact on the contemporary business environment.
2. Examine the effect on an organization of current external driving forces such as globalization and technological innovation.
3. Examine the effect on an organization of current internal driving forces such as empowerment, team building, diversity and changing organizational structure.
4. Apply new knowledge of contemporary management issues to the practice of managerial decision making.
5. Understand the behaviors essential to productive and positive work groups and participate as an effective member.
6. Research a topic relating to one of the managerial issues identified in the class and produce a written course project.

Course Resources

Textbook(s):

1. **Business and Society** (11th ed), Anne Lawrence/James Weber/James Post, Richard D. Irwin, Inc., 2005, ISBN# 0-07-298621-2.

Textbooks are available via GSC's online bookstore, MBS Direct at:

<http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/gsc.htm> (The course-CRN number for ordering this textbook is: 10157). Textbooks can also be purchased from MBS via phone, mail or fax. For additional information, visit the [Online Bookstore](#) section of the college web site.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the learner's responsibility to have purchased all required course materials before the start of the course. Learners are expected to meet all course expectations even if the shipment of a required textbook or other learning resource is delayed. Be sure to choose the shipping option that will get your text/resource delivered in a timely manner.

Blackboard Orientations

There are no face-to-face sessions for this course. If you have never taken an Online Interactive Course (OIC) at the college, we highly recommend that you attend one of the [2-hour Blackboard Orientation sessions](#) available throughout the state. If you choose not to attend a face-to-face session, you are encouraged to complete the [Online Orientation with audio](#) at your own convenience.

Course Policies

Late Work: Work submitted late will be marked down 5% each week it is late. Work submitted within the second week following the due date will be marked down 10%. Work will NOT be accepted for grading if it is more than two weeks late. Regarding late Discussion Board Postings: students may not post to a specific Module's Discussion Board Forum after the Module has ended

Computer Problems and Saving Work: Computers are known to break down and do other unpredictable things. You are responsible to take all precautions and have contingency plans in place in case of such mishap. Computer problems are NOT valid excuses for late work. It is recommended that you create and save back up files to either a CD, or another electronic storage devise for every piece of work you complete for this class. Saving duplicate copies of your work to an external source will ensure that a computer glitch or a glitch in cyberspace won't erase your efforts.

Feedback Wanted: I am interested in your feedback on how I can make this course better. Students are encouraged to send me a private message with suggestions on how I can make this a better course. Please don't wait until evaluation time because I won't see those comments until the term is over.

Purchasing Course Materials: It is the learner's responsibility to have purchased all required course materials before the start of the course. Learners are expected to meet all course expectations even if the shipment of a required textbook or other learning resource is delayed. Be sure to choose the shipping option that will get your text/resource delivered in a timely manner.

Description of Course Activities and Requirements

Accomplishment of learning will be evaluated and assessed on the basis of: weekly discussion board activity, written mid-term and final exams, course project, and case study/exercise assignments.

Participation in the Course and on the Discussion Board:

Participation means logging in to the course every day or so, being active in the weekly Discussion Board activity and displaying knowledge of the assigned material on a weekly basis. At the beginning of each week, I will post a series of questions based on the text reading assignment for that week. You will be required to respond to those questions by Sunday of that week. You will also be required to respond to the postings of at least two or your classmates. The issue here is not quantity. The issue is quality. The key to making this interaction meaningful is not how many times you post; it is the quality of your thinking and reflection that counts the most. Discussion Board participation is worth 35% of your grade.

Case Studies:

At certain points in the course, I will assign case studies for you to prepare individually and submit at the due date. You will be asked to analyze the cases and provide responses to questions asked at the end of the case. The case study work is worth 15 % of your grade.

Course Project:

You will be required to complete a written research project (See the Tasks List for due-date). This project will involve your research on one of the business issues addressed in the course.

You will find the requirements and specifications for the project on the Course Project page. The project will be worth 20% of your grade.

Midterm and Final Exams:

Both the midterm and final exams will be analysis of case studies. They will be "open book" and will be completed by students at the middle, and then the end of the term. Evaluation will be based on the student's ability to respond effectively to the questions posed at the end of the case. The midterm exam is worth 10% of your grade. The final exam is worth 20% of your grade.

Grading Percentages

Your grade in the course will be calculated on the basis of the following:

Activity	% of Final Grade
Weekly Discussion Board Participation	35%
Midterm Exam	10%
Course Project	20%
Written Case Studies	15%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Grades in this class will follow the scale of Granite State College, where A/4.0 is awarded for Excellent work and F/0.0 is awarded for Failure/ No credit.

Granite State College Standard Grading Scale

Grade	Percent	Grade Points	Level of Achievement
A	95-100	4.0	Excellent
A ⁻	90-94	3.67	

B ⁺	87-89	3.33	Good
B	84-86	3.0	
B ⁻	80-83	2.67	
C ⁺	77-79	2.33	
C	74-76	2.0	*Acceptable
C ⁻	70-73	1.67	†
D ⁺	67-69	1.33	Poor
D	64-66	1.00	
D ⁻	60-63	0.67	
F	≤59	0	Failure, no credit

*A grade of C or better is required to fulfill requirements in the major, minor, or general education core at GSC. Please consult the GSC catalog for details.

† A grade of C⁻ or below generally does not transfer to other academic institutions.

Course Schedule & Topics

Module	Major Topic /Activities
Module 1: The Corporation in Society Week 1: September 13 – 19	The Corporation and Its Stakeholders - Public Affairs Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Chs 1 and 2 • Discussion Board Assignment
Module 2: Business and the Social Environment Week 2: September 20 – 26	Corporate Social Responsibility - Corporate Citizenship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Chs 3 and 4 • Article • Discussion Board Assignment
Module 3: Business and Ethical Environment Weeks 3 and 4: September 27 – October 10	Ethical Issues in Business- Ethical Reasoning and Corporate Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Chs 5 and 6 • Article • Discussion Board Assignment • Case One - Holland Hardware is due on October 10 at midnight
Module 4: Business and the Government in a Global Society Weeks 5 and 6: October 11 – 24	The Challenges of Globalization- Business-Government Relations- Influencing the Political Environment- Antitrust, Mergers, and Competition Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Chs 7, 8, 9 and 10 • Article • Discussion Board Assignment
Module 5: The Corporation and the Natural Environment	Ecology and Sustainable Development in Global Business- Managing Environmental Issues

Weeks 7 and 8: October 25 – November 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Chs 11 and 12 • Discussion Board Assignment • Case 2 will be due on November 7 at midnight
Module 6: Business and Technological Change Weeks 9 and 10: November 8 – 21 (Please note: Thanksgiving Break starts on the 22nd)	Technology: A Global Economic-Social Force - Managing Technological Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Chs 13 and 14 • Discussion Board Assignment • Article
Module 7: Building Relations with Stakeholders Weeks 11 and 12: November 22 – December 12 Includes Thanksgiving Break which is 22nd – 28th	Stakeholder Rights and Corporate Governance- Consumer Protection- The Community and the Corporation- Managing a Diverse Workforce- Business and the Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Chs 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 • Case 3 will be due on Dec. 10

Note: The schedule above may change at the instructor's discretion.

Library Resources

Granite State College has a Virtual Library (<http://www.granite.edu/current-students/virtual-library/>) available 24/7 with access to the full-text of thousands of journals and professional periodicals, an online Reference Room, selected Internet resources, writer's resources, research and citation help, and a collection of tutorials. The databases are password protected.

See GSC Library tab in MyGranite for username and password. In addition, the **Library Info** link in the course menu provides direct links to research databases, *Research FAQs* and more.

Academic Resources and Information Services

Academic assistance to students is available at GSC Centers at no additional charge in such areas as basic skills preparation in reading, writing and math; study skills and research and citation help. Academic Resources staff members work closely with faculty and students toward academic success. A whole range of tools is available, including study and time management tips, APA and MLA citation assistance, access to learning resources online, and feedback on course writing projects. To contact an Academic Resource and Information Coordinator, see the Academic Resource Link on the Resources page in the course menu or go directly to http://bbresources.granite.edu/course_docs/acad_resources.htm.

Technical Assistance

For assistance with issues related to accessing the MyGranite portal, GSC email, Webrock, online courses or other technical issues related to any of the Blackboard tools, please visit the GSC

Technical Assistance Center (<http://bbresources.granite.edu/techassist/help.htm>) for answers to the most frequently asked questions or to submit an online help request form. Or call **1-888-372-4270** (Hours: M-F, 8:30-5:00, messages checked twice daily on weekends. Extended hours for the week before start of the term and first week of the term: M-Th, 8:00-7:00.)

Documented Disabilities / Americans with Disabilities Act

Granite State College will provide qualified individuals with disabilities the same educational opportunities available to persons without disabilities. When an individual's documented disability creates a barrier to educational opportunities, the College will attempt reasonable accommodation to remove the barrier. If you need assistance, we recommend that you make contact early to ensure that your requests can be reviewed prior to the start of each term. If you wish to apply for accommodations, contact your academic advisor or the Dean of Learner Services in Concord. See the complete Granite State College policy in the current college catalog for further details.

Academic Honesty

An academic community is based on honesty and integrity. Plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty are not acceptable at Granite State College. Faculty and students have a joint responsibility to ensure the integrity of learning.

All work that you submit must be your own except in those instances when your instructor gives specific permission to collaborate. When quoting, summarizing or explaining ideas that are based on another's work, whether in print or online, make sure to cite references appropriately. Plagiarism is using another's words or even paraphrasing another's work without giving proper credit through the use of citations.

For Granite State College's complete [academic honesty policy](#), see the current college catalog.

Conduct in the Online Classroom

Membership in society implies minimal norms for civil behavior towards one another. It is Granite State College's expectation that all members of our college community treat faculty, staff, and fellow learners with respect. Learners need to be knowledgeable of and comply with college policies. Each individual is accountable for his/her actions and for the consequences of any behavior that is inconsistent with these values and expectations.

Institutional Assessment

Assessment is an ongoing process that enables the College to improve its programs, courses, and teaching methods. Institutional evaluation may be embedded in tests, exams, and other measurements of student learning. As members of a learning community, students, faculty, and staff will be expected to participate in the important process of assessment on occasion. Confidentiality of any data that identify participants is maintained.
