

Sul Ross State University
Department of Business Administration

Business Capstone

MKT 4379 – **F116172**
Spring 2020
Section 1: MW 2:00 – 3:15PM
BAB 318
wgreen@sulross.edu

Professor: Dr. William C. Green
Office: BAB 316
Office Phone: 837-8067; 8066 (sect.)
Office Hours: By appointment and;
MW 10:30 - 12:00; 3:30 - 4:30PM
T 8:30 - 9:30; 5:00 - 6:00PM
TH 8:30 - 9:30

Course Description:

Application of Strategy & Business tools and techniques to respond to industry & marketplace needs. Recognition of both internal and external variables in formulating business strategies. Emphasis is on computerized business simulations, strategy development and analysis.

Prerequisite: Senior standing and completion of junior level course requirements

Course Material(s):

2020 - Online Business Simulation (registration is done online). Capsim.com & E-Text.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- SLO1 Analyze and solve business problems across major business functions, using fundamental business principles and strategies
- SLO 2 Communicate business information through written, oral and other delivery processes
- SLO 3 Identify and discuss the impact of ethical and social responsibility issues in business

Student Learning Objectives - Students will achieve:

An enhanced understanding of pertinent areas of business strategy, its function, objective, and dynamic characteristic

The ability to apply this understanding during class activities and to simulated business environments

An appreciation of the complex and dynamic nature of the business environment

An enhanced ability to function successfully in group decision making under uncertainty

The ability to successful develop, complete and present a Business Plan

An appreciation of the interdependence among business functions

An enhanced ability to argue logically and in a professional manner (orally and written) based on experience and analytical skills

A fundamental and practical working knowledge of business strategies to aid in further study and career pursuits

Course Grades:

Grades in this course will be determined on a percentage/points basis. Percentages and (points) for course requirements follow:

Class Participation		20%	(200)
Industry Simulation:		50%	(500)
Performance	15%		(150)
Activities	15%		(150)
Peer & Plan	20%		(200)
Assignment(s)		20%	(200)
Final Exam		<u>10%</u>	<u>(100)</u>
TOTAL		100%	(1000)

Grades in the course will be assigned as follows:

A = 90 - 100%	D = 60 - 69%
B = 80 - 89%	F = Below 60
C = 70 - 79%	

Class Participation:

It should be pointed out that this class is conducted on a "mixed" method format. Reading of text and simulation materials and preliminary preparation of decision analyses are necessary to meet the objectives of the course. Therefore, active participation is mandatory. Deviations from this can only reflect negatively on your class performance and not enable you to achieve the course objectives.

In addition, you are expected to participate during and/or after formal group presentations. If you are not prepared, admit it and be ready the next time. One or two instances of non-preparation will be overlooked but repeated instances will not enable you to meet the course objectives. You are encouraged to participate at your own initiative and determination of participation grades is based upon both quantity and quality of comments. Thus, your attendance is at a premium and repeated absences from class can only hurt your class standing not enabling you to satisfy the course requirements. If you must miss class, let me know before class begins.

Also, note that the reading assignments can be significant when combined with the requirements of the simulation. It is critical that you stay up with the reading during the first few weeks of the course. This will be monitored and may impact your participation grade. I will overlook one or two instances of non-preparation but repeated abuse can only diminish the experience for us all. In other words, be prepared for class on a consistent basis.

Finally, if you are having difficulty with any aspect of the course, please let me know as early as possible. I will work with you on fixing whatever may be broken but I have no way of knowing this unless you tell me. ***Remember that 20% is a substantial portion of your grade. And it is a part of your grade in which you may exercise considerable control. So please be in class and come to class ready to go!***

Industry Simulation:

You will be required to register for an online "***Business Strategy Simulation***," and then participate as part of a group in running a company in a competitive industry over several decision periods. This simulation is the leader in the industry and is a "Business Strategy" simulation rather than a simulation devoted exclusively to Marketing or a single functional area. The simulation is an extremely practical vehicle for tying things together and providing you the opportunity to integrate and link many of the things you have learned over your business course work. We will spend some time in class going over the broad parameters of the simulation and subsequent to group assignments and individual registration, we will "play" a few practice rounds before the simulation is reset and Company Groups "go live."

The purpose of the simulation is not to make quick and hasty decisions but rather to make decisions in keeping with what you have determined (as a group) you want your short and long term direction to be based on your success measures and in response to market dynamics and competitive postures. This will require considerable effort and thought. And you will be happy to note that the simulation provides extensive help on many areas which you may need work. Included under the major heading of Industry Simulation (on page two of this document) are several subcategories making up the components of your grade (performance, activities, peer reviews). These will be discussed in much more detail in class and a written document will be handed out after the practice rounds have been completed and we all know more about the mechanics of the simulation and I know more about how much effort group members are devoting to the simulation. In this regard, group participation and cohesiveness are very critical success requirements for the simulation. One or two persons cannot "do it all." ***All group members must contribute***. ***My belief is that the simulation can easily be among your most rewarding experiences in college if approached positively. We will try to make that happen!!***

Simulation Elements:

There are multiple elements which will be evaluated to determine your grade on the simulation. These include relative performance; various assignments associated with the simulation; peer reviews and a team de-brief and business plan presentation. Specifically, with respect to the presentation, note that a primary objective of this course is to enhance your ability to develop an appreciation for a complete business framework. A business plan relative to your company's position will help achieve this objective. More detailed and specific discussion of this component will be considered in class.

And, please note that part of your grade will be awarded during a ***group presentation of your business plan*** and will be a function of the comprehensiveness and depth of analysis exhibited in your plan. Also, ***as a class participant***, the insight you exhibit as a member of the audience in terms of questions and/or comments you may have of the project being presented will add or subtract from your overall participation grade. Thus, it is important that you consider these roles and take this project as seriously as possible. Professionalism of both presentation and audience participation is vitally important to the objectives of this requirement. Please exhibit this skill (professionalism) in both situations (presenter and audience). The other elements of the simulation will be considered in greater detail once class begins.

Assignments

The assignments from various sources will ensure that you are keeping up with the reading and that a solid foundation in strategy/business fundamentals is developed. These assignments may include but certainly not be limited to strategy questions; reading synopses; online assignments; business situation problems and so forth. We will consider more specifics on this component after the course gets under way.

Final Exam

To insure that you have learned adequately from this experience, you will be tested either in class or BB. The exam will cover the entire course so any topic will be fair game on the exam. Primarily, the exam will assess general constructs of business strategy covered in the course. And of course, topics discussed in class may constitute some of the exam content. The format will be objective type questions.

Marketable Skills (MS) – Will explain

MS 1: Students will have the ability to apply the principles of business they learn to the management of existing businesses or the creation of new businesses.

MS 2: Students will have the ability to use research and analysis to make informed decisions.

MS 3: Students will have the ability to write business letters, emails, resumes and reports

MS 4: Students will have the ability to make effective oral presentations to both professional and general audiences.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS CAREFULLY:

This syllabus represents the plan of action for the course. It is, in many ways, a contract between us. Should you lose this document, not understand it, or even not agree with some component contained in it, please let me know. Make sure to modify the tentative schedule as necessary.

Students seeking accessibility services or other accommodations, per the Americans with Disabilities Act, are urged to contact Mary Schwartze, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. Mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas - Telephone: 432-837-8691. Email mschwartze@sulross.edu .

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

“Cheating” includes:

- 1. Copying from another student’s test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs, or allowing another student to copy from same.**
- 2. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.**
- 3. Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.**
- 4. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of a non-administered test.**
- 5. Substituting for another student; permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.**
- 6. Bribing another person to obtain a non-administered test or information about a non-administered test.**
- 7. Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one’s own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm.**
This section does not apply to the typing of a rough and/or final version of an assignment by a professional typist.
- 8. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another’s work or idea in one’s own written work offered for credit.**
- 9. "Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.**
- 10. "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.**
- 11. "Academic work" means the preparation of an essay, dissertation, thesis, report, problem, assignment, or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.**
- 12. “Falsification of Data” means the representation, claim, or use of research, data, statistics, records, files, results, or information that is falsified, fabricated, fraudulently altered, or otherwise misappropriated or misrepresented.**

All academic dishonesty cases may be first considered and reviewed by the faculty member. If the faculty member believes that an academic penalty is necessary, he/she may assign a penalty but must notify the student of his/her right to appeal to the department chair, the dean and eventually, to the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs before imposition of the penalty. At each step in the process, the student shall be entitled to written notice of the offense and/or of the administrative decision, an opportunity to respond, and an impartial disposition as to the merits of his/her case. The decision of the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs shall be final.

In the case of flagrant or repeated violations, the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs may refer the matter to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. No disciplinary action shall become effective against the student until the student has received procedural due process...

On a personal note – if I find anyone in violation of the above, I will take it very seriously!

Tentative Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment *</u>
Jan. 13	Introduction & Overview - Registration	TBA
20	Tutorial – Assignment – Group Selection <i>Holiday Monday</i>	TBA
27	TBA	
Feb. 02	Tutorial - Practice round #1- EA	TBA
09	Tutorial - Practice rounds #2 - Final team Strategy Selection - Performance measures due	TBA
16	Practice Wrap – Deliverable – Decision #1	
23	<i>"We Go Live"</i> - Decision #2 -	TBA
Mar. 02	Decision #3 - Assignment - EA	TBA
09	<i>Spring Break</i>	
16	Competitive Analysis – Decision #4	
23	Tutorial – Decision #5	TBA
30**	Financial Analysis - Decision #6 - EA	
Apr. 06	Decision #7	TBA
13	Other Topics Decision #8	TBA
20	Professional Presentations	
27 - 1	Professional Presentations - Wrap-up & Debrief 4-30 DEAD DAY – Final Exams begin 5-1	
May 04	<i>Final Exams Began 5-1 continue from 5-4 to 5-6</i> Spring Commencement – Friday 5-8 @ 7PM	

** April 3rd - Last day to drop with "W"
EA – E-Text Assignment