CM 10
Course Syllabus
Fall 2007

The Construction Industry
Wednesdays, 8-8:50 AM
Brighton Hall 208

Instructor:
Professor K. Bisharat
Office: Riverside Hall, Room 4024C
Office Hours: By Appointment
Telephone: 278-7976
Fax – 278-7957
Email – bisharat@ecs.csus.edu
CM 10
Introduction to the Construction Industry

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an introduction to the CSUS Construction Management Program and to the construction industry. Its principal theme is “how to succeed in the construction industry.” Students will learn about the CM Program mission and objectives, curriculum design, the fundamentals of management, and Program protocol. Various representatives of organizations operating in the industry will make presentations to the class and field questions from the audience regarding career opportunities.

PREREQUISITES
A curiosity about the construction profession and the determination to discover are the only prerequisites to this class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND GRADING SYSTEM
All students are subject to the policies described in the University Catalogue. In particular, students should be familiar with policies described on pages 98-106 and page 328 in the 2006-2008 CSUS Catalog.

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES
The purpose of this course generally is to help students determine whether to pursue a career in construction.

Specific Educational Outcomes
Upon the conclusion of this class, students should be able to:
- List the characteristics of a critical thinker
- Define ethics and recognize ethical dilemmas
- List the principal players in a construction project and describe their roles
- List at least seven different employment positions in the construction industry
- Determine whether the construction profession is a good fit for them

TEXTBOOK
Required:
- The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking
  Dr. Richard Paul and Dr. Linda Elder

REFERENCES:
The following books are highly recommended:
- The Elements of Style, Strunk and White, 4th ed.
- Merriam Webster’s 11th Collegiate Dictionary (CD)
REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

As above

COURSE ORGANIZATION and EVALUATION

This course consists of lectures that are delivered by the instructor and by industry representatives. The guests offer different views of the industry’s challenges and rewards. Course grades will be based on several weekly reports and a three-page reflective essay. Attendance is critical, especially on days when guest speakers are scheduled to make presentations. Failing to report for work on time and being late for appointments is not well received in the industry; in fact it can cost you your job. Arriving at class after a presentation has started is inconsiderate to classmates and especially to guest speakers, so plan to arrive on time.

The periodic writing assignments consist of one-page (maximum) summaries (typed, double-spaced) of the material shared the previous week in class and are due at the beginning of the class period each week. Meeting deadlines is important to the people in this industry—assignments that fail to meet the deadline will not be accepted. Students who for some reason are unable to attend class shall transmit their assignments electronically within the specified time, but only if they attended the presentation that is the subject of the paper. Students who fall ill and are consequently unable to attend class must provide a signed statement from their doctor attesting to the reason for their absence, if they wish to avoid a reduction in their semester grade.

The reflective essay, which is to be three pages in length (typed, double-spaced), shall summarize the author’s impression of the construction industry, analyze his/her strengths, weaknesses, and interests in the business, and identify his or her potential role in the industry. It is due on the last day of instruction, before class.

All students are strongly encouraged to develop a neatly compiled three-ring binder of course materials, with divider tabs, all course notes, assignments, handouts, quizzes, exams, and other course work at the end of the semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Periodic Assignments</th>
<th>75%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reflective essay</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**Tentative Lecture Schedule**

Note: The dates for which certain topics are scheduled and the topics themselves may be changed to accommodate guests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mtg #</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignment†</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Introduction – Success in the CSUS Construction Management Program and the Industry</td>
<td>Read “Plan of Excellence” in new student manual or online, review balance of manual</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ethics, Professionalism, and Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Ron Brown, Brown Construction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Design Professionals</td>
<td>TBA*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Vendors and Contractor Associations</td>
<td>Jim Lambert, Sacramento Builders’ Exchange</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Programming and Preconstruction Services</td>
<td>Jose Rodriguez, Brian Toppel, Joe Bartron, Tony Moayed; TMCS, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Commercial Building Constructors</td>
<td>Henry Meier, Harbison Mahony Higgins Builders</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Reflective essay plan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Industrial Construction</td>
<td>Scott Maxwell, John Nunan; Unger Construction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Civil Engineering Construction</td>
<td>John Haskell; Western Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Commercial Building Constructors</td>
<td>TBA*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Construction Management</td>
<td>Tony Moayed; TMCS, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Specialty Contracting</td>
<td>William and David Gill; Marelich Mechanical</td>
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<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Construction Consulting</td>
<td>TBA*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Heavy/Highway Construction</td>
<td>Pete Davos; DeSilva Gates Construction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Summary discussion, Industry Reception</td>
<td>Location TBA; Reflective essays due before class</td>
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†—All assignments due the following week before class, unless noted otherwise

* Guest presentation