



CM 10

Course Syllabus

Fall 2008

The Construction Industry

Wednesdays, 8-8:50 AM

204 Alpine Hall

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. One of its key objectives is to help students determine whether they are interested in becoming construction professionals; the other is to help students understand how to succeed in the Sac State Construction Management Program. Students will learn about the CM Program mission, the strategies supporting it, how the curriculum is designed and why, what the fundamentals of management are, 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
Drs. Richard Paul and Linda Elder

REFERENCES:

The following books are highly recommended:
A Writer's Reference, Diana Hacker, 5th ed.

The Elements of Style, Strunk and White, 4th ed.

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 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 quizzes, weekly reports randomly selected for grading, and a two-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 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 two 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 required to submit a neatly compiled three-ring binder, with divider tabs, all course notes, assignments, handouts, quizzes, exams, and other course work. Binders will be returned to the students following the ACCE accreditation visit in Spring 2009. Failure to produce a binder will result in a failing grade in the class.

Quizzes	45%
Periodic writing assignments	45%
Reflective essay	10%

Tentative Lecture Schedule

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Mtg#</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Assignment†</i>
September 3	1	Introduction – Sac State CM and Success in the Industry	Read “Plan of Excellence,” establish class goals and plan
10	2	Critical Thinking	Read class text in its entirety
17	3	Evolution of a Construction Contract –Players, Roles, and the Functions of Management	
24	4	Ethics and Professionalism	Linda Clifford, CFO, CC Myers, Inc.*
October 1	5	Grading and paving construction	John Haskell, VP, Bob Kerby, General Superintendent; Western Engineering Contractors*
8	6	Construction Management	Tony Moayed, CEO, Brian Toppel, PM, Joe Bartron; Inspector; TMCS, Inc.*
15	7	Heavy/Highway Construction	Mike Guido, Tom Gunther, Mike Bailey, DeSilva Gates*
22	8	Industrial Construction	John Nunan, President, Scott Maxwell, VP, Unger Construction*
29	9	Communicating as a Professional	
November 5	10	Commercial Building Constructors – Public Works	Dick Cowan, Clark Construction*
12	11	Mechanical Specialty Contracting	William and David Gill; Project Managers: Marelich Mechanical and
19	12	Commercial Building Constructors – Private Works	Silas Nigam, Senior Project Executive, Clark Construction*
26	13	Construction Consulting	Jay Halverson, Principal (retired) PCCA*
December 3	14	Specialty Contracting	*Kevin Gini, VP and branch manager, Collins Electrical
10	15	Industry Reception	Reflective essays due before class

†—All assignments due the following week before class, unless noted otherwise

* Guest presentation