



SACRAMENTO STATE
Construction Management

CM – 129
Construction Management
Capstone Class

Course Syllabus
Spring 2009

Class Hours & Location

Lecture, Monday 6:00 – 8:50 PM
Riverside Hall, Room 1012

Instructor: Mark Shope
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Office Hours & Location

➤ By Appointment

CM-129 Construction Management Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to bring together the multiple elements of the Construction Management program and to give the student a personal feel for the real-life aspects of the management of a construction enterprise (be it a company, a division, a department or a complex project). The class will be a seminar format with a portion of each class session devoted to the completion of the course project - a Strategic Business Plan.

PREREQUISITES

As the Capstone class of the program, admission to CM 129 requires senior standing in the Construction Management program. The prerequisite classes for this course, which must have been completed with a C- or better grade, include CM 110, CM 111, CM 126 and OBE 150. One-hundred-series courses are limited to students whose changes of major to the upper division have been approved by the Program Coordinator.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND GRADING SYSTEM

All students are subject to the policies described in the current CSUS Catalogue.

The principles of Truth and Honesty are recognized as fundamental to the community of Scholars & Teachers. Giving aid to a Student during an exam or taking information from another Student or Student's exam constitutes academic dishonesty. Students caught cheating will receive a failing grade in the course and can be dismissed from the University. Students are encouraged to work together to solve homework problems, but copying is clearly prohibited.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to accomplish the following:

- Introduce the student to the requirements of running a Construction Company.
- Introduce the student to the concept of strategic planning.
- Develop the student's ability to produce a strategic business plan.
- Develop the student's skills in both oral and written communication.
- Develop the student's skills in conducting and reporting on independent research.
- Develop the student's ability to work in a team environment.
- Integrate the student's previous undergraduate studies.

SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES - CM 129

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- Be able to produce written documents with accurate, well organized content and minimal spelling and grammatical errors, and make oral presentations that are well organized and effective.

- List and describe the key challenges of running a Construction Company and the methods and strategies for successfully overcoming those challenges.
- Identify the elements of a strategic business plan and explain their application.
- List and explain the elements of Construction Company financial statements.
- Identify and explain various ratios used in the industry to determine the financial health of a construction company.
- Identify and explain the basic requirements for obtaining Banking and Surety credit.
- Describe some of the complexities of managing human resources and provide reasonable and realistic solutions for doing so.
- Identify and explain the major economic, societal and environmental issues affecting the contemporary construction industry and provide reasonable and effective responses to them.

As students are preparing to go directly from this course into the outside world and fulltime employment, the standards demanded of this course will be those expected of a construction professional. There will be a high expectation of the students' ability to complete what they commit to as well as their overall communication skills.

COURSE ORGANIZATION & EVALUATION

The course will consist of discussions and readings about the multiple facets of a construction entity. For the purpose of the term project, each student will be a part of a student team. The term project will consist of the development and presentation of a strategic business plan for a construction organization (company, division, department or complex project) chosen by the team and agreed to by the instructor. A portion of most classes will be dedicated to reviewing the results of the students' outside research. The strategic plan will be presented both orally and in writing to the instructor. An outside panel of industry representatives may also hear the oral presentation.

Evaluation:

Written reports will be graded on content, clarity, the effectiveness of communicating an idea, grammar, punctuation, composition, and appearance. Interim written assignments, integrated with the overall objective of a strategic plan, will be submitted approximately every other week. Each assignment must be submitted to achieve a passing grade. Final drafts of the student's strategic plan will be marked up by the instructor and available to be picked up at the end of the semester. Interim assignments will make up 40% of the student's final grade, and the full strategic plan will make up another 40%. Failure to produce a final strategic plan will result in a failing grade. The seminar will include oral presentations, group discussions and written exercises. The student will be evaluated on his/her preparation, participation and work habits. Attendance, punctuality, level of attentiveness, and courtesy will affect the student's grade. These elements and participation in class will make up 20% of the student's grade.

There will be two mid-term written examinations administered to each student individually. The purpose of these examinations will be to determine the individual level of understanding achieved by each student independent of their team assignments. Because of the opportunity for an individual student to "ride the coattails" of other members of their team without understanding the contents of the course, the degree such examinations influence the outcome of each student's grade will depend upon the instructor's interpretation of how consistent the results of the examinations conform to

the results of the student's team assignments. For example, if an individual student's overall grade as a result of their team assignments is a "B", but their results on the examinations yields a "D", the presumption will be that the examination grade more accurately reflects the student's understanding of the material and as a result will have a significant impact on the student's final grade. On the other hand, if the examination grade and the team grade are in proximity with each other, the student's grade will be determined per the criteria in the previous paragraph.

TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS

Textbook:

1. Construction Business Management by John E. Schaufelberger, ISBN-10: 0130907863, ISBN-13: 978-0130907868
2. Successful Strategic Planning by Stephen G. Haines, ISBN-10: 1560522518, ISBN-13: 978-1560522515
3. Selected reading assignments from various sources will be assigned from time to time.

Recommended Reading & References:

- The Elements of Style by William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White
- Good to Great by James Collins
- Raving Fans by Ken Blanchard and Sheldon Bowles

GRADING

Course Grades: Interim Assignments & Presentations = 40%, Final Strategic Plan & Presentation = 40%, Participation, etc. = 20%

Note: This course has a new Instructor and Textbook, so this syllabus may be revised and updated. This may include structure as well as grading revisions.

+ End of CM 129 Syllabus +