

COURSE OUTLINE

SOC SCI 2BU3

Introduction to Business for Social Science Students

Weekday: Mondays, 7:00 to 10:00PM

Location: BSB building, room 106

McMaster University
Faculty of Social Sciences

Instructor: Susan Milton
Office: KTH208

Email: milton@mcmaster.ca
Extension:

Office Hours: By appointment ONLY
Mondays 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide an understanding of the role of business in Canada by focusing on the basics of management, organizational theory, and structure.

It will discuss internal and external factors such as political, economic, social and cultural, and technological issues that affect the establishment, growth and overall management of organizations. This course will provide a basic but solid introduction to business principles.

This course will serve as a broad introduction to business in Canada today and the environmental forces influencing the nature of organizations. Students will examine the purposes and activities of organizations of various types, sizes and structures and the interrelationship among functional areas within the organization.

Learning is enabled using a combination of class activities, in-class lectures, case analysis, online, independent and group study.

Course Objectives:

1. Examine the varied aspects of business today, the environment in which it operates, including key issues such as globalization, entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility.
2. Explain the role of management in general business, including the managing of human resources.

3. Explain the key need to produce high quality goods and services and the role of basic accounting principles in tracking the financial viability of a business.
4. Extend the concept of marketing from understanding the processes to aspects of promotion, pricing, distribution of goods and services.

Developing Transferable Skills

You will work on developing academic skills that are transferable to your other university courses as well as to the workforce. These skills include:

- critical reading and thinking;
- communication (oral, written and visual);
- self and peer evaluation;
- research skills; and
- group work skills.

Required Textbook:

ISBN	Textbook Title & Edition	Author & Publisher
ISBN-10: 0134302079 • ISBN-13: 9780134302072	Business Essentials, 8 th Canadian Edition Note – you will not need the online My Management Lab for this course	Ebert, Griffin, Starke, and Dracopoulos, Pearson Canada

Evaluation Components:

Assessment Activity	% of Grade	Date Due
In-class activities	15%	Details to be provided in class.
Individual Assignments (2)	15%	Dates to be discussed in class.
Midterm Exam	25%	Mon. Oct. 23
Group Assignment	20%	Wed. Nov. 29
FINAL EXAM	25%	T.B.A.

Written Assignments: All written assignments are to be typed and double-spaced. Please include a title page with your name, student number and email address, the topic title of the assignment and the date submitted. Written submissions may be delivered through the Dropbox in Avenue 2Learn.

Submitting Assignments Electronically: Individual assignments submitted electronically must include your last name in the filename: e.g. Smith_Assignment_5_Article_Assessments.rtf.

Late Submissions: All work is due on the date stated, at the beginning of class, unless other arrangements have been made in advance with the instructor. A late penalty of 5 marks per day will apply after the due date (weekends included).

Class Participation and Engagement: Class participation and engagement is an important component of this course (and of active learning). Therefore, it is expected that all students be 'active' participants in this course. This means attending all classes, being actively involved in class activities and thoughtful discussion, and completing all assignments.

The success of this course depends on you!

Group Assignments: For all group assignments, ALL students in the group must be contributing members of that assignment. The expectation is that each student will be an active and respectful member of their group, and contribute to the assignment - in a fair and equitable way. Group work is sometimes challenging, but it can also be rewarding in a number of ways, including providing you with opportunities to develop valuable 'working-as-a-team' skills that will serve you well in this and other courses, as well as more broadly in your academic, professional, and personal life.

Policy for Returning Assignments/Posting Grades: In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow the return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; all tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student.

And since it is important for student learning and skills development that students receive feedback on their assignments as they progress through the course, you can expect to receive feedback (comments and a grade) on each of your assignments in a timely fashion. This will allow you the opportunity to see how you performed on each assignment and time to discuss any questions you might have with your instructor.

The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. direct return of materials to students in class;
2. return of materials to students during office hours; or
3. submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements will be finalized for the return of assignments from the options listed above by the instructor during the first class. Grades for assignments may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. Final grades for the course will be posted on Mosaic.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

A NOTE ABOUT THE USE OF AVENUE TO LEARN IN THIS COURSE:

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn for the online components of the course. Students should be aware that when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation, may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

A NOTE ABOUT THE USE OF TURNITIN.COM IN THIS COURSE

In this course we may be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. If announced by the Instructor, students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com as well as in hard copy so that it can be checked for plagiarism. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a hard copy of their work to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including to TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF):

This on-line self-reporting tool is for undergrad students to report one absence of up to 3 days per term. The MSAF gives you the ability to request relief for any missed academic work during that one absence (that is 24% or less of the course grade). Please note: this tool cannot be used during any final examination period.

You may submit only 1 MSAF per term. This online form should be filled out as soon as possible before you return to class after your absence. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately (within 48 hours of submitting the MSAF) in person or by email regarding the nature of the relief that is possible for the missed work.

If you are absent more than 3 days or exceed 1 request per term, are absent for a reason other than medical, or have missed work worth 25% or more of your final grade, you MUST visit the office of the Associate Dean in your Faculty. You may be required to provide supporting documentation to the Faculty office. You must NOT submit any medical or other relevant documentation to your instructor. Your instructor may NOT ask you for such documentation. All documentation requests will only come from the Faculty office.

Access Copyright Regulations:

McMaster University holds a licensing agreement with Access Copyright, the Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency. Information on current regulations for copying for education purposes can be found at the following website: <http://www.copyright.mcmaster.ca/>

Student Accessibility Services (SAS):

If you have an accommodation letter from SAS, you are required to provide a copy of that letter to your instructor. Please be sure that you arrange academic accommodations through SAS as early as possible in order that the instructor can receive the accommodation letter as early as possible in the term.

What are my responsibilities as a student registered at SAS? Students are responsible to identify themselves to Student Accessibility Services on an annual and regular basis in order to receive accommodations and services. Students are responsible for:

- meeting their SAS Program Coordinator prior to, or at the start of each academic term (September, January and summer sessions);
- providing their SAS Program Coordinator with relevant and professional medical or psychological documentation;
- notifying their SAS Program Coordinator if courses are dropped or added, or if accommodations require a change;
- meeting with individual course instructors to discuss specific needs in relation to the course and their disability; and
- providing the course instructor with their accommodation letter from SAS.

For more information, see the SAS website: <http://sas.mcmaster.ca/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Chapter
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Sept. 11	Introduction and Chapter 1 – Understanding the Canadian Business System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic systems - The Government and the Economy - The Canadian Market Economy 	Chapter 1
Sept. 18	Chapter 2 – The Environment of Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic forces - Role of Technology, Society and Politics in the Economy Chapter 3 – Conducting Business Ethically and Responsibly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethics - Corporate Social Responsibility - Stakeholders in the economy 	Chapters 2 & 3
Sept. 25	Chapter 4 – Entrepreneurship, Small Business and New Venture Creation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role of Small Business - Starting up a business 	Chapter 4
Oct. 2	Chapter 5 – The Global Context of Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canada’s role in the global economy - International trade - Barriers to international trade 	Chapter 5
Oct. 9	NO CLASS – Reading Week	
Oct. 16	Chapter 6– Managing the Business Enterprise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic management skills (management vs. leadership) - Decision-making and strategy Chapter 7 –Organizing the Business Enterprise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Types of organizational structures Mid-term review	Chapter 6
Oct. 23	Mid-term (25%), Chapters 1 - 7	
Oct. 30	Chapter 8 – Managing Human Resources and Labour Relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What does the Human Resources function do? - Recruitment and Selection - How unions work 	Chapter 8
Nov. 6	Chapter 9 – Motivating, Satisfying and Leading Employees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o “What do workers really want...?” o “Money matters but what else matters...” 	Chapter 9
Nov. 13	Chapter 10 – Operations Management, Productivity and Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating value for the consumer - Operations planning and control 	Chapter 10
Nov. 20	Chapter 11 Understanding Accounting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial ratios 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basics of financial statements Chapter 15 – Risk Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coping with risk 	Chapters 11 & 15 (Risk Management section only)
Nov. 27	Chapter 12 – Understanding Marketing Processes and Consumer Behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is marketing? - The marketing mix - Consumer buying process Group Assignment due Wed. Nov. 29	Chapter 12
Dec. 4	Chapter 14 – Money and Banking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canadian financial system - The flow of money through the economy Final exam review	
Sometime between Dec. 8 - 21	Final Exam (25%) – TBA - The final exam date will be set by the Registrar's office.	Chapters 8 -12, 14 - 15

Note:

MSAFs will not be accepted for in-class activities.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster and A2L course site email.