COURSE SYLLABUS

Business 9815 – Fall 2017

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT SPECIAL FIELDS II

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Mondays 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Location: IVEY 3301  
(12 Sessions)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The Special Fields II course surveys various Operations Management topics and is a breadth class. It is designed to introduce you to (i) classical topics in operations management and (ii) state-of-the-art research in operations management.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
There are two main purposes of this course. First, the course is intended to guide your preparation for the comprehensive exam. The second objective is to enhance your research interests and capabilities in Operations Management. The specific learning goals are listed below:

1. By reading and critically analyzing the literature, the seminar participants will develop comprehension and a thorough understanding of the issues related to each of the core topics addressed in the course.
2. Readings are chosen to illustrate different types of research methodologies used in the literature. Participants should gain insight and be able to articulate how research is formulated, structured, and communicated.
3. Students will critique the strengths and weaknesses of the research articles and discuss the insights contained in the paper.
4. Students will be encouraged to synthesize and integrate ideas from the research literature into new research questions.

COURSE ACTIVITIES / GRADING / METHODS OF EVALUATION
Each student will be evaluated on the quality of their work in the following way:

1. Contribution – 40%
   I expect each of you to come prepared and contribute to the discussion. In preparing each article, consider the following questions (but do not limit yourself to this selected list of questions):
• What is the nature and scope of the problem or issue addressed?
• Is the issue a managerially significant one?
• What is the theory proposed in the article?
• What are the major assumptions?
• Is the methodology appropriate for the issue(s) addressed in the article?
• Does the research and analysis support the conclusions?
• Are the conclusions important for decision makers?
• What are the strengths and weaknesses of each article?

2. Literature review – 40%. The term paper is a publishable literature review on a topic of your interest. More details to be provided in class.

3. Manuscript review (take-home) – 20%.

MATERIALS / REQUIRED READING
A series of reading is available through the Library website.

PLAGIARISM / ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

HEALTH AND WELLNESS
As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western’s Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page http://www.music.uwo.ca, and our own McIntosh Gallery http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca.

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html.
To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: [http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/education/module.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/education/module.html). This module is 30 minutes in length and provides participants with a basic understanding of mental health issues and of available campus and community resources. Topics include stress, anxiety, depression, suicide and eating disorders. After successful completion of the module, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation.

### DETAILED SESSION SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to course; literature review</td>
<td>September 5*</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Quality management I</td>
<td>September 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Quality management II</td>
<td>September 18</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Quality management III</td>
<td>September 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lean management</td>
<td>October 2</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Operations strategy I</td>
<td>October 16</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Operations strategy II</td>
<td>October 23</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Operations strategy III</td>
<td>October 30</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Sustainable operations I</td>
<td>November 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sustainable operations II</td>
<td>November 13</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Service operations</td>
<td>December 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Manuscript review, career planning, dissertation process</td>
<td>December 11</td>
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