Business 9815 – Operations II PhD Seminar

Winter 2020

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 Thursdays 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Location: IVEY 3102
(12 Sessions)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Business 9815 (Operations II PhD Seminar) provides seminar participants with a discussion-based opportunity to constructively yet critically assess a sampling of noteworthy scholarly research examining critical substantive topics in operations management including capacity management, inventory management, production planning and control, lean management, quality management, service management, and operations strategy. While more recent published papers were purposefully selected for discussion, a shared learning and collaborative review of these research efforts should provide introductory scholarly theorization and managerial practice understanding to aid seminar participants in their own framing and examination of operationally informed and/or informing tactical and strategic phenomenon. In the process, seminar participants will be encouraged to identify and assimilate for their own scholarly insights and foundational knowledge well-being the seminal research in each operations management substantive topic area examined.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The specific content and skills learning goals for the Operations II PhD Seminar are:

1. By reading and critically analyzing a sample of the scholarly literature, seminar participants will develop a meaningful understanding of the relevant substantive, theoretical, and practical issues and considerations related to each of the core operations management topics addressed in the course.
2. Given that the readings are purposively selected to illustrate different types of scholarly perspectives and approaches found in the literature, seminar participants should gain thoughtful insights on, and be able to articulate how, practically relevant research is rigorously formulated, argued, executed, and communicated.
3. Seminar participants will critically, yet constructively, evaluate the argumentation and theorization strengths and weaknesses of the assigned research articles and discuss the
substantive insights, and their associated scholarly and managerial ramifications, emanating from each reading.

4. Seminar participants will be encouraged to synthesize and integrate ideas from the scholarly literature to identify their own novel, practically relevant, and theorization and understanding advancing research questions and suppositions.

COURSE ACTIVITIES / GRADING / METHODS OF EVALUATION / EXPECTATIONS / CLASS CONTRIBUTION / ATTENDANCE

Each seminar participant will be evaluated on the quality of their efforts in the following way:

1. Contribution – 40%

   I expect each seminar participant to be fully prepared and actively contribute to shared-learning in all twelve discussion sessions. In preparing each assigned article, please consider the following preparation questions (as well as others that may be relevant to the specific scholarly research discussed):

   - What is the nature and scope of the problem or issue addressed?
   - Is the problem or issue examined a managerially significant one?
   - What is the argumentation/theorization proposed in the article?
   - What are the author(s) major suppositions and assumptions?
   - Is the research methodology appropriate for the problem or issue addressed?
   - Does the research analysis support the discussion-based conclusions?
   - Are the author(s) conclusions practically relevant for decision makers?
   - What are the strengths and shortcomings of the research effort?
   - What meaningful contribution does this research offer to the scholarly literature? To me?

2. Term Paper – 40%. The term paper encompasses a critical, and hopefully novel, conceptual examination of an operational issue or challenge related to any of the PhD seminar topics. More details will be provided in the first class session on January 9. Seminar participants should submit their completed term paper no later than April 13 in order to be able to present the outcome of their efforts on April 16.

3. Manuscript review (take-home) – 20%. The assignment’s manuscript will be distributed on March 12 and seminar participants should submit their review no later than March 26.

MATERIALS / REQUIRED READING

A listing of assigned readings for each seminar session is appended to this course syllabus. These assigned readings are generally available through Western University’s Library website (under the E-Journals link) and seminar participants are expected to obtain their own copies of these assigned readings.
COURSE SCHEDULE /SESSION PACKS

The following table highlights the Operations II PhD Seminar schedule. As noted previously, a listing of assigned readings for each seminar session is appended to this course syllabus.

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ACADEMIC OFFENCES: PLAGIARISM AND 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).

SUPPORT SERVICES: HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services, a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both SAS and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction. For more information, see http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd
SEMINAR ASSIGNED READINGS

Session 1: Operations Management Domains (January 9, 2020)


Session 2: Capacity Management (January 16, 2020)

Session 3: Inventory Management (January 23, 2020)


Session 4: Production Planning and Control (January 30, 2020)


Session 5: Lean Management (February 6, 2020)


**Session 6: Quality Management I (February 13, 2020)**


**Session 7: Quality Management II (February 27, 2020)**


**Session 8: Service Management I (March 5, 2020)**


**Session 9: Service Management II (March 12, 2020)**


**Session 10: Operations Strategy I (March 19, 2020)**


**Session 11: Operations Strategy II (March 26, 2020)**


**Session 12**: Manuscript Review Debrief and Term Paper Presentations (April 16, 2020)