

Course Syllabus
wayne.smith@csun.edu
[updated: Friday, May 21, 2021]

Course: MGT 370
Title: Management Skills Development (3 units)

“Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school.”
---Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Program: Bachelors of Science, Management
Other Business and Economics majors
Other CSUN majors
College: CSUN College of Business and Economics

Semester: Fall, 2021
Class: 20940
Day/Time: Tue/Thu 9:30am - 10:45am
(Tue 8/31 - Thu 12/16, 16 weeks)

Location: Zoom

Delivery Format: online

Lead Student: Wayne Smith, Ph.D.

Office Room: Zoom

Office Hours: Mon/Wed 10:45am – 11:15am
(and by appointment)

Office Phone: +1 818.677.4524

Email: wayne.smith@csun.edu (Subject Line = “[CSUN Mgt370 T/Th]”)

Public Web: <http://ocw.smithw.org/2021fall/mgt370-20940/>

Private LMS: <http://canvas.csun.edu/> (will be used later in this course)

Tentative Exams: *Midterm* (Tue., Oct 26), *Final* (Thu. Dec 16)

Required Materials (Bookstore):

1. Whetton, D., and Cameron, K. (2015) *Developing Management Skills* (9th ed.), Prentice-Hall (Pearson) (ISBN 978-0133127478).
2. Two (2) “Scantron Form 882” (50 questions each side)

Required Materials (non-Bookstore):

1. Library Materials—the URL is on the course web page

Recommended Materials:

1. Hacker, D., and Sommers, N. (2018) *A Writer's Reference* (9th ed.), Bedford/St. Martin's, Boston:MA. ISBN-13 978-1319057442
2. Wall Street Journal (20-30 minutes daily, in printed or online form)

[<https://r.wsj.com/PROFcag2>]

You must bring your required materials, including any instructor-supplied name tag or desk tent card, with you to each class.

Course Description:

This course is a presentation of major concepts of the behavioral sciences that apply to the management of organizations. The focus is on understanding factors and developing skills that affect the behavior and ultimately the performance of individuals and groups within organizations.

This course is *not* an online course. Attendance in class is required. This course is designed on a traditional university schedule. This course requires, at a minimum, three times the number of hours per week outside of class as the number of hours in class.

Also, students who wish to add must attend each class and submit all assigned work.

Each class will begin promptly. The clock in the classroom will be used as the reference.

Course Prerequisites:

This course requires 1), completion of MGT 360 with a “C” or higher, and 2), completion of BUS302 and BUS302L. All prerequisites will be strictly enforced.

Learning Objectives:

The primary emphasis in this course is placed on acquainting students with the theory and practice of management skills. Naturally, the management and organizational behavior theory in MGT 370 builds upon the management and organizational behavior theory from MGT 360. Additionally, developing management skills requires deliberate, focused practice. Thus, this course involves active learning and experiential activities to help design, implement, and assess the management and leadership skills critical to contemporary business and organizational life. The specific objectives are to:

- Understand the theories, models, and frameworks of key ideas in management skills at the personal-, interpersonal-, and group-levels.
- Analyze, practice, and evaluate specific skills in areas including interpersonal and intercultural communication, stress, power and influence, problem-solving, conflict resolution, teams and networks, and motivation and performance
- Explore major issues and trends in the field
- Improve skills in the area of management communication, especially written communication

Pedagogical Approach:

The course will use a variety of approaches including lectures, videos, class discussions, assignments, analyses of business news and cases, and in-class, experiential exercises, including extemporaneous debate.

Learning Rhythms and Patterns:

I tend neither to read nor summarize the required reading materials in class. I tend to offer clarifications, differences of perspectives, or explorations of the core material. Additionally, I tend not to use a large number of presentation slides, much less post them online. Students must allocate sufficient out-of-class time to do the required reading in order to participate in class and ask substantive questions as necessary. Students will need to have mastered necessary skills in reading comprehension, retention, and recall. Each class session will generally begin with an opportunity to ask questions regarding the required reading materials or lecture topics from the previous class session. Each class session is generally oriented around one or two learning themes. The textbook materials support the core ideas of those themes, the peer-reviewed and other materials support key theories and models of those themes, and the non-peer-reviewed and other materials support key ideas in practice or working examples.

Examinations:

There will be two examinations (a mid-term and a final) scheduled in advance. I may give cumulative exams, although I usually exclude specific material. The final exam will cover the chapters covered in class as well as in-class discussions and other non-textbook materials. Due to time constraints, we will not be able to cover each and every aspect of the textbook readings or other readings for class. Nonetheless, you are responsible for all the material (i.e., it is “fair game” for the exam) unless explicitly directed otherwise by the instructor. No make-up exams will be given without a signed note from a medical doctor or public safety agency.

Assignments:

There will be a few individual assignments, and at least two team-based assignments. The assignments will be described in advance and will be available on the course website. The total number of words written by each student will be at least 2,500 (approximately 10 pages). This total includes written assignments and various personal reflections.

Assignments and reports announced in class may consist of self-assessments, case analyses, or short write-ups. Assignments and reports are due promptly at the beginning of class. Assignments and reports not submitted promptly at the beginning of class (I will make a “last call” announcement) are assessed an immediate 50% point penalty. No assignments or reports will be accepted after the end of the class session without a signed note from a medical doctor or public safety agency. Therefore, if you fear you might miss class or might not be able to turn in your assignment on time, you may give it to another student to turn in on the correct day and at the correct time. Assignments and reports will be generally graded on straightforward point scheme (“scoring rubric”) enumerated within each assignment. In addition, the writing requirements will be scored for each assignment and report as well (in general, I take off 10% for each error in language use and composition).

Be sure to collect your scored exams, assignments and reports (in other words, anything you turn in) and retain them in your records.

Exercises:

There may be one or more exercises in the course. Some exercises are completed in-class, and some are completed out-of-class. Exercises will always be due in-class.

There will be at least two exercises. The exercises are similar to “pop quizzes” that you may be familiar with in other classes; you will need to keep up with the reading, classwork, and assignments. Additionally, please bring standard 8.5 x 11 notebook paper, and a blue pen or black pen with you to class each day.

Engagement and Commitment (Participation):

I occasionally ask for volunteers in class. I often provide Engagement and Commitment points to students for this effort. Additionally, if I call on you and you are either absent or not prepared, you will lose Engagement and Commitment points. You can also lose points in other ways, such as not picking up scored/graded assignments and reports or not paying attention. There is extrinsic and intrinsic value to volunteering in class and being prepared for class.

Grading System:

The contribution of each component to the final grades will be based on the following breakdown:

Component	Relative Weight
Engagement and Commitment	13%
Exercises	29%
Assignments	29%
Exams	29%

Weights within the “Engagement and Commitment” (Participation), “Exercises”, “Assignments”, and “Exams” components are distributed evenly. The Department of Management strives for some uniformity in final letter grading distributions. Therefore, students are ranked in class by weighted points. Letter grades are not assigned to any quiz, exam, assignment, or report. For each exam, I will provide not only the mean and standard deviation, but also the relevant letter grade percentiles as well. These percentiles can be used as a guide as to help assess your relative performance in class. Each student has the same opportunity to earn high marks. Students should study diligently and strive for high marks on a persistent basis. All of your work matters. There is no “non-important” work in this class.

Grades will be assigned based on the following (plus/minus suffixes may be used):

Letter grade you earn	University interpretation	“Real World” interpretation
A	Exceptional	Promote early
B	Very Good	Retain and provide merit pay increases
C	Average	Retain and provide cost of living increases only

D	Barely Passing	Let go when replacement is found
F	Failure	Fire immediately

I have minor hearing loss in my right ear. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand and wait until I call on you. It helps me to be able to see you before you begin your question. Thank you in advance. All audio or video recording of class is prohibited.

Classroom Disruptions:

Please ensure that the audio portion (“ringtone”) of your cell phone is off during class. No interaction with your cell phone, including texting, is permitted during class. Also, if you wear a hat with a bill on it (e.g., a baseball cap), please either turn it around or take it off; I need to be able to see your face and your eyes at all times.

Academic Integrity:

Any cheating in or out of class will result in a failed exam, an “F” in the course, and a letter the Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs recommending that the student be expelled from the University. Additional classroom behavior requirements for this class are listed at:

<http://ocw.smithw.org/general/behavior.pdf>

At the start of the semester:

My class roster identifies students by name, CSUN ID, class level, and major. On the first day of class, I know very little about each student. However, I have found that some students benefit by visiting me in my office during scheduled office hours at least once very early in the course. Please do let me know if you fall into one of the following categories:

Management students. Management students need to earn a “C” or above in this course. Management students who find themselves in some difficulty by the mid-point of the course should initiate a dialogue with me in my office about their chosen major.

Differently-abled students. The textbook for this course is available in electronic form for students who are registered with the CSUN Center on Disabilities. Further, all materials in this course have been designed to be accessible as possible to those with visual, aural, motor, and cognitive impairments. If there are additional needs, please let me know as soon as possible.

Military service. If you are either currently in the active service, reserves, or ROTC, or will be attending OCS soon, please let me know. In particular, I want to ensure that the class schedule doesn’t conflict your service schedule. I also would like student veterans to self-identify themselves to me as well. Veterans have unique experiences and can make important contributions to a management class.

Student athletes. I try to attend at least one game or meet for each student athlete, even if your sport is in a future semester. Again, you will need to self-identify yourself to me.

International students. Managing expectations is difficult; managing expectations regarding higher education and culture is *extraordinarily* difficult. Please see me as soon as possible if you do not completely understand any aspect of this course, including writing and grading standards.

At the end of the semester:

I do not discuss any aspect of scores or grades via email after the last class session. I can discuss scores or grades in my office after the beginning of the following semester.

Students who earn an “A” may request a written letter of recommendation from me. If such a letter is desired, please try to ask me before the end of the following semester. A request for a letter of recommendation begins and ends with a discussion in my office during office hours.

Acknowledgements:

I am the last Ph.D. student of Peter Drucker. Peter is arguably the most important individual in management theory and practice, ever. I am indebted to Dr. Deone Zell for sparking an abiding passion in understanding network theory and how it applies in contemporary organizational life.

I have much to learn from all of these individuals, and most important, from my students.