

Syllabus

MGT 670 Seminar in Operation Management

Spring Semester, 2008

General Information

Instructor: Dr. Minjoon Jun
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Course Materials

Beckman, S.L. and Rosenfield, D.B. (2008). Operations Strategy: Competing in the 21st Century. McGraw-Hill, Boston.

Evans, J.R. and Lindsay, W.M. (2005). The Management and Control of Quality 6th ed., Thompson Corp. U.S.A.

Webster, S. (2008). Principles & Tools for Supply Chain Management. McGraw-Hill, Boston.

Selected Journal Articles

Course Goals:

1. Provide an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the research literature in Operation Management.
2. Provide an opportunity to learn the research issues and research methods that are available for establishing research programs in Operation Management.
3. Improve your capabilities for identifying, defining, and designing research projects.

Course Requirements:

Chapter Presentations & Participation 20%

Each student will be required to cover four book chapters. The presenter will give an overview of the assigned chapters, and prepare and distribute discussion questions to guide the discussion of the chapters. All seminar participants are expected to read the assigned materials thoroughly and to contribute to discussions during class sessions.

Research Paper 40%

Each student will be required to submit a research paper. A student will choose his/her own topic of interest related to subjects covered in the course. Papers should be rigorous in content and involve significant citation of current journals and books on the chosen topic. The paper will be developed in phases over the course of the semester. The final paper will be due April 29. Further discussion of the details and requirements for the paper will be provided later.

Area Survey 20%

These are to be written and presented to the class. The style and content of the report are discussed below.

Critical Analyses of Assigned Articles 20%

These are critical analyses of assigned articles and each must be done by all class members. Be prepared to make an oral presentation in class and to hand in your written critiques of the articles if required to do so.

Note: Each grade for written assignments will consist of two separate grades - one for style (50%) and the other for content (50%). “Style” includes the structure and design of the report, the correct use of the Ph.D. dissertation style (APA style) manual, and correct sentence and paragraph construction.

Area Survey:

Each student will do one area survey. The survey should provide: a well structured summary and assessment of the research literature in the assigned area: a carefully listing of the important works, a description of the research needs in the area, and references. The survey should thus consist of the following two parts.

Part I. OVERVIEW

- Define the topic and the boundaries established for the survey (what has been included and excluded).
- Present the way you have organized the area (classified subtopics).
- Assess the exiting literature. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses and omissions of the published materials.

Part II. RESEARCH NEEDS

Identify one future research need in the area. Explain why your research need is important to the area. Then, develop a brief research design.

The research design should cover the following points.

- Clearly define the research goals and/or hypotheses to be tested.

- Develop a research method appropriate for your research goals; describe in some detail the actions required to complete the research.
- Justify the use of your method - explain why it is better than other alternatives for your research goals. Include a discussion of the limitations of the research design.

Note:

1. Use a dissertation style (APA style) manual in preparing all written reports.
2. The area surveys are designed primarily to improve your knowledge of the research literature in Operations Management and to prepare you for the field.
3. You will be required to present your area survey to the class and to respond to questions about the research literature and your research ideas.

Critical Analyses of Assigned Articles:

Your critical analyses should address the following:

I. SUMMARY. Present first a brief summary of the article. This would include the objectives of the research, the research methods, and a summary of the findings (conclusion).

KEEP YOUR SUMMARY SHORT. ASSURE THAT THE OTHER CLASS MEMBERS HAVE READ THE ARTICLE, KNOW ITS CONTENTS, AND ARE INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE RESEARCH.

II. IMPORTANCE. The critique should then include an assessment of the importance of the research goals and conclusions.

III. EVALUATION. Analyze the weaknesses and strengths of the research design and soundness of the conclusions. Discuss alternative research designs that might have been utilized?

IV. RELATED RESEARCH. What related research problems does the research suggest?

V. STYLE ANALYSIS. Analyze the structure of the article and the authors' writing style. What did the author do that was especially effective for the intended audience? How could the structure of the article have been improved?

Tentative Class Schedule

Jan 22	Introduction
Jan 29	Operations Strategy Chs. 1, 2, & 3
Feb 5	Operations Strategy Chs. 6, 9, & 10
Feb 12	Quality Management Chs. 4, 6, & 9
Feb 19	Supply Chain Management Chs. 2, 3, & 5
Feb 26	<i>Research Paper Topics/Abstracts Due; Discussion on Research Papers</i>
Mar 4	Area Survey 1; Assigned Article Reviews
Mar 11	Area Survey 2; Assigned Article Reviews
Mar 18	Area Survey 3; Assigned Article Reviews
Mar 25	(Spring Break)
Apr 1	<i>Draft Research Papers Due</i>
Apr 8	Free Topic
Apr 15	Work on Papers
Apr 22	Free Topic
Apr 29	<i>Research Paper Presentations; Final Research Paper Due</i>