



WPI

THE BUSINESS
SCHOOL

MIS576, Project Management F24 r0

Fall 2024 – On Campus

Instructor:

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I do not have an office on campus

Class hours: Wednesday's 6:00 – 8:50 PM

Classroom: Fuller Labs 311

Course Materials:

Required Course Resources:

- Robert K. Wysocki (2019). Effective project management: Traditional, Agile, Extreme, Hybrid (8th edition). Wiley. ISBN-13: 978-1119562801. Text is available in the WPI bookstore.
- Access to: Microsoft Office tools: Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Project. Contact the WPI IT Department for help if needed.
- WPI Canvas site for this course where you find: the course Syllabus, Lecture notes, homework assignments, graded assignments, articles, links to videos, etc.

Course Description:

This course presents the specific concepts, techniques, and tools for managing projects effectively. The role of the project manager as team leader is examined, together with important techniques for controlling costs, schedules, and performance parameters. Lectures, exercises and projects are combined to develop skills needed by project managers in today's environment.

Expectations of this course:

- This course is offered in a classroom setting in a 14-session format.
- Students are expected to be prepared prior to class to discuss the associated readings and research assigned in the syllabus.
- There will be an opportunity to try out currently used techniques common across industries.
- There will be ungraded exercises where you are expected to go beyond your current knowledge and step outside of your comfort zone to develop complex real-world answers.
- Graded assignments will be focused on the use of applying current methods for analysis and resolution for both problems & opportunities.
- I expect your contributions to group discussions, projects, and challenges of the status quo. Don't sit silently and watch; engage, question and challenge. This is not a simulation!
- Plan to spend 10-12 total hours per week working on this course, including readings, assignments, team meetings, and project production.

WPI's Mission Statement:

WPI transforms lives, turns knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionizes STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research.

The WPI Business School Mission Statement:

The WPI Business School develops adaptive leaders who create sustainable solutions, deliver globally responsible impact, **and conduct transformative research at the intersection of business, technology, and people.**

Relation of this Course to the WPI Business School Mission:

Projects are ubiquitous and essential to advancement across global economies. Understanding how to manage a project, especially large projects, is a key skill in creating impactful and sustainable solutions.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course, students will learn how to plan and supervise the project management lifecycle, using multiple approaches to fit project characteristics. Content of the course will prepare students to manage practical projects and will provide a foundation for project management certification should the student wish to pursue it.

Communication:

Email is the preferred contact method for this course. I typically respond to email contacts within hours rather than days. With few exceptions, scoring is completed within seven days following submission of assignments.

Course Approach:

The course was designed to parallel current project management techniques. I will share the successes and failures of past technological projects where you can be the judge of how good or bad, they ended.

Graded Components:

In this course, you are expected to learn principles of the project management lifecycles, master manual and computer-supported techniques for planning, supervising, reviewing project processes, and gain experience in applying project management required skills. This implies the need for knowledge of models and concepts, research skills, and practice in developing shared understanding and solving problems in group settings.

Course Grading:Group Product Teardown

Your group will perform a Product Teardown specific to learnings pertaining to Project Management. This assignment will require learning the roles and responsibilities of members of a product development company. Your project management team will identify applicable company departments and professions that align with the requirements of the teardown assignment. This is not an engineering assignment; it is a business class assignment.

Individual Project Charter Assignment

This assignment is based on the Group's Final Project. Once groups are formed and the Groups Final Project is explained, students will begin to speculate on the Scope of the project, the project Deliverables and Constraints. Individual students will have a unique perspective of Final Project outcome. You will use a Project Charter template to capture your perspectives for the Final Project. This assignment is intended to show how well you have understood the Final Project objectives with limited knowledge at this point in the course. The document will eventually be shared with your group to lead the group to a shared consensus for the solution to

an opportunity. It is expected that by the end of the course, you will have enhanced your understanding significantly. More information will be supplied during the course.

Individual Financial assignment

This assignment will require you to study and learn basic finance terms and their application to the profession of project management. This is not an accounting course; however, all projects ultimately result in describing the effectiveness of their work in terms of costs. An overview video and instructor led classroom discussions will help prepare you for this assignment. As with other assignments, you will also have to perform some online research to complete this assignment.

Non-graded Homework assignments identified by an (*) in the 'Assignment & Exercises' column on the last page of the syllabus. I will introduce the topic before you are required to do the research, note taking and creation of two questions for discussions based on the topic in the following class.

Group Term Project

The Group Term Project will be introduced during the first few sessions of the course. I will provide substantial data, information, and pointers to assist groups in this project. Acting as a Project Management Team, your group will attack this opportunity of a moderately complex project and develop a project plan to direct the solution to the opportunity. This assignment will call upon techniques from the course and your outside research. This will culminate in a 15 - 20-page paper and a five-slide overview PowerPoint presentation.

Assignment Grading

Group Teardown Analysis – 10 points

Individual Project Charter paper – 15 points

Individual Financial Paper - 15 points

Group Term Project (paper and presentation) – 60 points

WPI Values Statement:

We are a community that stands for civility and respect. We stand for acceptance of others and champion those who may need compassion and understanding. We are an inclusive community that respects peaceful discord and upholds a fundamental belief that all members of our community deserve to feel safe. Our collective mix of

thoughts and experiences enrich those fundamental values that have long guided our university. As we navigate through times of change, know that our values remain.

We believe that a community-wide focus on sustainable inclusive excellence is not only imperative to fostering an inclusive learning and work environment, but also elevating the impact a culture of belonging can have on the greater STEM community.

In The Business School classrooms, our virtual spaces, our practices, and our interactions we strive to be as inclusive as possible. Mutual respect, civility, and the ability to listen and observe others carefully are crucial to universal learning.

Technical Requirements:

If you need IT help, contact the IT Help Desk. If you need help with CANVAS, contact the ATC.

Library Access:

As a student at WPI, you have access to a variety of resources through the library. Use the link [here](#) to access databases, e-journals, and/or e-books. You will be required to log in with your WPI username and password to access materials.

Team/Group Dynamics:

WPI SWEET Center

(<https://www.wpi.edu/academics/global-school/departments-programs-offices/sweet-center>)

Teams that experience difficulties with group dynamics are encouraged to contact the SWEET Center for an individual or team consultation. Individual and Team Consultations are offered by SWEET fellows who are WPI students, staff, faculty, and alumni with lots of project and teamwork experience, and additional training from WPI experts on effective and equitable teamwork. All SWEET Center offerings are available for free to WPI undergraduate and graduate students.

WPI Writing Center:

The Writing Center offers one-on-one consultations, both in-person and over Zoom, to help you improve as a writer. Writing Center tutors will read your written work, give you feedback about your document's strengths and weaknesses, and help you

chart a path forward as you revise. Consultations are free and open to all WPI students for all classes and projects, and tutors will happily work with you at any stage of the writing process (early brainstorming, revising a draft, polishing sentences in a final draft). To see our appointment options for both in-person and synchronous online meetings, go to the Writing Center homepage: wpi.edu/+writing

POLICIES

Academic Integrity:

You are expected to be familiar WPI's policy on academic integrity available [here](#). Additional information can be found in the [Student Guide to Academic Integrity at WPI](#). Consequences for violating the Academic Honesty Policy range from earning a zero on the assignment, failing the course, or being suspended or expelled from WPI.

Common examples of violations include:

- Copying and pasting text directly from a source without providing appropriately cited credit
- Paraphrasing, summarizing, or rephrasing from a source without providing appropriate citations
- Collaborating on individual assignments
- Turning in work where a good portion of the work is someone else's, even if properly cited

Academic Accommodations:

We at WPI strive to create an inclusive environment where all students are valued members of the class community. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you have medical information to share with us that may impact your performance or participation in this course, please make an appointment with us as soon as possible.

Students with approved academic accommodations should plan to submit their accommodation letters through the [Office of Accessibility Services Student Portal](#). Should you have any questions about how accommodations can be implemented in this particular course, please contact us as soon as possible. Students who are not currently registered with the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) but who would like to find out more information regarding requesting accommodations and what that entails should plan to contact them via: **Email: AccessibilityServices@wpi.edu and/or Phone: (508) 831-4908. On Campus – Daniels Hall, First Floor 124**

MIS576 F24 Syllabus

Week Date	Topics & Activities	Readings before class	Assignments & Exercises
1 8/28	Project Management Overview. Manager's Role & Responsibilities. Introduce the Group Term Project	Pgs 1-61 and Study the Topics	Complete the: R&R Job Descriptions. Bring your takeaways to class & share. Group Term Project – due 12/4
2 9/4	Strategic Planning, Collaborative Project Teams, Project Life Cycle. Organization Structures.	Pgs 63-113 and study the topics	Study the Tuckman Model.* Bring written takeaways to class & share.
3 9/11	Form Teams, start Teardown Analysis. Review Management Frameworks. Introduce the Whole Product concept.	Pgs 115-164 and study the Topics	Watch: The 'Whole Product' Video* Bring written takeaways to class & share. Group Teardown Analysis – due 9/25
4 9/18	Product Planning. The Product Development Check List. Introduce the Project Charter assignment.	Pgs 164-222 and study the Topics	Study the Myers-Briggs assessment. ID your M-B type, discuss with your group. Project Charter assignment due – 10/2
5 9/25	Gathering Requirements. Traditional Project Kick-off meeting. Project Management Process Groups	Pgs 223-272 and study the Topics	Study 'Project Management Process Groups*. Consider the term project and bring written takeaways to class & share.
6 10/2	Planning a Traditional Project Management effort. Building the Product Life Cycle Funnel.	Pgs 272-311 and study the Topics	Research the SCOR Model and its usage. Bring written takeaways to class & share.
7 10/9	Launching a Traditional Project Management Project. Go To Market activities. SCORE exercise.		No homework
8 10/16	NO CLASS		
9 10/23	Executing a Traditional Project: Product Feasibility Analysis. Project Phase Reviews.	Pgs 313-379 and study the Topics	Compare; hand-generated, EXCEL, and MS Project Gantt Charts*. Bring documents to class & share.
10 10/30	Scheduling Tools. MS Project video. Introduce Military IDEF concepts. Introduce the Financial assignment.	Pgs 381-430 and study the Topics	Watch: The 'Financial' Video.* Bring written takeaways to class & share. Financial assignment due - 11/13
11 11/6	Closing Out a Traditional Project Management Project. Leading Product & Design Reviews.	Pgs 431-483 and study the Topics	Research: Porter's Value Chain Analysis, bring written takeaways to class & share. Financial assignment due – 11/20
12 11/13	Complexity & Uncertainty in Project Management. ATT and NCR project examples.	Pgs 483-536 and study the Topics	Complete Research of Group Term Project. Finish Proposals and Presentations.
13 11/20	Agile Complex Projects. STEM Management Models examples.		Complete Research of Group Term Project. Finish Proposals and Presentations.
14 11/27	NO CLASS		
15 12/4	GROUP PRESENTATIONS		No Homework
16 12/11	WRAP UP		Course Ends.

*Study "takeaways" includes a synopsis of the topic and several open-ended questions for group discussions during the next class