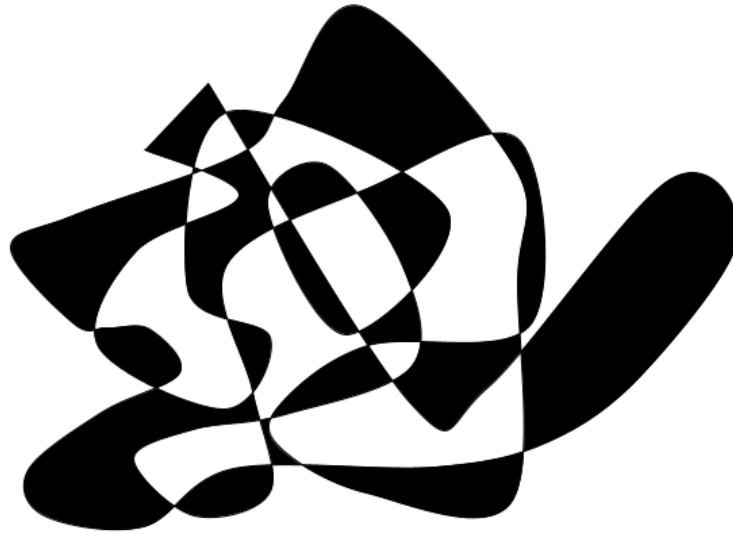


IS 594 – Graduate Project Management



Dr. Bradley Alicea
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Fall 2025
Tuesdays, 2:00 – 4:50
145 Armory [Location](#)

Welcome to Advanced Project Management! This is the graduate-level version of Project management (340), which is a broad survey of project management with a focus on Open-source. In this course, we will critically view several project management methodologies. You will also immerse yourself in the tools and techniques of project management, from the complexity of project design to the shortcomings of current techniques. Each course period will involve student stand-ups, a lecture period, and occasionally a demo-or-die period.

Here is a week-by-week breakdown of our schedule.

Week	Activities	Assignment
1 (August 26)	Introductions, Course Overview, Github Tutorial	Create Github Repo
2 (September 2)	Foundations I (SWoT, Six Sigma)	Standup
3 (September 9)	Foundations II (Cynefin, Wardley Maps)	Wardley Map , Standup
4 (September 16)	Waterfall I (Specs)	Standup
5 (September 23)	Waterfall II (Process)	Architecture , Standup

6 (September 30)	Agile I (Iterative Design)	Standup
7 (October 7)	Agile II (Sprints)	Scrum/Sprint , Standup
8 (October 14)	Failure Points I (Manage for Contingency)	Standup
9 (October 21)	Failure Points II	Standup
10 (October 28)	Applications I (Rube Goldberg Management)	Process for no good reason? Standup
11 (November 4)	Applications II (I'm Not a Software Engineer)	Standup, Vote!
12 (November 11)	Algorithmic Project Management	Standup
13 (November 18)	Roadmapping, Troubleshooting, and Causal Models	Standup
November 25	Fall Break!	
14 (December 2)	Skill Acquisition and Expertise	Issue Board , Standup
15 (December 9)	Open-source and Distributed Work	Standup

Your grade will be based on several components. The first assignment is Github repository creation (10%) and maintenance (12%), summarized with a one-page report. You will also complete five homework assignments (25% total, 5% per assignment) that focus on examples of your choosing. Weekly in-class reports called stand-ups (a critical part of Agile) will also be a part of your final grade (28% total, 2% per stand-up). The final assignment is a topical report (25%), a 20-page research paper on a project management topic of your choosing. Please see the grading rubric for more information. As a graduate course, you have the latitude to innovate and build upon basic ideas and techniques.

Grading Rubric

Project-related stand-ups

To complete the stand-ups and Github repository assignments, you need to come up with a project to work on. Think of a topic that you care about, or a project that you are currently working on. This does not need to be from the realm of information technology, but should be focused enough to understand issues and potential obstacles. Rather than finding the right scope for your project, you will iteratively work through your project on a weekly basis. In short, stand-ups will allow you to analyze this project, work through the conceptualization, and improve your selected project idea.

Weekly stand-ups will be oral reports of a few minutes each. The structure will be: what have you done in the past week, what challenges have you encountered in the past week, how

you overcame challenges during the week, and what will you do in the next week. Please see the template posted on the Canvas syllabus page under Week 1 docs. It is recommended that you keep track of your weekly stand-ups as Markdown files in your Github repository.

Each person will build a Github repository for managing their activities in the class. You will be graded on creation of a repository, knowledge of version control for managing files, and maintenance of each directory (in terms of files and other assignment-related content). A one-page report on your repository, demonstrating the contents and good practices, is due at the end of the term.

Homework Assignments

We will have five Homework assignments, and you will have one week to work on each. While the course policy is to provide extensions, please complete these assignments on time. These assignments, related to our topical schedule, are: Wardley Maps, Architecture, Scrum/Sprint, Process for no Good Reason, and Issue Boards.

Research Paper

The research paper will be a 20-page document covering a contemporary topic in project management. This will require doing original research: you may review an up-and-coming technique, discuss improvements to existing techniques, compare and contrast two rival techniques, or propose a new technique. I am particularly interested in unique perspectives that transcend information technology and conventional working styles.

Assignment	% of Grade	Due Dates, Deliverable
Weekly stand-up	28 (14x)	Weekly (see syllabus).
Repository creation	10	Due ASAP, evaluated at end of term.
Project Management research paper	25	Due at end of finals week (December 18).
Homework assignments	25 (5x)	See Canvas.
Repository maintenance	12	1-page report (due at end of term).

Course Policies

Academic Integrity

Please review and reflect on the academic integrity policy of the University of Illinois, http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/article1_part4_1-401.html to which we subscribe. By turning in materials for review, you certify that all work presented is your own and has been done by you independently, or as a member of a designated group for group assignments.

When describing assignments in the syllabus or in other documents that provide the detailed requirements for one of your assignments, I have tried to be quite specific about the degree to which collaboration is encouraged and the degree to which you are expected to submit an original work of which you are the author. If you have any questions regarding the policy regarding a particular assignment, please contact me directly for advice.

Please be aware that the consequences of academic dishonesty will be severe. Students who violate university standards of academic integrity are subject to disciplinary action, including a reduced grade, failure in the course, and suspension or dismissal from the University.

Statement of Inclusion

<http://www.inclusiveillinois.illinois.edu/mission.html> As the state's premier public

university, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's core mission is to serve the interests of the diverse people of the state of Illinois and beyond. The institution thus values inclusion and a pluralistic learning and research environment, one which we respect the varied perspectives and lived experiences of a diverse community and global workforce. We support diversity of worldviews, histories, and cultural knowledge across a range of social groups including race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, abilities, economic class, religion, and their intersections.

Accessibly Statement

To obtain accessibility-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603 (V/TTY), or e-mail a message to disability@uiuc.edu.