

Class 1 Introduction to Course and Marketing Process

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UCL School of Management

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Section 1

Module Overview

About Me

- Name: Wei MIAO
- Education: PhD in Quantitative Marketing (NUS, Singapore)
- Hobbies: musical instruments; foodie; video games; traveling

Research and Industrial Collaboration

My current research focuses on **digital marketing, sharing economy, platform economics**.

My industrial collaborations include:

- Sharing economy and ride-sharing (Uber, Shouqi, ComfortDelgro)
 - Demand forecasting (predictive analytics; Week 4)
 - [Evaluating the impact of COVID-19 on business activities](#) (instrumental variable, Week 8)
 - [Surge pricing design](#) (k-means clustering, Diff-in-Diff, causal forest; Weeks 3, 9, and 10)
- Platform businesses (Alibaba, Weibo, etc.)
 - Landing page design (A/B testing; Week 5)
 - Disintermediation and cold-start problems (field experiment; Week 5)

Weekly Arrangements

- Detailed weekly arrangements are in this [link](#)
 - You can add bookmark for easier reference; also under Moodle's "Module Overview" section.
- Each week, we have a 3-hour lecture on Thursday, usually divided into two sessions
 - A *methodology* session, in which we cover a new marketing analytics model/tool
 - A *case study* workshop session, to practice the tools learned in the previous week
- All classes will be recorded, which will be released next day.
 - The videos are at the end of the Moodle page under "LectureCast Recordings" section.

Textbook

- We will not rely on any specific textbook in this module.
 - “[Handbook of Marketing Analytics](#)”. This book is free for download at UCL’s E-library.
 - “[Introduction to Econometrics with R](#)”, which is a good textbook for learning econometrics with R.
- All classes will be based on the lecture notes and supplementary readings I have prepared for you.

Lecture Notes and How to Prepare




- I'm updating my Lecture notes every year to keep up with the latest development in marketing analytics. So lecture notes will be released each week before the Thursday lecture (I will aim for Tuesday).
 - PDF version includes the slides you see now; html version additionally includes the solution R codes for in-class questions.
- For each class, there may be **pre-class preparation** needed
 - If so, materials will be pre-posted under each week's Moodle section with instructions
 - These are **mandatory**, usually involves reading case studies necessary for class discussion
- There are also supplementary **after-class reading/exercise** to further enhance your understanding

Module Communications and Any Questions




- We will use **MS Teams** for communications of this module. Please use the code to join the MS Team now.
- Make sure you hit “Change Notifications => All Activities” for all channels, especially the **General** Channel where important module announcements will be made.
- For any questions you have, please post them in the corresponding Teams channel first, so that everyone can see the question.
 - We have separate channels for assignments, lectures, and R programming questions (and a chit chat channel).
- The teaching team will monitor the channel and answer them. I will discuss important common questions in the next class.

Still Have Questions? Use Office Hours

- Office hour sessions will be hosted on **MS Teams** each Friday 1 pm - 2:30 pm.
- The links to book office hours are below (also under Moodle's "Module Overview" Section for easier access)
 - For questions related to **lecture contents**, book with Wei [here](#)
 - For questions regarding **R programming** (such as R codes used in class, general R troubleshooting), book with our TAs [here](#)

  **Book Office Hours (Wei)**  Edit ▾

For questions regarding **lectures contents**, use this link to book office hours with Wei

  **Book Office Hours (TAs)**  Edit ▾

For questions regarding **R programming** (such as R codes used in class, general R troubleshooting), use this link to book office hours with our TAs

About R Programming

- **Please bring your laptops in all classes.** There will be R exercises in class every week.
- It's totally normal to feel overwhelmed in the first few weeks from learning R.
- If you run into any problems with R
 - “[Common R Programming Errors Faced by Beginners](#)”; I will constantly update this page based on your questions, so this should be the first place to look for an answer
 - Google is always your best place to seek answers for most debugging issues
 - Office hours with TAs

Classroom Etiquette

- **Class participation**

- Please remember to bring you name tags. Please let me know how to pronounce your name correctly.

- **Attendance**

- School will track your attendance per university policy
- Please email me if you couldn't attend a class

Assignments

- No exams; 3 **individual assignments**, which are similar to case studies, and you will need to use what you learned in class to solve real-life marketing analytics problems.
 - First assignment, 30% weight, 1500 words, due on Oct 29
 - Second assignment, 40% weight, 2000 words, due on Nov 26
 - Third assignment, 30% weight, 1500 words, due on Dec 17
- What to submit
 - PDF report rendered from R Quarto; **don't submit any other file format**.
 - The quarto-based answer sheets (qmd file) will be given to you
- **Word count** and **late submission** penalties will be applied by BA admin. For related queries and EC applications, please directly contact BA admin.
- Your marks will be released no later than 4 weeks after the submission date per school requirement.
- We have random second marking in place to mitigate marking errors. So **please refrain from emailing teaching assistants for any re-marking** as this is not allowed by school.

10-week Contract between Us

- **I promise**

- I will teach you the “science” part of marketing including the state-of-the-art marketing analytics tools
- You will be in a position to intelligently manage and benefit from marketing analytics people (without turning you into a statistician)
- Give you a way of thinking about how to use data analytics tools to solve business problems in the future, not just marketing, not just today
- Accessible when you need help

- **You promise**

- Duly prepared for each class
- Attend classes regularly

Section 2

Marketing Process

What is Marketing?

- Kotler (1991): “Marketing is a social and managerial process by which individuals and groups obtain what they **want and need** through **creating, offering** and **exchanging** products of value with others.”
- British Chartered Institute of Marketing (2000s): “Marketing is the management process responsible for identifying, anticipating and satisfying customers’ requirements **profitably**.”
- American Marketing Association (2017): “Marketing is the activity, set of institutions, and **processes** for creating, communicating, delivering, and **exchanging** offerings that have value for customers, clients, partners, and society at large.”

What is Marketing? A Word Cloud Approach



Marketing is a management **process** that **creates and exchanges value** for the company by selling the right product to the right **customer**. - Wei, 2022

Marketing Process



Figure 1: Marketing Process

- We will go through the above concepts quickly in the case of Uber. You'll later have a group discussion for Airbnb.

Situation Analysis: 5 C's

- Any marketing decision can benefit from a deep understanding of the players within the market ecosystem—your own company, current and potential customers, collaborators and competitors—and the context they interact within: the 5Cs for short.



Figure 2: 5Cs of Marketing

Situation Analysis: Competitors

- Managers tend to exhibit a supply-side bias, largely paying attention towards more salient direct (industry) competitors.
 - Indirect competitors are defined by who your customers consider to satisfy the same goals.
 - Potential competitors are those who might pose a competitive threat in the future; who possess equivalent resources that would allow them to enter the market

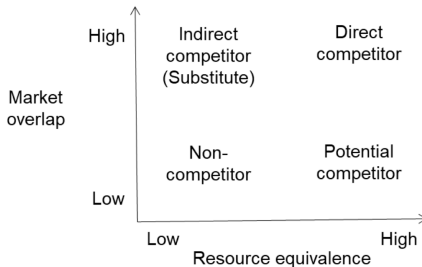


Figure 3: Siutation Analysis: Competitors

Situation Analysis: Context/Climate

- **Context/Climate analysis** is a strategic planning method used to assess major external factors that influence the market ecosystem, and is often referred to as **PESTLE analysis**.

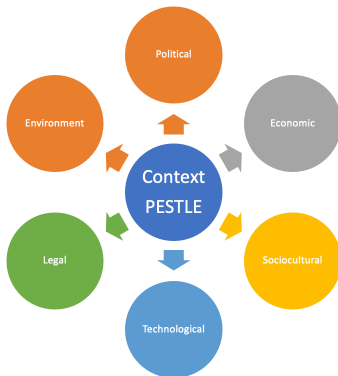


Figure 4: Situation Analysis: Context

Strategy: STP

- Situation analysis is a critical input into marketing strategy design, the sequential application of the processes of segmentation, targeting, and positioning. Marketing strategy is inherently related to the concepts of the business model and business strategy—who you are serving, with what value proposition, and how you do so.



Figure 5: Segmentation, Targeting, and Positioning

Tactics: 4P's

- The marketing mix provides an implementation of your positioning. Segmentation is here applied at the tactical level, to optimally design the marketing mix or 4Ps.



Figure 6: 4Ps of Marketing

Marketing Analytics

Big Data Era

With the advancement in information and communication technologies (ICTs), data scientists nowadays are equipped with data analytics tools powerful than ever!

Firms now have access to enormously rich information trail of customers

- Demographic profiles (DoB, gender, ethnicity, income)
- Purchase history (recency, frequency, monetary value, spending behavior)
- Online browsing and search history (browsing, click through, add to cart, purchase)
- GPS data from mobile phones for offline store visits
- Social media (location, consumer preference, social network)

What Data Scientists (Marketers) Can Do with Big Data? STP

Segmentation

Conventionally

- Customer value segmentation
- Psychographic segmentation
- Demographic segmentation
- Price sensitivity segmentation

Targeting

Conventionally

- Target specific markets
- Target specific segments

Analytics-empowered way

- Unsupervised-learning such as K-means clustering (week 3)

Analytics-empowered way

- Personalized targeting (week 4 and 10)

Challenges to Effectively Conduct Marketing Analytics

- It's often forgotten that we can consolidate databases from various sources
- People can easily get lost in the ocean of customer data if they do not know how to look for useful information and which analytics tool to use for specific business tasks
- Data analysts often rely too much on secondary data without data acquisition in mind (A-B testings)
- Acting intelligently on customer information requires a good grasping of modeling techniques; problem is: business people are (possibly) bad at statistics, while statisticians are (mostly) bad at business senses.

In this module, you will learn how to tackle these difficulties!

Unique Position of Marketing Analytics

