

Fall 2018 – ISEN 615 – Production and Inventory Control

Course Project Assignment

Due: December 3, 2018

Description:

The objective of the project is to provide you with some exposure on addressing real-world problems that go beyond textbook problems.

The project is based on practical problems encountered by the following two companies:

- Arconic Fastening Systems and Rings
- VTI of Texas

All teams are to address both problems. This is to ensure fairness and consistency among different groups.

Team Formation:

- The project will be done in teams of six students. Since course enrollment is not divisible by six, it is allowed to have up to four teams having seven students instead of six.
- By **Friday, October 10, 2018 at 11:59 PM**, one student from your team should send the TA (mmahmoudi@tamu.edu) and course grader (devarshjhaveri@tamu.edu) your team information, with the subject “**ISEN 615 Project Team**” and containing **only** the names of all the members of your team. No need to CC me. That person will serve as the sole point of contact for the group (that is, I will assume that any information I convey to that team member will be shared with the rest of the team right away).

Deliverables and Timeline:

All the deliverables are to be sent, on time, to the course TA and course grader.

- ***Project Plan: Due: Monday, October 22, 2018 at or before 11:59 PM.***
 - A simple 1 to 2 pages report summarizing your project management plans:
 - What do we want to achieve?
 - How do we envision achieving it?
 - When will we achieve it?
 - Who does what?
- ***Mid-Project Update – Due: Monday, November 5, 2018 at or before 11:59 PM.***
 - A PDF report, 2-5 pages. Number of pages will have no correlation with the grade, but rather the quality of the report.

- Report is to include:
 - What has been achieved?
 - Does it align with your initial project plan? It is ok if not, but how will you revise your plan accordingly?
 - What is yet to be achieved? What are the next steps?
- ***Final Project Report – Due: Monday, December 3, 2018 at or before 11:59 PM.***
 - A PDF report plus any other **concise** supplements you deem necessary to communicate what you have achieved (software demo, Excel tool, Powerpoint slides, etc. Feel free to be creative).
 - The first page of the report should be the title page, containing project title, team members (with UIN), and date.
 - Report must be professional, well organized, and coherent.
 - Maximum of 12 pages. You can include a report Appendix if you have many figures/exhibits that won't fit into the 12-page limit. Appendix can be as large as you want, but do not expect that the reviewer will be able to go through all of it.

Grading:

The two project cases for each team will receive a grade out of 100. The overall project grade will be a weighted average of the two cases (Arconic and VTI) with weights 75% and 25%, respectively.

All project members will assumed to have contributed equally to the project (i.e. will receive the same grade). If you (or your team) have reason to believe that the grade should not be uniform across project team members, talk to the instructor, present professional and reasonable reasons, and he will resolve the situation and ensure 100% fairness among team members.

All three project deliverables will be considered towards the overall grade. There is no specific weight for each deliverable. Treat them equally.

Course grade will be based upon the following criteria:

- Editorial quality of the reports (is it formatted properly and professionally? Is it coherent? Is it concise?) – **30%**
- Technical content (e.g. analysis, data cleaning if needed, assumptions, creativity) – **50%**
- Value your team provides to the company. To be clear, provide what your team sees will provide value to the company, whether this is through solid managerial insights, good recommendations based on your analysis, software tool, demo, etc. These are only examples. Do not feel obliged to stick to a specific item. Simply use your best judgement and convince the reviewer that you have provided value to the company in any way your team decides. I expect to get the companies' feedback on this criterion if they have time – **20%**

Additional Notes:

Project teams are large enough, with 6-7 members per team. This provides for more than sufficient diversity of opinions and skill sets. Hence, there is no need to seek other teams' help. Discussions are welcome. However, grades will be strictly based on the intellectual contribution of YOUR team. Duplicate results, analysis, or thought processes will be spotted by the reviewer and are certain to negatively impact your grade.

You are not allowed to seek external help outside of the course. All violators (regardless of their role) will get an F* grade in this course and their case will be filed with the University's honor council.