



**Alberta School of Business
Department of Accounting and Business Analytics**

**Operations Management 468/686
Quantitative Management Consulting**

Winter Term 2021

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Meetings: Thursdays, 18:30-21:30, online via Zoom link provided in eClass.

There will be no class on Thursday, February 18th - Reading Week.

Course Description: This is a project course intended to provide students with hands-on experience with management consulting. It is open to students who have taken at least two OM electives or equivalent quantitative courses. The goal of the course is to simulate a management consulting experience as closely as possible. To this end, students will:

- Be assigned to groups
- Listen to clients discussing problems
- Prepare bids for the project(s) of their choice (including fees, milestones, and deliverables)
- Present bids to the clients and compete for projects
- Sign a contract with a client
- Work with the client on the problem all semester
- Present a progress report to the class and the client (not necessarily at the same time)
- Present a final report (written and oral) to the class and the client (not necessarily at the same time)

The instructor will recruit projects from local companies and organizations. Please see the Projects page on eClass for this year's confirmed projects.

Evaluation: There is no homework, quizzes, or exams. Student performance will be measured mostly on the contents and the presentation of the project. Dates are tentative and subject to change.

- Bid presentations (January 28): 10%
- Progress report presentation (March 11): 10%
- Final presentation (April 15) : 15%
- Written final report (April 23): 20%
- Client evaluation: 30%
- An additional 15% will be allocated for class participation. If necessary, marks will be adjusted through peer evaluation.

Additional Course Expectations: The instructor will act as a resource person and supervisor, but not as a project manager. It is the students' responsibility to arrange meetings with the instructor whenever they feel the need. It is highly recommended that groups meet at least twice with the professor during the term.

The load for each student will depend on several factors: the student's background, group characteristics, and the depth and breadth of the project. Depending on these factors, a student should expect to spend anywhere from 75 hours to 150 hours on this course. Careful planning in the first two weeks is crucial for success.

Students should check eClass regularly for announcements regarding class meetings and guest speakers.

All groups must present at the Annual Student Conference on Operations (SCOPE), normally held in early April. This will count toward your final presentation. In the event this conference is cancelled, this requirement will be waived or transferred to an alternative presentation.

All groups must enter a suitable student paper prize competition such as the Canadian Operational Research Society (CORS) student paper prize competition (deadline end of March). This will count toward your written final report.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course, you will have developed the following course-specific skills or knowledge: teamwork, written and oral communication, critical thinking and problem solving, quantitative analysis, and ethical awareness.