

Gonzaga MBA Course Descriptions

Current Issues Trailers - Fall 2015



Advising Note

You may register for multiple 699 courses; however, you will receive an error on Zagweb. Email your advisor with the information below to complete registration.

1. Your name
2. Student ID
3. CRN of the course or courses you would like to add
4. Course number AND section (e.g. MBUS 699 701)

Current Issues in Operations: Forecasting

Mondays - Dr. Beqiri (CRN 12369)

Understanding how to use and present data effectively is an important tool for managers. This course focuses primarily on using data currently available to forecast future trends such as forecasting demand, sales, employment trends, and economic indicators. Forecasting primarily involves the technique of multiple regressions analysis. Students will learn how to build regression models to analyze data and how to interpret the results. Case problems and data will provide practical experience.

Current Issues in Mgmt. Information Systems: Business Intelligence

Mondays - Dr. Chen (CRN 11623)

Business Intelligence (BI) has become an important agenda for many top executive because they have become extremely aware of its value in providing a competitive differentiator at all levels of the organizations. The course introduces students the concepts, models, architectures, and business applications of BI. Topics include data warehousing, business analytics, business performance management, data, text and web mining. Both cases and technology may be used for class projects.

Current Issues in Managerial Accounting: Personal Financial Planning

Mondays - Dr. Birrer (CRN 11961)

Case study of personal financial planning topics, including time value of money applications, home mortgages and refinancing, 401(k) plans and IRAs, asset allocation and investment alternatives, retirement accumulations and distributions, 529 education plans, social security options, and an introduction to Federal income tax.

Current Issues in Ethics: Ethics and the Structure of Work

Tuesdays - Dr. Steverson (CRN 11561)

Though employees have made great strides over the years in gaining some control over the conditions under which they work, it remains the case that employers retain most of the power and control in setting the formal and informal conditions of work which employees must accept (e.g. policies that base continued employment on meeting certain health requirements, defining workloads and job duties ex ante, requirements for ongoing drug-testing, the creation of expectations that unpaid overtime is required, etc.) In this course, we will examine some ethical perspectives that are instructive in evaluating the acceptability of such practices, with somewhat of an emphasis on the social contract approach, and discuss how those perspectives can inform how work is structured by employers. Specific topics may include the provision of meaningful work, the management of emotional labor, and employee privacy. The course material involves a number of case studies.

Current Issues in Marketing: Intuition and Whole-Brained Decision Making

Tuesdays - Dr. Helgeson (CRN 11644)

This course will examine the intuitive aspects of decision-making. Topics will include: (1) the general decision process, (2) whole-brain decision-making, (3) the use of intuition and affect in decision-making, and (4) the "rightness" of decisions.

Current Issues in Management: Performance Appraisal

Wednesdays - Dr. Bull Schaefer (CRN 11846)

This current issues course focuses on performance appraisals. Students will critically review approaches, formats, and issues likely to influence the effectiveness of an organization's performance management system. Discussions will focus on the application of research suggestions within previous or current employment.

Current Issues in Entrepreneurship: Small Business Servant Leadership

Wednesdays - Kevin Parker (CRN 11962)

Leadership doesn't just take place in big organizations. In small firms, leadership challenges are magnified by limited resources, fewer levels of managerial support, and less-defined roles and responsibilities. This course will examine the challenges of leading a small business and provide a servant leader approach to getting the best out of organizations and teams of any size.

Current Issues in Economics: Energy Economics for Managers

Thursdays - John Lyons (CRN 11975)

This course provides students with an overview of the economics of electric service for their firm. Topics covered include the fundamentals of the electric industry, regulated and deregulated markets, rate structures, voluntary tariffs (green, interruptible and demand response programs), distributed generation, net metering and energy efficiency programs.

Current Issues in Finance: Business Modeling with Spreadsheets

Thursdays - Dr. Morscheck (CRN 12370)

This course is designed to develop skills in translating business decision problems into mathematical models and selecting appropriate mathematical techniques to solve them. Students will learn to formulate, solve, and interpret practical decision-making and planning models using spreadsheets.

Current Issues in Finance II: Valuation

Wednesdays - Dr. Hickman (CRN 12371)

This is a one credit course covering three basic approaches to business valuation including dividend discount models, free cash flow and comparable firm techniques.

Current International Issues: Ethics and the Economics of Happiness

Thursdays - Adriane Leithauser (CRN 12372)

Over the past two decades there has been increasing attention paid in philosophy and psychology to happiness that has found its way into economics, as well. Several countries have moved away from GDP and use wellbeing, or happiness, to measure social and economic progress.

We will study the impact of using happiness metrics to measure prosperity and explore what this means for business ethics. Specifically, if wellbeing is the proper measure of social progress, how should work be structured to enhance happiness, and what does this mean for multi-national companies managing employees from diverse cultures for whom different factors maintain, diminish, and produce happiness?