

**Syllabus SYST 699/OR 680
Masters Program Final Project Course
Fall 2014**

Instructor: Dr. Karla Hoffman

Class Location: Nguyen Engineering Building Room 2608

Class Time: Thursdays, 4:30-7:10pm

Office Location: Nguyen Engineering Bldg. Room 2007

Phone: (703) 993-1679;
If I do not answer, please send email and I will get back to you!

e-mail: khoffman@gmu.edu

Office Hours: After class, or by appointment

Text: *None*

Course Objectives: This course serves as the synthesis activity for students completing a masters' degree in Operations Research (OR 699) or Systems Engineering (SYST 699). Students will complete a major applied and realistic project in their field. Work will be done in small groups. Depending on the nature of the problem, the groups will be comprised of a combination of operations researchers and systems engineers in the proportions appropriate to the problem at hand. The students will prepare a comprehensive final report to the study sponsor, as well as a briefing to the sponsor and the entire SEOR department faculty. Students will prepare a website that describes the problem, the solution approach, the results and serves as a repository for all written submissions. Regular in-progress review sessions in which students will report their progress will be held. In addition, there will be team meetings with Dr. Hoffman.

Below is a tentative schedule that is likely to change based on the progress of the projects and the resulting reports.

NOTE: The schedule below is likely to change as we learn more about the problems and the issues. I want to use class time productively so we will have brainstorming sessions, as needed. It is the student's responsibility to know the changed schedule!

Date	Topic	Assignment
8/28	Project Descriptions	Team organization
9/4	Presentations on Problem Definition Should include discussion of meeting with the client.	Problem Definition Prepare Presentation

9/11	Working Session	Class meets – short discussion of challenges and then work in individual teams
9/18	Working Session – Work privately on data collection, project approach and get ready for next presentation Send Presentations to Dr. Hoffman by Sat. 9/22/2014	Class does not meet
9/24	Team Presentation – (Progress report to class – Discussion of challenges)	
10/2	Working Session	Teams meet privately with Dr. Hoffman
10/9	Working Session 1 page status report	Class does not meet
10/16	In Progress Review Presentation	Team Presentation (approx 20 mins)
10/23	In Progress Review Presentation	Team Presentation (approx 20 mins)
10/30	Individual Team Meeting w/ instructor	Status and draft of final presentation
11/6	Individual Team Meeting w/ instructor	Status and draft of final presentation
11/13	Working Session	Class does not meet – Professor is traveling this week for INFORMS meeting
11/21	Dry run of final presentation	Final report due
11/28	Thanksgiving break	
12/5	Last minute tweaks to final presentation	Feedback from Professor on Final reports.
12/12	FINAL PRESENTATION TO THE FACULTY – NOTE: This is Friday afternoon so please make preparations now to attend this session. We want all students present for this presentation, including the distance-learning students. Please let me know if this is not possible!	

Grading:	Proposal	10%
	Interim presentations	20%
	Website	10%
	Final Report	30%
	Final Presentation	<u>30%</u>
		100%

University Policies

Honor Code:

GMU is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

Disability Accommodations:

If you have a learning or physical difference that may affect your academic work, you will need to furnish appropriate documentation to the Office of Disability Services. If you qualify for accommodation, the ODS staff will give you a form detailing appropriate accommodations for your instructor. In addition to providing your professors with the appropriate form, please take the initiative to discuss accommodation with them at the beginning of the semester and as needed during the term. Because of the range of learning differences, faculty members need to learn from you the most effective ways to assist you. If you have contacted the Office of Disability Services and are waiting to hear from a counselor, please tell me.

Email:

Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information. You will need an email account to get all notices that are posted on mymason.gmu.edu (Blackboard).