

December 2008
DRAFT

**Fisher College of Business
The Ohio State University**

MHR 894.63

**Project Experience
In
Design & Development of Sustainable Business Practices**

Spring Quarter 2009

SYLLABUS

Class Schedule:
6 – 10 PM Monday
Room: TBD

Instructor: Adjunct Professor Neil L. Drobny, Ph.D.
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Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with hands-on experience in the design and development of sustainable business practices to fill a need articulated by an operating public or private organization.

Students will work in teams of 4-6 people on a project chosen from a list of options developed by the instructor in conjunction with executives in Central Ohio organizations that have expressed a critical need for assistance in advancing sustainability progress in their organizations. It is anticipated that each team will work on a separate project.

It is anticipated that students will work closely with executives from the organizations that “sponsor” their project. Students may expect to spend considerable time at the locations of the project sponsor to collect information, to vet and refine ideas, and to test conclusions and recommendations.

Required class meeting will not be held every week. The following required class meetings are anticipated:

- Week 1 – Course kickoff, formation of project teams, and preliminary selection of project topics.
- Week 2 – Team presentations of project plans – scope, objectives, preliminary approach.
- Week 5- Team presentations – progress reports
- Week 10 – Team presentations – final reports

During intervening weeks the instructor will be available at class meeting time and at other times scheduled in advance to answer questions, provide guidance or otherwise assist the project teams to overcome obstacles to progress.

Deliverables:

The following deliverables will be due from each project team:

- PowerPoint presentation on Project Plan – 2nd class meeting.
- PowerPoint Presentation Progress Report – 5th class meeting
- Power Point Presentation and Written Final Report – 10th class meeting.

The written final report shall be approximately 25 pages, double spaced, in MS Word format. Additional information may be included as appendix material.

Course Grade

Overall course grades will be determined on the basis of the following components:

1. Initial project plan, including the presentation – 10%
2. Progress report, including the presentation – 15%
3. Effectiveness in overcoming barriers encountered – 10%
4. Final Solution: presentation & report – 65%

Project sponsors will be asked for their input in determining grades for all 4 of the above four components.

Additionally, team members will be asked to complete a peer evaluation of other team members which will be taken into account in assigning individual grades.

Pre-requisite

This course is open to first and second year MBA students

The pre-requisite for the course is prior satisfactory completion of MHR 841 or concurrent enrollment in MHR 841*.

The instructor may waive the pre-requisite requirement for students who can demonstrate that by virtue of prior study or employment that they have knowledge of sustainable business practices comparable to that presented in MHR 841.

Multiple Enrollment Option

Because the project choices will change from quarter to quarter, students may enroll for credit in the course multiple times, typically in the Spring quarters of their first and second year.

*MHR 841 is an MBA elective open to first and second year MBA students. The title of the course is *Business & the Environment – Strategies for Sustainability*.