

**COURSE GOALS**

This course is designed to be a culminating experience for students in the MBA program. One of the primary objectives of this course is to help you bring together the different concepts and skills you have acquired throughout the program. Soon you will graduate and head for new careers and management challenges that require integrated approaches to handle them well.

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**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

After completing the MBA Capstone, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of concepts that are fundamental to a wide range of managerial situations
  - Select and apply appropriate processes and tools for dealing with a broad range of complex management problems
  - Demonstrate core management skills, particularly in areas of decision making and teamwork
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**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

<i>Participation in Case Discussion</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Participation in Business Plan Competition and Experiential Learning</i>	<i>80%</i>

Grading is on a Pass/Fail basis

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**PROGRAM GOALS** *(Check those that apply)*

<b>MBA</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Critical & Analytical Thinking
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ethics & Social Responsibility

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Division:** NA

**Term/period:** Fall.

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

**Instructors:**

*Steve Alisharan,*

*Murali Chandrashekeran,*

*Darren Dahl*

*Daniel Skarlicki*

*Mahesh Nagarajan*

**Administrators:** *Alexander Lin,*

*Kelsey Pease*

**Classroom location:** TBD

**Pre-requisites:** Successful completion of all other modules in the MBA program

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## **BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to be a culminating experience for students in the MBA program. The major theme of this module is Managing Ambiguity. Capstone has many of the same integration objectives as the Integrated Foundations completed at the start of the program. At this stage of your MBA journey, however, you will have a broader and more in-depth understanding of various business disciplines, which will enable you to discuss integrated solutions to complex business issues more thoroughly as well as dealing with ambiguity and uncertainty. One of the primary objectives of this course is to help you bring together the different concepts and skills you have acquired throughout the program. Soon you will graduate and head for new careers and management challenges that require integrated approaches to handle them well.

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## **TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

There will be 3 major components of the course:

- 1) **An Integrated Case Study:** In-class discussion of an integrated case. The case will be provided to you on the morning of the second day and you will be given some time to read the case before the in-class discussion.
- 2) **Business Plan Competition:** Several CEOs from various business organizations will give teams of students a business issue to solve. Teams of four or five graduating students will be allocated to each company on the afternoon of December 9<sup>th</sup>. Teams will present to faculty on the morning of December 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 10:30am. Faculty will provide feedback which the teams will modify their presentations. On the afternoon of December 10<sup>th</sup> teams will present to their respective CEO. After the presentations are done, each CEO

- will select one team that they feel best solved the business problem that was given to them.
- 3) **Experiential Learning:** Information on this will be provided on the morning of the second day.

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### COURSE MATERIALS & REQUIREMENTS

*At a later date students will be asked to prepare questions to ask the CEO Panel on the afternoon of December 8<sup>th</sup>. These questions will first be submitted to the faculty before December 8<sup>th</sup>. Details of this will be sent to you by November 24<sup>th</sup>.*

**Reading Materials:** *a case study will be provided on December 5<sup>th</sup>. All other materials will be distributed in class.*

**Technology Requirements:** *Laptop*

**Activity Fees:** *None*

### ASSESSMENT

*Grading will be on a Pass/Fail basis. There will be no exams in the course. You will be evaluated on your individual case memos, participation in the case sessions and your solution and presentation on the business issue provided to you by the panel. More specifically, the faculty and panel will be looking at two areas:*

- 1) Knowledge. Demonstration of your ability to understand the many contradictory schools of thought you have been exposed to and how you can use these to gain insight into assumptions you make.*
- 2) Skills. Your ability to define business issues, to critically reflect on concepts, to combine them creatively and to how clearly you articulate your analysis and its implications.*

*Attendance is mandatory at all parts of the course. Absence or significant late arrival, or evidence of lack of preparation or contribution will all be considered as valid reasons for a student being given a failing grade. With a professional attitude, and realistic commitment of time and energy, it is possible for all students to pass, enhance their learning and have some fun.*

### Assessment activities

<i>Participation in Case Discussion</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Participation in Experiential Learning and Business Plan Competition</i>	<i>80%</i>

*All assessment activities will evaluate all of the learning objectives.*

**SCHEDULE**

Days	Duration	TOPICS	Lead/Speaker	ACTIVITIES / READINGS
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am to 12:00pm HA 098	Integrated Case	Daren Dahl Mahesh Nagarajan Daniel Skarlicki Steve Alisharan	Case provided on December 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
	12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch		Lunch provided by the Graduate Programs Office
	1:00pm to 3:00pm HA 098	CEO Panel	Consisting of four prominent CEOs of successful corporations	Introduction by Steve Alisharan Discussion Moderator: Murali Chandrashekar
	3:00pm to 4:30pm Henry Angus – 9 <sup>th</sup> Floor ( Big 4 Penthouse)	Reception		
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am-12:00pm HA 098	Morning Session	Darren Dahl	
	12:00pm to 1:00pm	Lunch break		No lunch provided.
	1:00pm to 1:30pm HA 098	Morning Session Debrief	Darren Dahl	
	1:30pm to 2:30pm HA 098	Capstone Business Challenge	Steve Alisharan	
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am-10:30am <i>See Presentation Schedule</i>	Preliminary Rounds	Faculty TBD	
	10:30am to 1:00pm	Group Work Time/Lunch		No Lunch provided
	1:00pm to 2:30pm <i>See Presentation Schedule</i>	Final Presentations		Teams present to assigned CEO.
	2:30pm – 3:00pm HA 098	Deliberation and Survey		Student Experience Survey and Judges Deliberate.
	3:00pm to 4:00pm HA 098	Debrief and Closing words	Steve Alisharan, Company Executives, Murali	Winners announced by CEOs.

			Chandrashekar and Class President	
	4:00pm-6:00pm CPA Hall	Reception		

**\*Please note that the times mentioned above are approximations and are subject to change slightly.**

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**OTHER INFORMATION**

**Team Formation:**

For the MBA Capstone, you will be assigned teams of 4 or 5 students per team for the activities on December 8<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>rd</sup>. and 10<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, please contact the administrators, Alexander Lin or Kelsey Pease.