

**MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS:
ORGANIZATIONS, MARKETS AND MANAGEMENT
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Masters of Business Administration Program
Max M. Fisher College of Business
The Ohio State University**

Professor Karen H. Wruck

Autumn 2025, Updated 8/5/25 subject to further revision

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To develop an economics-oriented framework that facilitates the identification and analysis of business problems, and the development and implementation of solutions to those problems. The tools of the course apply to economy-wide problems, industry-wide problems, firm and organization specific problems and individual decision-making. You should expect to leave the course, not with a set of "cookbook" solutions to problems, but with a set of new, powerful ways of thinking about business problems and their solutions.

APPROACH TO PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

The course material stresses the importance of theory in solving problems and combines theory development with both examples and case analyses that illuminate and challenge the theory. While the material is theoretical and analytical, it is not mathematically technical. At times the material may be extraordinarily frustrating, at others deceptively easy. As is so often the case in business, what appears obvious and simple is often, in fact, subtle and complex. Frustration often results from material that adopts a position radically different from students' current views. At such times the material can seem one-sided, and this is exacerbated by the fact that the analysis can lead to an unambiguous point-of-view that is controversial.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

With the objective of establishing as dynamic and effective a learning environment as possible, the course requires a commitment on your part not only to attend all classes, but to prepare fully and to participate. We will work together to create an environment in which open, rigorous discourse is the standard. Thus, each of you must be willing not only to share your ideas and analysis with your colleagues but be open to well-intentioned challenges of those ideas.

COURSE MATERIALS

The course material is cumulative, making it important to keep up with the readings, to pay close attention to class discussions, and to keep good notes. Failure to do so can leave students lost and confused when it comes time to apply the material. I recommend that you review the course materials and your course notes regularly.

Readings, cases, journal articles, discussion questions and study questions will form the basis of class discussions. Chapters from the textbook *Managerial Economics and Organizational Architecture* by James A. Brickley, Clifford W. Smith, Jr. and Jerold L. Zimmerman serve as foundational readings. Typically, students comprehend much of the textbook material without substantial lecturing by the instructor. Thus, while there will be some lectures on the more important and/or difficult material, most of our class time will be spent applying the theory and concepts to problems through open, interactive classroom discussion of cases and applied discussion problems.

Each session's assignment contains a set of questions. You might find it helpful to read the discussion questions both before and after reading the assigned materials. Past students have found this to be a useful way to focus their reading efforts and prepare for class discussions.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

I would like to request that you sit in the same seat each day. This helps me keep track of class participation and makes it easier for you to interact with each other during class discussions. Please select your preferred seat at the beginning of our second session and try to sit in this seat in each session during the remainder of the quarter.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The following are the general principles of grading in this course:

- The requirements of the course are identical for everyone. This means it is not possible to make up for poor performance through extra credit work.
- No late assignments will be accepted for any reason.
- Exams cannot be retaken or taken at other than the scheduled time except under extreme circumstances.

Assignments are allocated points as follows:

- *Individual Assignments: approximately 25 points per assignment*
- *Team Assignments: approximately 25 points per assignment*
- *Take Home Final: approximately 75 points*
- *Attendance and Class Participation: strong performance boosts marginal grades. While no explicit points have been assigned to class participation, participation will be an important factor in determining the final grade for students that are on the margin between two grades.*

Grades will be assigned on a curve determined at the end of the semester that is appropriate for graduate level course work. A dramatic improvement in performance as the course progresses may also lead to a better grade than that suggested purely by the total points scored in the course.

Grade Appeal Policy: Grades on exams and assignments are intended to reflect the overall quality of performance of the student(s). If you think your grade on an exam or assignment does not reflect the quality of your performance, submit a clear written explanation of your reasoning within one week after the return of your assignment or exam. The written document need not be long but must clearly identify the problem or issue of concern. I will carefully consider all such appeals. There will be no grading appeals after the one-week deadline has passed.

OFFICE APPOINTMENTS (virtual and otherwise)

I am happy to discuss any issues of concern to you on an individual basis. The best way to reach me is by email at wruck.1@osu.edu to set up a call or zoom appointment.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES

All of the relevant University and College Academic Policies apply to this class. Of particular note are the policies articulated below.

- A. Academic Misconduct (from <https://oaa.osu.edu/academic-integrity-and-misconduct/student-misconduct>)

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. In the [Code of Student Conduct](#), Ohio State defines “academic misconduct” as “any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university or subvert the educational process.” Cases of misconduct range from deliberate acts of cheating to unintended missteps, in which students fail to distinguish their work from someone else’s. Thus, students

are expected to complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty.

By university rule, a professor must report any suspected instance of academic misconduct to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). A review panel of the committee will investigate the charges; decide whether or not a violation has occurred; and, if the panel finds there has been an offense, determine an appropriate penalty.

Moreover, The Fisher College of Business has adopted an Honor Code which applies to all students pursuing Fisher degrees:

As a member of the Fisher College of Business Community, I am personally committed to the highest standards of behavior. Honesty and integrity are the foundations from which I will measure my actions. I will hold myself accountable to adhere to those standards. As a future leader in the community and business environment, I pledge to live by these principles and celebrate those who share these ideals.

B. Disability Accommodation (from <https://slds.osu.edu/faculty-staff/syllabus-statement/>)

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let the professor know immediately so that options can be privately discussed between you and the professor. To establish reasonable accommodations, you may be requested to register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, meet with the professor to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

C. Use of AI

There has been a significant increase in the popularity and availability of a variety of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, Sudowrite and others. These tools will help shape the future of work, research and technology but when used in the wrong way, they can stand in conflict with academic integrity at Ohio State.

All students have important obligations under the [Code of Student Conduct](#) to complete all academic and scholarly activities with fairness and honesty. Specifically, students are not to use unauthorized assistance in the laboratory, on field work, in scholarship or on a course assignment unless such assistance has been authorized specifically by the course instructor. In addition, students are not to submit their work without acknowledging any word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of writing, ideas or other work that is not your own. These requirements apply to all students undergraduate, graduate, and professional.

To maintain a culture of integrity and respect, these generative AI tools should not be used in the completion of course assignments unless an instructor for a given course specifically authorizes their use. Some instructors may approve of using generative AI tools in the academic setting for specific goals. However, these tools should be used only with the explicit and clear permission of each individual instructor, and then only in the ways allowed by the instructor.