CLASS INFORMATION

Benedictine University

MBA 541A – Analytical Tools for Management Decisions

Spring 2016
March 28th – May 23rd
Mondays, 6:30 – 9:30 PM
Classroom location: Refer to MyBenU

COURSE PREREQUISITES
None

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Balajirao Ryali, Lecturer
Phone: 224-595-3676
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GBA Office Phone: 630-829-6210

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The main objective for this course is to provide students with analytical tools to make informed management decisions and in the process become effective users of quantitative information. The emphasis is on understanding what a previously obtained data set implies and, if appropriate, to develop meaningful forecasts with a reasonable sense of confidence. The frame of reference for learning analytical tools is the various business functions – economics, finance, marketing, etc. Specific topics include measures of location and variability, probability and probability distributions, sampling and statistical inference, regression analysis and forecasting. Microsoft Excel will be used as a software package and will be integrated into class room lectures.

As a result of this course, students will be able to:
• Identify and define key statistical terminology and concepts.
• Compute basic descriptive statistics.
• Describe a normal distribution and apply the concepts of the normal distribution to that of sampling distributions.
• Apply probability theory and inferential statistics to make business decisions.
• Perform regression analysis.
• Analyze real-world data using various statistical techniques.

CLASS OVERVIEW & GRADING
Two Case Studies 30%
Quizzes and Exams 60%
Class Participation 10%

Quizzes and Exams. See the schedule in the syllabus for dates and logistics.
Class Participation. Students are expected to attend and actively participate in each week’s discussion as well as any D2L discussions in a professional manner. Students must complete the required research and be prepared to discuss the reading(s) during class.

REQUIRED TEXT

IMPORTANT REMINDERS
Students are expected to check the class Desire2Learn (D2L) site prior to the first night of class and on an on-going basis.

PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENT
Prior to the first class, please download the syllabus which should help you to understand the structure of this class. Also, buy the text book. Please prepare a statement for me of what your expectations (objectives) are in taking this class in a few sentences. These expectations could include what you hope to learn, accomplish and achieve by the end of this term and how they are related to your professional goals. These objectives will be turned into me during our first class.

Brief Notes from the Instructor
On a professional basis, I have overall 27 years of experience with 20 years of professional experience in the Software, Telecom, Energy, and Manufacturing industries and 7 years of teaching and research experience at the University level. I am currently working as Director of Strategic Program and Project Management Office at a major manufacturing company in the Chicagoland area. I am a certified project and program management professional and also a certified six sigma black belt and Manager of Quality/Organizational Excellence. I hold a Master of Engineering Management degree from Northwestern University, Master of Business Administration degree from DePaul University, Master of Technology degree from University of Mysore, and Bachelor of Engineering degree from Osmania University.