Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
College of Business  

Syllabus for MGMT 4340, Critical Thinking and Decision Making  

Course number: MGMT 4340  
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Semester: Fall 2020  
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Course Description:  

This course integrates theory and practice in order to develop and accumulate problem-solving skills – the ability to analyze, think, perform, evaluate, and adapt to the changing needs of organizations. Focuses on complex decision-making processes, critical thinking skills and creative problem-solving techniques for the learning organization, motivation and coaching of others, development of conflict resolutions skills, and the management of stress and well-being.

Course Prerequisites:  

MGMT3312, MGMT3320, or permission of the instructor if taken as an elective, and Junior standing or above.

Learning Objectives:  

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand and apply various decision-making approaches and models to cases and examples.
- Apply various creativity approaches to expand options, increase organizational innovation, and enhance problem solving.
- Diagnose the sources of poor performance and where appropriate apply motivation theories to recommend solutions.
- Identify the antecedents of conflict and apply conflict management and negotiation techniques to manage group conflict situations.
- Diagnose communication problems and recommend methods to improve communications.

Major Field Test (MFT)  

The MFT is required for all students pursuing the Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Students register for the MFT in BUSI0088, Major Field Test in Business. To prepare for this test, business majors are advised to retain their class notes, textbooks, and other relevant materials from their business core courses in the areas referenced below. Completion of all College of Business core courses except MGMT 4388 is required. BUSI 0088 is CR/NC.
As an integral part of the College of Business’ Assurance of Learning program, the Major Field Test (MFT) is a nationally-normed, standardized multiple-choice test developed by the Educational Testing Service and administered to senior-level business students at many AACSB International accredited institutions in the United States. It is designed to measure students’ academic achievement through demonstration of their basic knowledge and understanding of key concepts, theories, and analytical methods in the functional areas of business. This test covers the areas of accounting, economics, finance, international issues, legal and social environment of business, management, marketing, quantitative business analysis, and information systems.

Course Requirements: (May differ by section)

- Weekly Exams 70%
- LearnSmart Assessment 2.5%
- Discussion Board Posts 2.5%
- Final Exam 25%
- Total 100%

Required Materials:

  - Here is the registration link for this course’s Connect site
    https://connect.mheducation.com/class/jclampit-12464


Websites Used: Blackboard, McGraw-Hill Connect

Course Policies:

**Exams** – The material is broken into segments followed by an exam. Each exam will be offered according to the posted schedule. Students that are late to class will generally not be provided extra time to complete the exam. Make-ups for missed exams are only offered under very limited circumstances (for example university sponsored events and doctor required bed rest) but generally do not include minor illnesses. Permission before the scheduled class is required to qualify for a make-up exam. If permission for a make-up has been given, an alternative form of the exam might be substituted at the instructor’s discretion. The final exam is comprehensive.

**Extra credit (if any)** – Extra credit is available only at the discretion of the instructor.

**Electronic Device Usage** – Computers or tablets are required to complete the course.
*McGraw-Hill Connect* – Connect is a web-based assignment and assessment solution required for this course. Connect is designed to assist you with your coursework based on your needs. As outlined in this syllabus, assignments will make up a portion of your overall course grade.

- **ACCESS/REGISTRATION:** Connect access codes may be packaged with a new textbook in the bookstore. Connect can also be purchased online. The simplest and most effective way is to click on your first assignment and then follow the “Sign Up” instructions that McGraw Hill provides for this specific course section.

- If you purchase Connect online, you will have the option of purchasing Connect (without the eBook) or Connect with an interactive eBook version of the required textbook for this course.

- **NOTE:** You can register in Connect and have free trial access, without a code, for a limited time (typically two weeks). While I do not recommend it, a few students have successfully completed the entire semester’s worth of Connect quizzes and assignments during this trial period. Please note that if you do choose this option, you will not have access to Connect material for this course after your trial period (e.g., when presumably studying for your final exam).

- **SUPPORT & TIPS:** If you have issues registering or using Connect, contact McGraw-Hill’s Customer team through http://www.mhhe.com/support or at 800-331-5094. To avoid problems related to unexpected technical issues, you are advised not to wait until the last moment to complete assignments.

**Grading Scale**

- A 90% – 100%
- B 80% – 89.9%
- C 70% – 79.9%
- D 60% – 69.9%
- F below 60%

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero the first time and failing the course for any additional offence.
Dropping a Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. (The 8th of November) is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Preferred methods of scholarly citations

APA style is the only accepted method used for citations and referencing during this class. All work should be paraphrased rather than copied directly. Material used from sources other than the text should use APA style citations and references.

Classroom/professional behavior

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom.

This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Grade Appeals

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures.

These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.
Disabilities Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event (such as a major hurricane) that means classes cannot be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
**Schedule: A + B + C** (any changes will be announced in Blackboard)

(A) **Learning Module 1.** Laying the Foundation, i.e., General Topics (From THINK)

Each week you will read one chapter, via Connect. Your performance will be evaluated via:

1. LearnSmart reading comprehension scores (5% of your course grade) and
2. Weekly Quizzes (35% of your course grade)

Week 1 – Ch 1 Critical Thinking: Why It’s Important (ends Sept 1)
Week 2 – Ch 2 Reason and Emotion (ends Sept 8)
Week 3 – Ch 3 Language and Communication (ends Sept 15)
Week 4 – Ch 4 Knowledge, Evidence, and Errors in Thinking (ends Sept 22)
Week 5 – Ch 5 Informal Fallacies (ends Sept 29)
Week 6 – Ch 6 Recognizing, Analyzing, and Constructing Arguments (ends Oct 6)
Week 7 – Ch 9 Ethics and Moral Decision Making (ends Oct 13)

(B) **Learning Module 2.** Business World Topics (From TIPS)

Each week you will read one chapter. Your performance will be evaluated via:

1. Discussion Board Posts (5% of your course grade) and
2. Weekly Quizzes (another 35% of your course grade)

Week 8 – Ch 5 Sending Interpersonal Messages
Week 9 – Ch 7 Providing Feedback
Week 10 – Ch 9 Goal Setting
Week 11 – Ch 10 Coaching, Counseling, and Mentoring
Week 12 – Ch 19 Creative Problem Solving
Week 13 – Ch 20 Resolving Conflicts
Week 14/15 – Ch 21 Negotiating (The extra week here allows you to take Thanksgiving and the following Friday off…no negotiating necessary!)

(C) **Closing the Loop.** A comprehensive final exam will be given at the end of the course (20% of your course grade)