Course Syllabus  
BA 7703 -01 – Special Topics in Business Administration  
Fall Semester - 2018  
3.0 Credit Hours

Instructor: Balaji Krishnan, Ph.D.  
Phone1: 901.678.2786  
E-mail: krishnan@memphis.edu  
Office: FCBE 303  
Twitter: @balajickrishnan  
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/balajikrishnan1

Office Hours: By appointment.

Course Overview:  
Special study of problems in business and economics. Topic areas change each semester as determined by new developments in business. PREREQUISITE: Permission of associate dean for academic programs.

Pre-Requisites/Co-Requisites:  
There are no course pre-requisites to enrolling in this course.

Required Texts (and Related Materials):  
1. No required texts

Recommended Texts (and Related Materials):  
It is recommended (but not required) that students have access to at least one periodical that includes business news (Wall Street Journal or Economist). You MUST have access to the Daily Briefs from Oxford Analytica (http://dailybrief.oxan.com)

Course Objectives:  
This course examines the impact of economic, social, cultural, political, legal and environmental influences on business.
The objective of this course is to expand the student’s knowledge about global affairs. It will include a study of sectors such as energy, finance, defense/security, manufacturing, infrastructure and food. Further, it will cover a broad range of regions in the world such as Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and Africa. There will also be discussions about current topics at the forefront of global affairs such as terrorism and climate change.

**Fogelman College: Learning Outcomes for Your Degree**

This course is designed to help you to meet the overall learning objectives for the MBA degree offered by the Fogelman College. You should take the time to become familiar with the overall learning objectives as a student in the IMBA Program:

[http://fcbeassessment.net/IMBA_assessment_spring08.htm](http://fcbeassessment.net/IMBA_assessment_spring08.htm)

**Course Methodology**

This is a hybrid course and much of the learning will be self-managed and self-paced. This has the benefit of accommodating each student’s unique interest and learning style. While the class will meet for 2 hours every Thursday from 1 – 3, many of the discussions will be continued online.

**Professor’s Expectations of Students:**

In general, you should assist the instructor in creating a positive, supportive environment for learning by staying engaged in the course and actively participating in all online discussions.

**Student’s Expectations of the Professor:**

In my role as your instructor, there are certain things you can expect from me including: well-organized and engaging learning experience, response to emails within two (2) business days, and feedback on all work submitted within 10 calendar days.

**Grading and Evaluation Criteria**

Over the semester, you will have a variety of opportunities to earn points towards your final (overall) letter grade in this course. This section of the syllabus describes the assessed work you will be doing and how overall (final) letter grades will be computed.

**Final Course Grades**

Final course grades are earned according to the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point Range</th>
<th>Assigned Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100 Points</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89 Points</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79 Points</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69 Points</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 60 Points</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your overall grade for the semester is based on how well you perform on a mixture of formal activities including discussions, position papers, presentations and exams.

**Summary of Graded Activities**

Points earned on the assessed activities will be distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Topics</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position Papers</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 pts</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discussion Topics** will be posted on the course website every week. You will be expected to read the related article and provide your answers to the questions posted in the discussion forum.

Each student will select a particular topic from a range of topics provided for their **position paper**.

Teams of two or three will be formed at the beginning of the semester and each team will present the topic provided in the syllabus on the date noted. The **presentation** will be evaluated based on clarity of idea, depth of analysis, presentation material and ability to answer questions from the class or instructor.

**Schedule of Activities**

For a complete semester schedule of readings, activities, and due dates for assignments, please refer to the “Semester Calendar” that can be found in the online course area under “Getting Started”.

**Final Exam Schedule**

The final exam for this class will be scheduled according to the [Registrar’s academic calendar website](#).

---

**Course Policies**

**E-MAIL:**

All students are required to maintain and access their University of Memphis (@memphis.edu) email account. You will receive all official course correspondence at this email account. Any inability to receive incoming mail in a timely fashion (e.g., not regularly checking your email, having a “full mailbox” condition, etc.) is the student’s responsibility.
Attendance:
This is a part of your International MBA program. This will be the only course which is broad based and not merely on business issues. Hence, you are expected to stay active and engaged throughout the academic term and keep up with the schedule of activities. Your full engagement in the class begins on the first day of the semester and should be maintained until the last assignment is submitted.

Adding / Dropping:
If you have questions about adding or dropping classes, please refer to this page on the Registrar’s website.

Academic Integrity:
The University of Memphis has clear codes regarding cheating and classroom misconduct. If interested, you may refer to the Student Handbook section on academic misconduct for a discussion of these codes. Note that using a “Solutions Manual” is considered cheating. Should your professor have evidence that using a “Solutions Manual” has occurred, he/she may take steps as described on the campus' Office of Student Conduct website. If you have any questions about academic integrity or plagiarism, you are strongly encouraged to review the Fogelman College’s Website on Academic Integrity.

Participation:
To be successful in this course as a student, you must stay active and involved throughout the entire semester. Students are expected participate in all interactive aspects of the course. You should also regularly communicate with the instructor as part of your overall learning experience, check into the course frequently for announcements (usually on the course home page), and actively participate in threaded discussion events (both formal and informal). You should plan on logging into the course at least three times each week.

Classroom or Online Behavior:
All participants in the course should be considerate of the other course participants and treat them (as well as their opinions) with respect. The class will operate under the assumption that any and all feedback offered is positive in nature and that the intentions of the person(s) providing feedback are strictly honorable. If you have any questions about online communication, you should review the Fogelman College's Netiquette website.

Late Assignments:
Position papers and discussion posts may be submitted anytime up to and including the date due. Please review all information in this syllabus and related “Course Activity Summary / Schedule” for all due dates for formally assessed work. If your work is not submitted on time, the instructor reserves the option to deduct up to 20% of the grade value for tardiness depending upon the circumstances and appropriate communication between the student and the instructor.
**Extra Credit:**

There is no extra credit offered in this course. Your final grade will be computed based on your work on the formal/assessed activities previously described in this syllabus.

**Reporting Illness or Absence:**

Due dates and deadlines have been established for each graded assignment. In this course, deadlines are taken very seriously. Please do not wait until the last day to submit assignments or to take quizzes and exams. If an emergency should arise, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor prior to the deadline to discuss the matter. A deadline extension will be considered only if all of the following conditions are met: (1) Extreme emergency and (2) Instructor contacted prior to the due date.

**Syllabus Changes:**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes both by individual email communication and posting both notification and nature of change(s) on the course bulletin board.

**Tentative Course Outline***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>Overview of the Course and Discussion of Topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Macro Approaches to analyzing Global Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>Geopolitical 1 : Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>Geopolitical 2 : Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>Geopolitical 3: China and India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>Geopolitical 4: Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 11</td>
<td>Geopolitical 5: Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Industry Analysis: Technology &amp; Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>Industry Analysis: Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Industry Analysis: Manufacturing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8</td>
<td>Industry Analysis: Agribusiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>Education and Women’s rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>November 22</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving Holiday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 29</td>
<td>Cultural Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 10 - 14</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Readings:**

Benjamin Barber, “Jihad vs. McWorld” *Atlantic Monthly* (March 1992)  


**Suggested Reading**


**Student Services**

Please access the [FCBE Student Services](#) page for information about:

- Students with Disabilities
- Tutoring and other Academic Assistance
- Advising Services for Fogelman Students
- Technical Assistance