

PREPARING INNOVATIVE LEADERS FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

MGB 271 Strategic Cost Management Winter 2014

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Office Hours: by appointment – email to schedule Class Meeting Time and Final Exam Schedule:

MGB 271: Class (Even) Sat 9 am-12 pm; 1 - 4 pm; 1502 Bishop Ranch; **Exam Mar 22**, 9 am – 12 pm

Class Dates: Jan 18, Feb 1, 15, Mar 1, 15

Following information provided in the event that you must miss class and wish to attend class at either the Sacramento or Davis location:

MGT 271: Class: Weds. 12:10 – 3 pm; Room 1302 Gallagher, Exam: Mar 19, 12:10 - 3pm 1302 Gallagher

MGP 271: Class Weds. 6 – 9 pm; 1204 Sac Ed Cntr; Exam: Mar 19, 6 - 9 pm 1204 Sac Ed Cntr

Class Dates: Jan 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, Mar 5, 12

Course Introduction

This class examines how firms use organizational design and cost management to establish a sustainable cost structure that is a strong foundation for superior profit performance. Competitive cost structures are increasingly obtained, not through technical efficiencies of a single firm, but through innovative collaboration among firms ---- what has been termed the "extended enterprise." Thus more than half of the course examines cost management at the boundaries of the firm ---- where the firm interacts with suppliers, strategic alliance partners, customers and society. A value chain framework is used to explore how firms design and structure business processes for strategic advantage. We start with an overview of how modern product costing systems work and their limitations as a basis for strategic cost management. We then study how firms manage costs during product design and development, production and/or service delivery, and after the sale.

Audience:

Students pursing careers in consulting or business strategy and others who need to evaluate and improve existing business processes will find this course useful. Entrepreneurs will find the focus on designing organizations and value chains for sustainable profit relevant. Although cost accounting systems and production economics are the point of departure for the course, we will focus less on quantitative methods (e.g., budgeting, product costing, and variance analysis) and costs that are reported in accounting systems, and more on qualitative analysis and economic concepts of cost than a typical cost accounting course. We will use frameworks from operations, business strategy, economics and marketing to understand how to use cost analysis to support business strategy.

Required Materials: The course packet of cases, readings and assignments

SmartSite: Course materials may be found on Smartsite.

Grades: Final grades will be assessed as follows:

Class participation	15%
2 individual case write-ups	15%
2 team papers	20%
Final exam	50%

Class Participation

The class is taught using the case method and class participation is graded in every class. Classroom discussions will focus on a case study, recent news articles and team presentations. Class participation grades are based on the quality of *active participation* in class discussion, *not attendance*. I record class attendance with a sign-in sheet to jog my memory and facilitate participation grading. In the interest of promoting a productive learning environment for all, please:

- Arrive on time and stay for the duration of class.
- Turn off or mute audible cell phones, pagers and watch alarms for the duration of class.
- Turn off laptops unless instructed otherwise and refrain from accessing the internet on any other device during class.

Behaviors that detract from class learning will be penalized in the class participation mark.

Individual Case Write-ups

There are two cases that require individual student write-ups. These two cases are indicated in bold font on the class schedule. A paper copy of the write-up is due at the start of class. In the event that you will miss class, assignments may be submitted early as a fax or email attachment. It is your responsibility to ensure that your assignment is received. If you send an email attachment, please convert your file to PDF format so that there will be no difficulty printing. Please do not submit your assignment as an email attachment unless you expect to miss class. Late assignments will receive a grade penalty of 15% per day or part thereof.

The two case write-ups require answers to specific assigned questions. Questions for which written responses are due are designated by an asterisk (*) in the document, 'Class Preparation Questions'. Your answers should be no more than four (4) pages (all inclusive) in length, using standard formatting of 11 or 12 point font for text answers and 1 inch margins. If you insert an excel spreadsheet it should be in a readable font size and should conform to the spirit of the page limits of the assignment.

The case assignments will be graded on a 1-20 scale. Because the case questions are designed to prepare you to participate in class rather than to test your knowledge of material, the grade will be based primarily on completeness and evidence of careful consideration of the issues and the case data.

Team Projects

There are two team projects and several in-class team exercises. The projects require a team paper and the ability to do a short presentation (i.e., with 5-7 prepared slides) on demand. I will collect a final paper copy of the team paper and slidepack at the start of class. At least 48 hours before class, teams will submit to a Smartsite folder a near-final draft of their papers. On the basis of this draft I will select several teams to present. All teams will not present. My aim is to select presentations that will stimulate discussion of

important issues, not to grade a presentation. The team paper and slidepack is the basis for the team project grade. The presentation and ensuing class discussion of the contents of the papers will be graded as normal class participation.

Each team is to work without assistance from anyone who is not a member of the team. Actions to the contrary constitute a violation of the honor code by the team. Although responsibility for typing the papers may be delegated to one or two team members, the team should take care to involve all team members in the assignments and to balance the total workload among team members. Unless evidence is provided (using the Peer Evaluation in coursepack) to the contrary, I will assume that all team members contributed appropriately to the assignment and team members will receive a common grade. **The Peer Evaluation is due on the last day of class**; however, please complete the appropriate sections after each team assignment to ensure timely recall of events. If I determine that it is warranted, the penality for shirking team responsibilities may range from no credit to a significant reduction in the team project grade as compared to the grade awarded to other team members.

Final Examination

The final exam will be based on a comprehensive case study and related articles. The case and articles will be distributed approximately one week before the scheduled in-class exam. The exam will include several essay questions. A makeup exam will be offered ONLY for substantiated personal emergencies.

Class Preparation

Preparation for class requires significant reading; however, all readings should not be approached with the same intensity or attention to detail. In general, **the required case will form the backbone of our discussion**. Significant articles that present theory and frameworks will lend structure to the discussion. Finally, a number of "light" articles from the popular press will be used to 1) update and extend the case, and 2) present complementary issues and perspectives that may not be explored fully in the case or that differ by industry. The latter readings should be skimmed, but clearly do not warrant the same level of attention as the other readings. Some readings will be used for in-class exercises. While these may be skimmed in advance, this is not required and this is noted in the syllabus.

For each class, the cases and advance readings are accompanied by a set of questions found in the document, 'Class Preparation Questions'. These questions do not represent fully the material that we will cover in class. They are intended to guide your preparation. I recommend that you read the materials first and then draft a brief response to the questions. If possible, discuss your ideas in a study group before class. If insufficient class preparation becomes a barrier to effective class discussion, I reserve the right to require additional case write-ups beyond those currently scheduled. This will not affect the overall allocation of 10% of the course grade to case write-ups.

Absences

In the event that you must miss class, I would be grateful for a short email to that effect. This is not required, but helps me to be aware of student needs. The class preparation questions rarely cover more than 50 percent of the key learnings of a class. Thus missing class, even after preparing the case questions, means that you miss content and process --- essential elements to learning this material. Please obtain notes from a class member and check Smartsite for any handouts.

MGT/P/B 271 READING SCHEDULE and OVERVIEW OF CLASS AGENDA:

Note that some readings are repeated to emphasize different themes in different class sessions. Articles are placed in the coursepack according to the **first occurrence** in the course. If a reading is used a second time, the class in which the reading first occurred is noted in parentheses.

Class	Agenda/Overview of Topics	Required article readings	Required case readings
Day 1 – class 1	Introduction to cost systems and their use and misuse Standard costing systems Characteristics Side effects	 Read course syllabus before class Theory/ Frameworks: skim as basic review of mechanics of cost accounting systems Accounting for Manufacturing Companies (9-198-019) Comments on Standard Times and the Division of Labor (9-600-013) A Glossary for Manufacturing Cost Accounting Systems (9-188-088) 	Bridgeton Industries (9-190-085)
	Cost structure, product costing and cost analysis Managing capacity costs in recessionary periods	 Applications: WSJ "Fixed Costs Chafe at Steel Mills" June 10, 2009 WSJ "Steelmakers Struggle" Oct 19, 2011 WSJ "High fixed costs are makings of Steel Trap." Oct 25, 2011 WSJ "Steelmakers confront oversupply worries" May 1, 2012 WSJ "As Economy Zooms, India's Postmen Struggle to Adapt" Oct 3, 2006 WSJ "Mail Carriers Try Own Rescue" Apr 17, 2012 BBusinessweek "The End of Mail" May 30-Jun 5, 2011, p 60-65. WSJ "The Post Office wants more than mail" Oct 19, 2011 Washington Post "US airlines make money again by flying less" Jan 25, 2011. WSJ "Auto Makers' New Math Drives Net" Jan 27, 2012 	
Day 1- class 2	Using cost system design to remedy some common problems Two Stage Cost Systems Marginal costing Managing capacity costs in growth and investment periods	 Theory/ Frameworks: Cost System Analysis (9-195-181) Strategic Finance "Reading between the numbers" Dec 2004. 41-45. McKinsey Qtrly "The importance of life cycle pricing" Chart focus newsletter May 2011 Applications: The Chronicle of Higher Ed. "College for \$99 a Month?" September 2, 2009 WSJ "Putting a Price on Professors" Oct 23-4, 2010 The Chronicle of Higher Ed. "Texas could offer a stripped-down degree for just \$10,000, Commissioner Says" Apr 27, 2011. WSJ "Factories grapple with how fast to ramp up" June 20, 2010. BBusinessweek "White-shoe blues" Apr 23-29, 2012. 	Seligram (9-189-084) (case write-up due)

Class	Agenda/Overview of Topics	Required article readings	Required case readings
Day 2- class 3	Use of cost system design to remedy some common problems • Mechanics of activity-based costing • Capacity considerations in cyclic industries Activity-based management • Restructuring for efficiency • Productivity: meaning, measurement and management • Reducing costly activities	 Theory/ Frameworks: Introduction to Activity-based costing (9-197-076) Profit Priorities from Activity-based costing (HBR OnPoint product #3588) Applications: Productivity's meaning, measurement and use WSJ "Here come the technocrats" Sept 16-17, 2006 WSJ "Baseball after Moneyball" Sept 23, 2011 BBusinessweek "The Moneyball Myth" Oct 24-30, 2011 109-11. Applications: Labor Productivity tools and implementation issues NYT "A Big Star May not a Profitable Movie Make" Aug 28, 2006 WSJ "New Recipe for Cost Savings: Replace Expensive Workers" June 11, 2003 WSJ "Best Buy gets squeezed" Sept 14, 2011 WSJ "Costco's dilemma: Be kind to its workers, or Wall Street?" Mar 26, 2004 WSJ "Retailers Reprogram workers in efficiency push" Sept 10, 2008 WSJ "Meet the New Boss: Big Data. Sept 20, 2012. 	Wilkerson Co. (9-101-092) (case write-up due) Co-operative Bank (9-195-196)

Class	Agenda/Overview of Topics	Required article readings	Required case readings
Day 2 – class 4	Strategic Cost Management and the Value Chain Introduction to Structural and Executional Cost Management Strategies In-class team exercise on structural and executional cost management	 Theory/ Frameworks: SMJ article: "Accounting Data for Value Chain Analysis" Mar/Apr 1989, 10(2): 175-188. Applications: We will use the following articles in an in-class team exercise. Skim as many of them as possible—ideally some from each of the 3 groups, particularly articles noted with a (*) that are longer and summarize industry conditions before class to increase the efficiency of your team during class. Not for Profit: Healthcare Example WSJ "The doctor will see you eventually" Oct 19, 2010 NYT "Factory efficiency comes to the hospital" Jul 10, 2010 NYT "Medicare plans for Payments Irks Hospitals. May 30, 2011 WSJ "ERs move to speed care; not everyone needs a bed. Aug 2, 2011 NYT "Attention Shoppers: Low prices on shots in clinic" May 14, 2006 WSJ "New Way to pay Doctors" Feb 9, 2012 The Economist "First break all the rules" Apr 17, 2010. Pp6-8. (*) The New Yorker "Big Med" Aug 8, 2012. 	none
		Services: Airlines Industry Example WSJ "For US Airlines, a Shakeout runs into heavy turbulence" Sept 19, 2005 WSJ "Nuts-and-bolts savings" May 3, 2005 WSJ "An Airline that makes money. Really." Feb 4-5, 2012 NYT "To save fuel, airlines find no speck too small" June 11, 2008 WSJ "Airlines lose the winter blahs" Feb 29, 2012 WSJ "Delta to buy refinery in effort to lower jet-fuel costs" Apr 30, 2012 (*) Airline Business "Spirit in the Sky" May, 2012 BBusinessweek "Ryanair's O'Leary: The Duke of Discomfort" Sept 2, 2010 and related media picture: http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/10 37/b4194058004420.htm	
		Manufacturing: Automotive Industry Example (*) WSJ "Auto Makers' New Math Drives Net" Jan 27, 2012 (see class 1) WSJ "Hidden Costs" Oct 17, 2005 WSJ "GM Acts to Pare Pension Liability" June 1, 2012. WSJ "Ford Caps Turnaround Efforts" Oct 29, 2012 WSJ "Renault and Nissan to Double Cost Satings by 2016." Oct 15, 2012 WSJ "Honda's Flexible Plants Provide Edge" Sept. 23, 2008 NYT "At Toyota, a global giant reaches for agility" Feb 22, 2008 NYT "Four wheels for the masses: the \$2500 car" Jan 8, 2008 WSJ "Coaxing miles from a Chevy redesign" Aug 30, 2011 WSJ "What's customer loyalty worth? GM has a number" Sept 19, 2012 WSJ "Maruti Suziki to Launch New Alto Model in October" Sep 23, 2012	

Class	Agenda/Overview of Topics	Required article readings	Required case readings
Day 3 – class 5	Structural Cost Management: developing processes for cost effective production and delivery • Matching process costs to business strategy • New business models Executional Cost Management: Assessing and managing costs of ongoing operations: • Process improvement	 Applications: Process design in restaurant industry WSJ "The Prix Fixe Is In" Oct 7, 2006 NYT "The long-distance journey of a fast-food order" Apr 11, 2006 	Benihana of Tokyo (9-673-057)

Day 3 –	Structural Cost Management:	Theory/Frameworks	
class 6	developing products with competitive	HBR "The Ultimate Creativity Machine: How BMW Turns Art into Profit" Reprint R0101B	
	cost structure	HBR "Control Tomorrow's Costs Through Today's Designs" Reprint 96104	
	Target costing	WSJ "Finding your innovation fulcrum" Dec 12, 2005	
	Relevant Costs		
	Lifecycle Costs	Case Follow-up:	
		WSJ A slump in car sales forces Nissan to start cutting swollen costs. Mar 3, 1993.	
			Nissan Motor
		Applications: Product and Process Design Interface – learning curves	Company Ltd
		WSJ "Boeing hits a milestone" June 8, 2012	(9-194-040)
		WSJ "Airbus wants A380 Cost Cuts." July 13, 2012	
	Team Project #1 assigned, with some	• The Economist "First break all the rules" Apr 17, 2010. Pp6-8. (see class 4)	
	classtime for project planning		
		Applications: Product design in the auto/transportation industry	
		WSJ "Unpopular models slow down GM" Sept 9, 2008	
		WSJ "Coaxing miles from a Chevy redesign" Aug 30, 2011 (See class 4)	
		• The Economist "The lowdown on teardowns" Jan 23, 2010.	
		• NYT "Four wheels for the masses: The \$2500 Car" Jan 8, 2008 (See class 4)	
		• Washington Post "India's Tata Nano, 'the world's cheapest car,' struggles to move ahead"	
		Jan 3, 2011	
		• The Economist "Tata's Nano Stuck in Low Gear" Aug 20, 2011	
		BBusinessweek. "Japan tries cars that make the mini look maxi" Oct 8-14, 2012. P 27.	
		Applications: Product and service design in competition to the automobile	
		• NYT "Share my Ride" March 8, 2009	
		• USA Today "An Iphone gets Zipcar drivers on their way" Sept 29, 2009	
		BBusinessweek "Technology: Stranger you can drive my car" Dec 13-19, 2010. 39-40.	
		BBusinessweek "The Megabus Effect" Apr 11-17, 2011. 62-7.	
		• WSJ "Buses take off, but not everybody is on board" May 23, 2011	
		• BBusinessweek "In the race for the car-less, can Hertz outrun Zipcar?" Apr 2-9, 2012.	

Class	Agenda/Overview of Topics	Required article readings	Required case readings
Day 4 – class 7	Team Project #1: Paper & Presentations: Analysis of Process Costs	Skim the team papers available in SmartSite Folder at least 48 hours before the start of class.	
	Structural Cost Management: process and product design for low cost-in-use:	 Theory/Frameworks HBR "Lean Consumption" Reprint R0503C Using ABC to Manage Customer Mix and Relationships (9-197-094) Applications: new business models emphasizing lean consumption NYT "Miles of Aisles for a Gallon of Milk? Not Here." Sept 10, 2008 NYT "Attention Shoppers: Low prices on shots in clinic" May 14, 2006. (see class 4) BBusinessweek "Size 0? Your webcam knows the truth" Dec 12-18, 2012 p50-52 BBusinessweek "No, Padma Laksmi will not come to your home." Dec 12-18,2012 p49-50 NYT "Google's buses help its workers beat the rush. Mar 10, 2007 Businessweek "Sysco Hustles to Keep Restaurants Cooking" May 18, 2009.pp52-53. WSJ "The wait time misery index" Mar 1, 2012 Articles from class 6 on services to compete with personal automobile ownership 	Innovation at Progressive (A) and (C) (9-602-175) (9-601-139)
Day 4 – class 8	Structural Cost Management: designing distribution channels for low cost	Theory/Frameworks • HBR "Aligning incentives in Supply Chains" Reprint 8363	
	 Incentives Pricing and its many forms Team Project #2 assigned, with classtime for project planning	Case Extension: • WSJ "UPS, other big shiuppers carve health-care niches" June 27, 2012 Applications: Incentives and Measurement in Cost Management • NYT "Selling Soap" Sept 24, 2006 • NYT "Utilities turn their customers green, with envy" Jan 31, 2009 • USAToday "Employee incentives drive lower-cost health care. Sept 22, 2011 • NYT "Medicare plans for Payments Irks Hospitals. May 30, 2011. (See class 4)	Owens and Minor (A) (9-100-055)
	classtine for project planning	 Applications: Pricing vs. costing WSJ "Trucker Rewards Customers for Good Behavior" Sept 9, 2003 WSJ "Public Schools Charge Kids for Basics, Frills" May 25, 2011 WSJ "TXU Energy uses credit information to assess its rates" Sept 9, 2004 The Chronicle of Higher Ed "With new lists, Federal Government moves to help consumers and prod colleges to limit price increases." June 30, 2011 Bloomberg Businessweek. "Every Passenger an Arbitrageur" Oct 8-14, 2012. Pp 24-25. 	

Class	Agenda/Overview of Topics	Required article readings	Required case readings
Day 5 – class 9	Team Project#2: Paper & Presentations: Analysis of Cost of Ownership	Skim the team papers which will be available in SmartSite Folder at least 48 hours before the start of class.	
	Structural Cost Management: designing suppy chains for low cost	 Theory/Frameworks CalMgtRev "Williamson's contribution and its relevance to 21st century capitalism" Winter 2010 HBR "A Smarter Way to Buy" June 2001 Reprint F0106B HBR "Inventory-driven costs" 83 (3): 135. Mar 2005 McKinsey Qtrly "When offshore manufacturing doesn't make sense" 2004 (4):53. CFO Journal of WSJ "Command and Control: Managing Supply Chain Risk" Nov 2, 2012 	Supplier Management at Sun Microsystems (OIT-16A)
	Executional Cost Management: Supplier performance Scheduling for low cost production and inventory management	 Applications: NYT "A Dream Interrupted at Boeing" Sept 6, 2009 BBusinessweek "Coping with Commodity Shock" Oct 4-10, 2010. pp 53-4. WSJ "Tight supplies, tight partners" Jan 10, 2011. BBusinessweek "Downsides of Just-in-time Inventory" Mar 28-Apr 3, 2011 17-18. WSJ "Otis shifts work closer to home" Oct 7, 2011 BBusinessweek "To boost buying power, Wal-mart woos partners" Oct 11-17, 2010 WSJ "3M begins untangling its 'hairballs' May 16, 2012 	
Day 5 – class 10	Structural Cost Management: Design products and processes for product life-cycle sustainability, responsibility, and shareholder value Pricing/costing externalities Executional Cost Management: Measuring and managing environmental performance	 Theory/Frameworks McKinsey Qtrly "What is environmental strategy?" 1993 (4):53. HBR "The Reverse Supply Chain" Feb 2002 Reprint F0202D. McKinsey Qtrly "How US health care reform will affect employee benefits" June 2011 Applications: Environmental costs, prices and taxes Economist "A lean, clean electric machine" Dec 10, 2005 NYT "A state says makers must pay for recycling PC's and TV's" Mar, 25, 2006 NYT "Seeking fiscal health without gas tax" Mar 25, 2006 WSJ "Kicking the cans" Jul 29, 2008 	No case
		 Applications: Other externality costs to consider Economist "Business and AIDS in Africa: Follow my lead" Oct 11, 2003 WSJ "States are battling against Wal-mart over health care" Nov 1, 2004 NYT "Wal-mart cuts some health care benefits. Oct 20, 2011 BBusinessweek "Your boss to your kids: Slim down" Feb 1&8, 2010 p67 WSJ "Big firms overhaul Health Coverage" Sept 26, 2012. (CONTINUED) 	

	Cost Management in Organizational	Cost Management Leadership: Theory and Evidence	
10	Culture	McKinsey Quarterly "Managing Overhead Costs" 2005 (1): 106-117	
(cont.)	Establishing A Culture of Thrift	Newsweek "Lay off the Layoffs" Feb 5, 2010	
	 Cost cutting in crisis 	The Economist "Time to put ideas into practice" Apr 25, 2005	
		HBR "Turn cost cutting into a core competence" reprint U0212B	
	Final Exam Discussion	Leadership Excellence "Pride in Thrift" Apr 2005	
	Course overview and exam format.	NYT "In Praise of Dullness" May 19, 2009	