

AP/ADMS 3920  
NEW VENTURE AND  
SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT  
FALL 2022  
Sections A & B

INSTRUCTOR            Jon Kerr ( [jonkerr@yorku.ca](mailto:jonkerr@yorku.ca) )

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course examines the entrepreneurial processes of new venture creation and issues associated with small business management from both a theoretical and practical perspective. The emphasis is on issues that affect the success of the entrepreneurial venture, including opportunity recognition and assessment, the development of the business plan, harnessing of resources, and other entrepreneurial, managerial and leadership challenges. The functional areas of business are also explored as they relate specifically to planning for new ventures (including intrapreneurship) and small business management.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, it is expected that the following educational objectives will have been achieved. Students will:

- be familiar with the current state of entrepreneurship in Canada and understand its economic and social impact
- appreciate the characteristics of individuals who engage in entrepreneurial activities and their motivations for doing so
- be able to identify and critically assess entrepreneurial ideas and opportunities
- understand the advantages and disadvantages of alternate business models, business strategies, modes of entry to small business, and organizational forms
- know the critical stages and accompanying issues/risks associated with the small business lifecycle
- have developed a framework for analysis of the strategic challenges of new ventures and small businesses and become familiar with theory and practice in the functional areas of marketing, operations, human resources management, finance, IT, etc.
- appreciate the purposes and importance of a business plan and have prepared a business plan for an enterprise of their choice utilizing appropriate research, analysis, and thought processes
- be able to identify the early warning signs of trouble in new ventures, appreciate the costs of failure, and be familiar with generic turnaround and exit strategies
- have gained experience and insight from being part of a team developing and pitching a new business proposal.

## COURSE FORMAT

This course is scheduled to be offered by way of in-person learning, although there will be elements of the course administered via eClass (i.e., quizzes, mini lectures, discussion forum, assignment and exam submission). Attendance in class is *strongly* encouraged as our sessions will not be recorded (slides will be posted to eClass). There is also a class activity component in the grade structure.

Note: if circumstance change, any session that cannot be delivered in person will be delivered via Zoom during our regularly scheduled class time.

To build our knowledge, we will be relying on three primary sources of information: weekly instructor-led sessions (lectures, activities, Q&A discussions, etc.); the textbook as a required reference tool; and a series of student-led 'mini lectures'. With respect to the weekly sessions, please note that we will not be focusing only on the textbook content but also alternative perspectives and new material.

## REQUIRED TEXT

Longenecker, J.G., Donlevy, L.B., Champion, T., Petty, J.W., Palich, L.E., Hoy, F. (2016) *Small Business Management: Launching and Growing New Ventures*. Sixth Canadian Edition. Nelson Education.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

### Session 1 – September 8<sup>th</sup>

Lecture: Course information; entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship

Text: Chapter 1

### Session 2 – September 15<sup>th</sup>

Lecture: Opportunity recognition; small business strategies; competitive advantage; business models (business model canvas)

Text: Chapter 2

### Session 3 – September 22<sup>nd</sup>

Lecture: Small business basics; modes of entry – build, buy, franchise; family business; networks and networking

Text: Chapters 3 & 4

**Due: Student led mini lectures as per schedule to be posted**

**Due: Quiz #1 (covers sessions 1 and 2)**

**Due: Group information**

### Session 4 – September 29<sup>th</sup>

**Due: Group business case presentations and business cases**

### Session 5 – October 6<sup>th</sup>

Lecture: Organizational forms; business planning; market research

Text: Chapters 5 & 10

**Due: Student led mini lectures as per schedule to be posted**

**Due:** Individual assignment – group business case critiques  
**Due:** Group finalization

Session 6 – October 20<sup>th</sup>

Lecture: Marketing strategies; e-commerce; globalization  
Text: Chapters 6, 7 & 8  
**Due:** Student led mini lectures as per schedule to be posted  
**Due:** Quiz #2 (covers sessions 3 and 5)

Session 7 – October 27<sup>th</sup>

Lecture: Marketing continued (if necessary); The entrepreneurial team; human resource management  
Text: Chapter 9  
**Due:** Student led mini lectures as per schedule to be posted  
Business plan consultations

Session 8 – November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Lecture: Operations management; location selection; quality and control  
Text: Chapters 11 & 12  
**Due:** Student led mini lectures as per schedule to be posted  
**Due:** Quiz #3 (covers sessions 6 and 7)  
**Due:** Group declaration of responsibilities form  
Business plan consultations

Session 9 – November 10<sup>th</sup>

Lecture: Accounting basics; financial management; financial statements and *pro formas*  
Text: Chapters 13 & 14  
**Due:** Student led mini lectures as per schedule to be posted  
Business plan consultations

Session 10 – November 17<sup>th</sup>

Lecture: Managing growth; crisis management; exit strategies  
Text: Chapter 15  
**Due:** Student led mini lectures as per schedule to be posted  
**Assigned:** Take-home case study exam (Due 24 hours after start time)

Session 11 – November 24<sup>th</sup>

**Due:** Quiz #4 (covers session 8, 9 and 10)  
Business plan consultations

Session 12 – December 1<sup>st</sup>

**Due:** Pitch presentations  
**Due:** Group business plans

## EVALUATION

<b>In-class activities</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Student-led mini-lecture</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Individual critique assignment</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Group work</b>	
<b>Part 1: Business case</b>	10%
<b>Part 2: Business plan</b>	30%
<b>Part 3: Pitch competition</b>	5%
<b>Quizzes (4)</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Take-home exam</b>	<b>15%</b>
	<b>100%</b>

For particulars, please see below.

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## IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

During each scheduled session, we will also be engaging in certain ‘in-class’ activities. These activities will provide us with the opportunity to explore aspects of the course material in greater depth. Typically, these activities will be done in small groups but on occasion there will also be activities done individually. Regardless, these activities typically entail a brief submission of some sort (via eClass or hard copy). Our in-class activities will begin in session one and occur in most sessions throughout the term. The number of class activities per session usually ranges between two and four.

Collectively, your engagement with the class activities will represent 5% of your overall grade. In effect, for each session in which you engage in a class activity you can earn up to 1 mark towards your final grade. However, simply engaging does not ensure that you get full marks. Each class activity is graded on its own merits and assigned a simple alpha grade. I then take your FIVE BEST session activity grades into consideration when determining your mark. Even though frequency of engagement is important, the quality of your engagement is perhaps more critical. Students who participate in a meaningful way can do quite well!

Note: we will also have an online discussion forum through which you can earn up to 2% of the 5% class activity grade.

## STUDENT-LED MINI-LECTURES

Each student will be responsible for developing ONE mini lecture during the term. Your mini lecture will be worth 8% of your overall grade. The first round of mini lectures will commence in session 3.

You will each be assigned a session and a series of topics around which you must develop and deliver a mini lecture of no more than 5 minutes duration. Your mini lecture **must** be posted to eClass prior to the start of the session for which it is due, or a late penalty of 5% per day will apply. No mini lectures will be accepted if they are more than three days late.

For your mini lecture, you must i) source an interesting and relevant article published in the past ten years from one of the following journals – *Journal of Business Venturing; Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice; Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal; Family Business Review; International Small Business Journal; Journal of Small Business Management* or, *Small Business Economics*, ii) summarize the article for us (e.g. background, method, etc); iii) identify the three key learning insights we should take away from the article/your mini lecture; iv) summarize the practical implications for entrepreneurs and/or introduce a real world example relevant to the topic to illustrate its applicability; v) as a means of summarizing things, identify one or two multiple choice questions pertaining to your mini lecture that we *might* be able to include in a quiz; and, vi) attend to the quality of your mini lecture presentation.

You should deliver your mini lecture using PowerPoint and its 'record narration' tool and then post it to the appropriate session in eClass. With a little effort and imagination, this is another element of the course on which you can do quite well.

### INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT

This assignment involves you critically reviewing (i.e., 'critique') the business ideas/cases presented by your classmates in class on September 29<sup>th</sup>. You will be assigned one specific group to critique in advance of that date.

Your reviews should evaluate the new venture idea described by the group you have been assigned to critique. This includes identifying things you like about it and concerns that you may have, as well as providing value-added suggestions that might guide the group as they move forward in developing their business plans. Because you might want to ask questions of the group you have been assigned, you will be advantaged by being in attendance for their presentation.

This assignment is worth 7% of your overall grade. Your review is to be done in Word and is to be a maximum of 750 words in length and presented double-spaced in TNR with font size = 12.

Due Date: This assignment must be submitted October 6<sup>th</sup>. You will submit one copy via eClass prior to the start of our regularly scheduled class that day **AND** one hard copy in class (this will be distributed to the group you critiqued). Late papers are subject to a 10% penalty and will not be accepted after October 13<sup>th</sup>.

### GROUP WORK (Three separate parts totaling 45% of total course grade)

This course involves substantial group work. You are to form yourselves into groups of between 4 and 6 students (the maximum number of groups we can accommodate is 13). To do this, you will want to be in class and interacting with your classmates during the first three weeks of term. The names of group members are to be submitted no later than September 27<sup>th</sup>. Students not in groups by then will be assigned a group.

### PART 1: Business case presentation and the business model canvas (10%)

You are to prepare and present a business case for the opportunity your group has identified using the framework of the business model canvas introduced in session 2. Although at this stage you are only presenting your preliminary idea, you should be using the following headings for your presentation:

- Business Overview - discuss the general nature of the business idea for which you intend to prepare a business plan.
- Customer segment(s) – identify the market needs to be addressed by the business' products/services. Identify your assumptions regarding buyers' wants, willingness and behaviors.
- Value proposition – what you plan to offer your customers and what is compelling about your value proposition (i.e., competitive advantage)
- Channels – how will you promote, sell and deliver your offering to your customer segments.
- Customer relationships – what is the nature of customer interactions you envision?
- Revenue streams – how the business earns revenues through the delivery of its offerings.
- Key activities – what is it that your business must do (and do well) to deliver on its value proposition?
- Key resources – what strategic assets and capabilities are required to support your key activities?
- Key partnerships – not all activities have to be performed by you! Who else might be involved and what activities would they be responsible for?
- Cost structure – what are the major drivers of your venture's cost structure?
- Other - use this heading, if required, to add other information as that relates to your preliminary assessment of the business opportunity. An example of this might be any legislation that guides or restricts the conduct or practices of the business.

**Due Date for Part 1: September 29<sup>th</sup> – soft copy via eClass AND In-class presentations – times to be assigned. NO late submissions will be accepted.**

You are to submit your business model canvas via eClass at the time of your presentation together with a business case summary structured following the prescribed headings above. That summary is to be a maximum of 1500 words in length (double-spaced, minimum font size = 12) PLUS appendices. If you use appendices, you must make specific and appropriate reference to them in the body of your report. Your presentation is to be a maximum of 10 minutes duration (inclusive of Q&A). That means that the dry run of your presentation must be no more than five minutes!

Your grade will be determined in part by how effectively you use preliminary market research to support your discussion and conclusions, how clearly you convey the feasibility of the idea, and the quality of your presentation. To succeed here, you must push your analysis and assessment of the environment as far as possible.

**NOTE: After Part 1 of the group assignment, you will have the opportunity to re-evaluate group membership. Students without a group after this stage will then be organized into new groups or may join another already established group.**

### PARTS 2 and 3: Business plan and 'pitch' (30% + 5%)

For these parts of the group assignment, you are to prepare a formal business plan for the business of your choice and then 'pitch' your plan to your classmates. The presentation of your plan should follow the general guidelines presented in the lectures and the text but should be tailored to fit the nature of the venture and your personal preferences. Having said this, the plan must include the following:

- An executive summary that captures the essence and critical aspects of the entire business plan,
- A mission statement and specific, measurable objectives,
- A discussion of legal and other issues, including your rationale for the selection of a particular organizational form,
- A marketing plan that clearly identifies your marketing strategy (product, price, promotion, place, and people) and is consistent with your analysis of the target market's needs, buying behavior, etcetera and the competition's practices.
- An operating plan which addresses, among other things, location selection, equipment and technological needs, inventory, and quality management, etc.
- A human resources plan covering staffing/skills needs identification, structure, personnel policies (recruitment, training, compensation, etc.), etc.
- A financial plan, including well-supported and detailed projections, an identification of financing sources, accounting systems, etc.,

Essentially, your business plan should consist of a series of inter-related functional area plans, and you will be evaluated for each one individually and for the plan as a whole.

Due Dates for Parts 2 and 3:

The business plan = December 1<sup>st</sup> - A copy of your business plan is to be submitted before the end of our regularly scheduled class. Late papers are subject to a penalty of 2% per calendar day or part thereof (i.e., a 75% becomes a 69% on December 4<sup>th</sup>). No papers will be accepted after December 6<sup>th</sup>.

The business pitch = December 1<sup>st</sup> - in-class presentations – the date is firm; times to be assigned.

This is to be a comprehensive, stand-alone business plan. It should be a maximum of 25 typed pages in length (double-spaced, TNR, minimum font size = 12, minimum 1" margins) PLUS appendices (you may include as many appendices as you like, but please be sure that they are relevant). If you use appendices, you must make specific and appropriate reference to them in the body of your business plan. You must also include a table of contents and an executive summary, neither of which are not included in the page count.

Your 'pitch' is to be a maximum of 10 minutes duration.

Your grade will be determined in three ways. First, by how well you refine and support the business concept as evidenced by your formal written plan (25%). The required content identified above represents the bare minimum. Second, by my assessment of the pitch you deliver to our classmates (2.5%). Third, by the number of classmates' votes your pitch receives (2.5%).

**NOTE: Parts 2 and 3 of the group assignment is subject to both a declaration of responsibility process and a peer evaluation process. Each of these processes may see an individual's grades adjusted up or down by as much as 10% from the group's grade.**

### QUIZZES

There are four quizzes scheduled to align with sessions 3, 6, 8, and 11. These will be administered via eClass on the day those sessions are scheduled. Each quiz is worth 5% of your overall grade. Questions are drawn from the weekly lectures and mini lectures plus the assigned chapters in the text. These time constrained quizzes will be the most challenging graded component in the course. The key to success will be keeping up with the readings and paying attention to any pre-quiz guidance given.

You may miss ONE quiz without penalty. IF you miss a quiz, the weight of that quiz will be shifted to your remaining/subsequent quizzes (i.e., not to any previously written quiz). The exception to this policy is that nobody can miss Quiz #4. If you miss Quiz #4 for any reason, you will be given ONE opportunity to write an alternate Quiz #4 prior to the end of classes. This alternate quiz will be set and graded in a manner that acknowledges the additional preparation time available.

NOTE: for students who write all four quizzes, I will drop the lowest grade from among quizzes 1 through 3. Quiz 4 counts for everyone.

### TAKE-HOME EXAM

A take-home exam is scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> and will be worth 15% of your overall grade. The exam will be comprehensive in nature and will involve case-based questions. It will focus on application of course concepts. Your responses will be due 24 hours after the exam is assigned even though the exam itself will be set in a manner that should allow completion in approximately three hours. Pre-exam guidance will be given.

If you miss the take-home exam for any reason, you will be given the opportunity to write a make-up exam prior to the end of classes. This exam will be set and graded in a manner that acknowledges the additional preparation time available. In accordance with University Policy, no medical or other documentation is currently required when an examination is missed. However, students must notify me within 48 hours of the scheduled exam to be eligible for the make-up exam.

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### RELEVANT UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Deferred Exams: Deferred standing may be granted to students who are unable to write their final examination at the scheduled time or to submit their outstanding course work on the last



day of classes. Details can be found at <http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/deferred-standing>

As communicated to the University community on March 13, 2020, Senate Executive has agreed to waive until further notice the requirement for students to submit an Attending Physician's Statement in support of a request for deferred standing or petitions. In order to apply for deferred standing, students must register at <http://apps.eso.yorku.ca/apps/adms/deferredexams.nsf>

Academic Honesty: The Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies considers breaches of the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty to be serious matters. Suspected breaches of academic honesty will be investigated and charges shall be laid if reasonable and probable grounds exist. Students should review the York Academic Honesty policy for themselves at: <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>

Students might also wish to review the interactive on-line Tutorial for students on academic integrity, at: [http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic\\_integrity/](http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/)

Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy: The grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) shall be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and, under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for 'full year' courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course.

Note: Under unusual and/or unforeseeable circumstances which disrupt the academic norm, instructors are expected to provide grading schemes and academic feedback in the spirit of these regulations, as soon as possible. For more information on the Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy, please visit:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=86>

Reappraisals: Students may, with sufficient academic grounds, request that a final grade in a course be reappraised (which may mean the review of specific pieces of tangible work). Non-academic grounds are not relevant for grade reappraisals; in such cases, students are advised to petition to their home Faculty. Students are normally expected to first contact the course director to discuss the grade received and to request that their tangible work be reviewed. Tangible work may include written, graphic, digitized, modeled, video recording or audio recording formats, but not oral work. Students need to be aware that a request for a grade reappraisal may result in the original grade being raised, lowered or confirmed. For reappraisal procedures and information, please visit the Office of the Registrar site at:

<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/grades/reappraisal/index.htm>

Accommodation Procedures: LA&PS students who have experienced a misfortune or who are too ill to attend the final examination in an ADMS course should not attempt to do so; they must pursue deferred standing. Other students should contact their home Faculty for information. For further information, please visit:

<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/exams/deferred/index.htm>

Religious Accommodation: York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and

practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. For more information on religious accommodation, please visit: <https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs>

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder. For more information please visit the Disabilities Services website at: <http://www.yorku.ca/cds/>

York's disabilities offices and the Registrar's Office work in partnership to support alternate exam and test accommodation services for students with disabilities at the Keele campus. For more information on alternate exams and tests please visit <http://www.yorku.ca/altexams/>

### Private Third-Party Tutoring Companies, Academic Honesty and Support Resources

Many private, third-party tutoring companies advertise their services to YorkU students. One way you can help eliminate these advertisements is by changing your eClass profile settings to private (see instructions below). Some of these private companies claim to be affiliated with, or recognized and supported by, York University. Some also claim to help you by providing you with quiz and test answers, suggesting that this practice is safe and permitted by York. These claims are not true. York University has not officially recognized or endorsed any third-party tutoring service. When you are provided with quiz, test and exam answers, you run the risk of violating the [university's academic honesty policy](#). Students have been caught using these services to cheat and gain unfair advantage over honest students. The cheating students and "tutors" have received academic dishonesty punishments ranging from failing courses, to being expelled, to losing their YorkU degrees. Officially supported resources to help students learn course material will be provided by YorkU officials, such as your professors and your department. These services are offered at no cost to you as a student. Your professor will likely provide weekly office help hours to meet with students and if you are a first- or second-year student and would like help with course material, make sure you join one of our weekly [Peer Assisted Study Sessions \(PASS\)](#). If you require help with any of your numeracy-related courses that involve math, statistics or Excel, drop in online to meet with one of our peer tutors at the [Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele \(SNACK\)](#). If you are ever unsure of whether a resource is allowable or endorsed by YorkU, please feel free to email the Department of Economics at [lapsecon@yorku.ca](mailto:lapsecon@yorku.ca) and they would be happy let you know.

To hide your email address in eClass: Step1: Click your name on the top-right of the eClass website, then click "Profile" on the drop-down menu; Step 2: Under "User details" click "Edit profile"; Step 3: From the "Email display" drop-down menu choose "Hide my email address from non-privileged users"; Step 4: Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "Update profile" button.