

Innovation & Creativity

AP/ENTP2920 3.0 – Section A Fall 2024

Course Information

Course Instructor: Dr Anoosheh

Rostamkalaei

E-mail: anoosh@yorku.ca

Office Hours & Location:

Flexible, coordinate with me via email

Course Time & Days:

Monday: 11:30 am — 14:30 p.m.

Class Location: BRG 313

Bergeron Centre for Engineering

Excellence

Course eClass site

Land Acknowledgment

York University recognizes that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University. York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region (LA&PS Land Acknowledgement).

Course Overview

Required Course Materials

Readings: Students are responsible for obtaining copies of readings, which can be purchased through the Ivey Publishing website (https://www.iveycases.com). Any readings from Harvard Business Review are available through the York University libraries, so please check there first before making a purchase.

Video Content: Dr. Andrew Maxwell has generously given us access to a series of videos on the <u>Disruption Innovation Hub</u>. All videos needed for this course have been uploaded to our eClass site.

Course Description

This course focuses on concepts, theories, and practices in innovation and creativity. Our focus will be on leveraging innovative ideas to solve problems for individuals, markets, and societies more broadly. Students will develop skills in ideation, problem identification, overcoming individual biases, and overcoming team biases that are present in innovation processes. We will use readings, discussions, current events, and experiential exercises along our journey, and we will develop tools and frameworks that support innovative and creative business models that leverage organizational ideas for the benefit of society.

Course Overview & Learning Objectives

This course examines the challenges of innovation and creativity processes in entrepreneurial and other organizations. Our focus will be on formulating high-quality problem statements and potential solutions in the <u>pre-implementation</u> phase. We are unlikely to spend time discussing firm valuations, fundraising, or projected financials, which are important components of business plans. Instead, we will focus on the heavy lifting associated with developing innovative ideas that are at the heart of entrepreneurial ventures. The emphasis is on the iterative processes of divergent and convergent thinking. As such, we adopt both individual and team approaches to formulate creative ideas as we seek to identify and propose solutions to organizational and societal problems. The goal is for this course to provide foundational knowledge in preparation for subsequent courses in the Entrepreneurship and Innovation stream of the Bachelor of Commerce program.

To increase your competence in managing innovation and creativity, we will use several interactive in-class activities. These exercises will allow us to gain hands-on experience with tools and techniques that expand the idea space while also understanding the biases of individuals, teams, and organizations. To maximize learning, all students must be prepared for class by completing assignments ahead of time. Student engagement during class activities is essential for success in this course and an important building block for future career success whether in entrepreneurship or elsewhere.

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

- Identify the difference between novelty, creativity, and innovation including the factors that facilitate and constrain creative and innovative activity at the individual, organizational, market, and societal levels
- Apply the principles of design thinking and other creativity and innovation tools
- Formulate and refine a business model (at the ideation stage) while incorporating the challenges of individual and team factors that impact problem formulation

- Critically assess creative ideas and identify systematic ways to improve the connection between proposed solutions and identified problems
- Work creatively in a team environment and demonstrate leadership, communication skills, peer-to-peer learning, collaboration, and cooperation among other attributes

Course Format and Organization

Mini lectures, discussions, and in-class activities form the basic pedagogy of this course. We will also have in-class individual and group assignments. For all classes, students are expected to have completed the readings before class. Constructive class contributions are an integral part of this course.

Each session is about three hours. Normally, there are assigned readings and short videos for each session. We will spend early portions of class reviewing the content to deepen our knowledge of the subject matter. We will then engage in active learning (both individually and in groups) to apply content knowledge to real-life situations. Each activity will serve a dual purpose—you will deepen your content knowledge and take with you a tool to use in your career to promote creativity and innovation.

Campus Entrepreneurial Resources @ YSpace

The York University campus has several resources available to you that can complement your experience in this course. YSpace is York University's pan-university entrepreneurship and innovation hub, supporting startups and entrepreneurs from a variety of sectors and communities. Our programming includes scaling innovative technologies through customer and investor capital to scaling agri-food businesses into mass retail to diversity-focused initiatives like ELLA powered by Desjardins for women-led businesses and Black Entrepreneurship Alliance (BEA) for Black-led businesses. Additionally, the Start-Up Visa program builds a robust ecosystem, drives positive change, and empowers entrepreneurs to shape the future. The two programs that may be of particular interest are ELLA Express and Founder Fundamentals. The YSpace team will visit us near the end of the term (see schedule below), but you are welcome to learn more about any of these programs to develop your own independent knowledge.

Preparing for Class

During class, it will be assumed that you have prepared the readings and studied the videos. You will be called upon to apply the tools and concepts during class discussions. Inadequate preparation will reduce your ability to engage in discussions and activities, likely resulting in weaker evaluation scores for classroom participation.

Course Evaluation

Assessment	Date	Weight %
Class & Activity Participation	Assessed Weekly	20%
Individual Blogging	Assessed Weekly	10%
Individual Problem Statement	October 7 th	15%
Group "How Might We" Statement	October 21st	20%
Individual Business Model Canvas	Nov 11 th	15%
Group Presentation	Sessions 10 & 11	20%
*Bonus group Presentation		
		100%

Individual Grade Components (60%)

Class & Activity Participation Expectations

Class and activity participation is worth 20% of your final grade and depends upon your engagement in each class. Your class is business meetings. In this course, the focus is on business meetings geared toward developing ideas—a core part of management. Each student's participation will be evaluated after each session based on the quality of contributions and regular engagement in moving discussions and activities forward. Regularly attending class and being punctual will earn participation grades; however, these elements alone are considered below-average participation. Average participation grades are earned by engaging verbally in class discussions and being attentive to classmates during in-class activities. **Above-average participation grades** are earned through repeated involvement in class discussions, taking on leadership roles during class activities, resolving challenges with the subject matter among the class, or advancing the class's knowledge of the subject matter through outside-of-the-box thinking and questioning.

You will have 10 possible opportunities for participation (beginning from session 3). To account for unforeseen situations where students might have to miss sessions for unexpected events, your participation in this component will be based on your best 8 sessions. You will receive 2 interim updates on your participation grade during the term to let you know your progress. If you are going to miss class or be late for class,

you should inform your groupmates and CC me. If you have difficulty participating, please contact me, and we can formulate a joint plan for how to best engage in class discussions.

Individual Blogging

A second major individual component of your grade is weekly blogging. Blogging is an excellent way to find your "voice" and be attentive to your environment. Blogging encourages you to reflect on the class activities. You are expected to contribute 10 short blogs over the term (250 words or less), which will be posted on eClass and visible to your classmates. Each blog is due on **the Friday after class by 9 a.m.** (this leaves you slightly more than 3 days to write each blog). Due dates will be reflected on eClass.

Blogs will come in two forms—new, innovative ideas or feedback on classmate ideas. You are expected to contribute 5 new inputs throughout the term and 5 feedback blogs. An input can be a problem you perceive with a possible solution. You are free to choose when to write an input and when to offer feedback to classmates. When proposing an idea or commenting on your classmates' ideas, be **mindful and respectful**. We want to practice reflection on what we observe and perceive as well as a respectful way of exchanging ideas. The negative side of social networks must be left out of this classroom. As you treat your classmates respectfully during class, show the same respect when you write. This becomes more important when you disagree with a comment- it is a challenge.

Each weekly blog should be inspired by the subject matter and activities discussed during that week's session. For example, in session 3, we will discuss design thinking. You can choose to either (1) propose an idea inspired by our design thinking session that solves a problem you encounter daily or (2) provide feedback on a classmate's idea. To receive an above-average grade on a blog, you should (1) reflect your personal opinion and inner voice in the idea or feedback, (2) link your blog to the week's session, (3) be concise, and (4) consider the business model that supports your idea or feedback (be as realistic as possible).

Individual Problem Statement

The individual problem statement is worth 15% of your final grade. **The problem statement is due on October 7**th, **2024**, shortly after the conclusion of the problem definition module. Your task is to develop and refine a problem based on a <u>UN</u> <u>Sustainable Development Goals</u> (SDG) of your choosing. You are expected to be specific in understanding the problem you identify; therefore, it is highly recommended to scale down your chosen UN SDG to a local area (on the York campus or in the Greater Toronto Area).

Your grade will be determined using the following components: (1) your depth in understanding the background of the problem and the degree to which you can identify the problem at a local level (40%), (2) your ability to refine your problem into root causes <u>without</u> proposing a solution (40%), (3) your ability to articulate your thoughts with clear grammar and presentation (10%), and (4) your creative use of technologies or personal experiences to support your statement (10%).

Statements must fit on 1-page, using 12-point font and 1" margins—no exceptions. Exceeding the 1-page limit will result in a 10% grade penalty. In addition, handing in your problem statements after the due date will result in a 10% grade penalty for each day the assignment is late (i.e. problem statements that are two days late will be penalized 20%). Assignments are to be submitted to eClass.

Individual Business Model

The individual business model is worth 15% of your final grade and is due on November 11th, after covering the business model canvas and barriers to innovation. You will be tasked with completing a business model canvas (The Canvas is one page) based on your chosen UN SDG from your individual problem statement. You are permitted to modify your problem statement based on the feedback you received (You can resubmit your problem statement if it helps me to understand the business model canvas, but I will not regrade the statement). The objective of this assignment is to address your problem with a **viable and innovative solution rooted in a business model.**

Your grade will be determined using the following components: (1) a clear value proposition that offers an innovative solution to a clear problem for a specific group of people/customers (40%), (2) an ability to logically link partners, activities, resources, relationships, and channels (40%), (3) an ability to recognize major costs and revenues for your organization (10%), (4) and your ability to articulate your thoughts with clear grammar and presentation (10%).

Handing in your business models after the due date will result in a 10% grade penalty for each day that the assignment is late (i.e. business models that are two days late will be penalized 20%). Assignments are to be submitted on eClass.

Group Grade Components (40%)

This course puts great emphasis on group work as an essential component in the contemporary business world. The group grading components are worth 40% of your

final grade. Students are expected to form a group of approximately **5-6 members**, depending on the class size- <u>This is to be confirmed with me after registration is finalized</u>. Individuals may self-select their groups, with names of group members to be submitted to eClass no later than **September 23**rd (3rd class). Students who have not found a group by that point will be assigned to one. Once groups have been formed, switching group members will not be permitted (so choose wisely!). Please be advised that each group member is responsible for the overall group's performance and dynamics. I will not adjudicate group-related issues. You have several occasions to get

Group "How Might We" Statement (20%)

Group "How Might We" statements will be based on developing innovative ideas to sufficiently scaled problems rooted in a <u>UN Sustainable Development Goal</u>. Groups may choose the sustainable development goal of their choice on eClass by **September 23rd** (3rd class). Only 1 sustainable development goal will be assigned to a single group, so act quickly. You will not be permitted to change your selection after **September 23rd**. Your Group "How Might We" statement is October 21st, at the conclusion of the Idea Generation module and reading week. A "how might we" statement considers 2-3 leading proposals that may help you solve your problem.

You are expected to be specific in understanding the problem you identify; therefore, it is highly recommended to scale down your chosen UN SDG to a local area (on the York campus or in the Greater Toronto Area). The objective of this assignment is to expand your creative thinking.

Your grade will be determined using the following components: (1) clearly articulating your problem while specifically identifying root causes (10%), (2) identifying resources at your disposal and linking them to 2-3 innovative ideas solutions to your problem (35%), (3) demonstrating creativity in your leading ideas (35%), (4) articulating your thoughts with clear grammar and presentation (10%), and (5) using technologies or personal experiences creatively to support your statement (10%).

The report must fit on 1-page, using 12-point font and 1" margins—no exceptions. Exceeding the 1-page limit will result in a 10% grade penalty. In addition, handing in your statements after the due date will result in a 10% grade penalty for each day that the assignment is late (i.e. business models that are two days late will be penalized 20%). Assignments are to be submitted on eClass.

Group Presentation (20%)

Sessions 10 and 11 are designated for group presentations. The purpose of the group presentation is to help students develop their oral communication and presentation skills when articulating ideas. Presentations are expected to be **no longer than 15**

minutes (you will be cut off at the 15-minute mark). There is no required format for the presentations. Clarity and creativity are crucial. This is a creativity class!

Since your presentation is based on your chosen sustainable development goal (and associated virtual environment) from session 3, you will be expected to build on your group's "how might we" statement and develop a refined proposal that addresses your problem. Although submission of Business Model Canvas is not required, you are encouraged to develop one and bring it to class each week if you have any questions or want to have a second opinion.

Your grade will be determined using the following components: (1) convincingly articulating your problem as one that needs to be solved (20%), (2) articulating your proposed solution to the problem and how it solves the problem (30%), (3) convincing the audience that your solution is feasible given your resources and constraints (20%), and (4) presenting with clarity and creativity to captivate your audience (20%).

Use of Creative Tools

Each group will be trained on the use of virtual reality headsets and will have a headset reserved through the Media Creation Lab at the Scott Library. Headsets can be checked out for 1 week where each group will be *guided* with pre-selected virtual environments to explore; however, you are permitted to go beyond the guidance. One group member will be responsible for checking out a headset under the library's terms. Collectively, your team is expected to share the headset and explore the virtual environment. Virtual environments are meant to add inspiration to expand upon the possible ways in which a specific problem can be solved. The goal is not to identify a single solution but many possible solutions.

*Bonus: Groups that can incorporate the use of creative tools in each step of the group assignment (one or two) will be rewarded a maximum of 5 points for their group work (Not the use of MML as that would be reflected in the quality of the assignment). This can be using creative tools to scan the environment or develop a virtual prototype or storyline. If you have questions about how you can show your use of creative tools in your work, please talk to me. The reward is at my discretion.

Teamwork

Empirical evidence shows that a high level of group performance requires effective teamwork and input from individual group members. However, experience tells us that groups are subject to 'free riders.' Accordingly, your individual grade for this component will be partly based on peer evaluation. Individuals with average peer evaluations that are one standard deviation above the group's average peer evaluation will receive 3 additional grade points to the group grade I assign. In contrast,

individuals with average peer evaluations that fall one standard deviation below the group's average peer evaluation will receive a score that is 3 points lower than the group grade.

Each individual will complete an evaluation form, available on eClass, to provide evaluations of other group members. The evaluation will be based on five criteria:

- 1. Teamwork: Draws out the best from others
- 2. Initiative and dependability: Fulfills responsibilities on time
- 3. Quality of output: Oral and written components were of high quality
- 4. Contribution to knowledge and learning: Effectively understood, utilized, and demonstrated knowledge of course materials
- 5. Professionalism: Attended meetings on time, responded to emails/messages promptly, and respected other group members

Since peer evaluation significantly contributes to your individual grade, you should take it seriously. You are required to submit your evaluation **1 day after your group presentation** (by midnight). It is important to submit your evaluation on time as individual grades will be calculated two days after your presentation. Late submissions are not permitted. You will receive a 3-point penalty if you fail to submit your evaluation on time.

Guidance for the Presenting Groups

Your presentation can be as creative as you wish, but should cover the following areas:

- 1. Problem Definition
- 2. Idea Selection
- 3. Feasibility

Guidance for the Audience

To be a good audience, you need to listen to the presentation closely to understand the context. By doing so, you will find that you can learn a great deal from the presenting groups. You will be invited to ask any questions you may have during the question-and-answer portion (10 minutes after the group assessment). Your participation will be graded based on your involvement in the question-and-answer period and your ability to offer constructive feedback in online forums.

Use of Large Language Models (i.e. ChatGPT):

When you submit a document (not in class activities and blogging that are done directly on eClass), you are permitted and encouraged to use Large Language Models (e.g., ChatGPT). If you choose to use a large language model, you are also required to

submit an appendix of no more than 10 pages which should include (1) your chosen large language model and (2) screenshots of your prompts and responses received from your large language model. Do not simply copy and paste the text. You will be expected to creatively extend responses produced by the large-language model. If you use Large Language Models in part to complete these assignments but fail to acknowledge them, it can be evidence of academic fraud, depending on the content that is used. If you use it, acknowledge it.

Course Schedule: Weekly Readings and Activities

Session Dates	Session Topic	Readings & Preparation
Session 1	Introduction	Reading:
September 9 th	Course Expectations	Creativity & Innovation in Organizations
	What is Creativity?	Video:
	What is Innovation?	What is Creativity?
	Why are these important?	How is Creativity Linked to Innovation?
		Activity:
		Opening challenge!
		• Opening challenge:
Session 2	Technology in Practice Workshop (TIP)	
September	Media Creation Lab will support the assignment with a session outlining	
16 th	the use of virtual reality, exploration spaces and ideas, and application	
	of problem scoping and problem definition.	
	Activities:	
	Presentation from Media 0	Creation Lab
	Creative Arts	
	Module 1: Proble	em Definition
Session 3	Problem Exploration	Reading:
September	What's the Problem?	Harnessing Deliberate Creativity
23 rd		A Note on Design Thinking
	The Design Thinking	
	Approach	Video:
		How to Innovate: Intro to the Creative
		Problem-Solving Process
		Activities:
		Backpack Design

Session 4 January 30	Problem Refinement How do you refine a problem to something more specific?	Reading: The Most Underrated Skill in Management (YU Library)
	Business Model and Canvas	Video: Frameworks to Identify the Problem How to Develop Initial Problems How to Validate a Problem Statement Business model Canvas
		Activities:Team developed 5 whys exercisesTeam developed statement-restatement

Module 2: Idea Generation		
Session 5 October 7 th	"How Might We" Exploration The role of expertise and cognition in ideation Business Model Environment	Reading: To Innovate Better, Find Divergent Thinkers (YU Library) How to Kill Creativity (YU Library) Activities: Creating a Future through SDG
Session 7 October 21 st	Innovation Refinement What are you solving for? Theories of Innovation (Radical, Architectural, and Disruptive)	Reading: What is Disruptive Innovation? (YU Library) Video: What are the Different Types of Innovation Activities: • Brainstorming solutions to a predefined problem and applying a weighted matrix to select leading ideas (promotes independent criteria development to choose ideas)

February 19 –No Class (Reading Week)		
Module 3: Idea Selection		
Session 7 October 28 th	Problem Embodiment How do we know if we're solving a problem? Bricolage, and Effectuation in Innovation	Reading: What Makes Entrepreneurs Entrepreneurial? Video: How to Develop Solutions Activities: • Chopped
Session 8 Nov 4 th	Constraints in Innovation Refining & understanding resource and institutional barriers Diffusion of Innovation	Reading: Power Play (YU Library) Video: How to Overcome Barriers to Adoption How to Determine Desirability, Feasibility & Viability Activities: • Power mapping
Session 9 Nov 11 th	Proposal Matching What is a good creative idea? Solutions chasing problems	Reading: Ideas as Art (YU Library) The Adjacent Possible Video: How to Solve Problems Creatively First Pitch The secret structure of great talk Activities: • Pitching with 4H
Module 4: Proposals in Practice		
Session 10 Nov 18 th	Presentations	In-Person & Online Feedback

Session 11 Nov 25 th	Presentations	In-Person & Online Feedback
Session 12 Dec 2 nd	Creativity and Innovation in Practice Bringing it all together	

Using Zoom and Computing Resources (if necessary)

Students shall note the following:

- Zoom is hosted on servers in the United States and Canada. Recordings done since May 1, 2022 are stored in Canada. For more information, please refer to the notes on <u>Zoom Privacy and Security</u> provided by Information Security at York.
- If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session.
- The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. In other words, a session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.

Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources, and help:

- Student Guide to eClass
- Zoom@YorkU Best Practices
- Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide
- University Information Technology (UIT) Student Services
- Student Guide to eLearning at York University

To determine Internet connection and speed, there are online tests, such as Speedtest, that can be run. If you need technical assistance, please consult the University Information Technology (UIT) Student Services web page. For more specific assistance, please write to askit@yorku.ca.

Course Policies

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information:

- Student Rights & Responsibilities
- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Please also review the following course policies:

Academic Integrity

In this course, we strive to maintain academic honesty to the highest extent possible. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK's Academic Integrity module at the beginning of the course. Breaches of academic honesty range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another's work, the representation of another's ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate University authorities and can be punishable according to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.

Accessibility

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to achieve excellence, the University recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to perform at their best. The University encourages students with disabilities to register with Student Accessibility Services to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors through their Letter of Accommodation (LOA).

Please let your instructor know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course. Sufficient notice is needed so that reasonable steps for accommodation can be discussed. Accommodations for tests/exams normally require three (3) weeks (or 21 days) before the scheduled test/exam to arrange.

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community and making reasonable and appropriate <u>accommodations</u> <u>for adherents for observances of special significance</u>. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for course examinations, tests, or deadlines conflict with a date of religious significance, please contact the instructor within the first three (3) weeks of class. If the date falls within the formal examination periods, you must complete and submit a <u>Religious Accommodation for Examination Form</u> at least three (3) weeks before the start of the exam period.

Student Conduct in the Learning Environment

York University is committed to fostering teaching and learning environments that are free of disruptive and/or harassing behaviour, are physically safe, and conducive to effective teaching and learning. Students and instructors are expected to maintain a

professional relationship characterized by courtesy, civility, and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Individuals who fail to adhere to such standards and who violate University or public law may be subject to disciplinary action by the University.

For more information, see the policies on <u>Disruptive and/or Harassing Behaviour in Academic Situations</u>, the <u>Student Conduct and Responsibilities</u>, and the <u>Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities</u>.

Student Support and Resources

To help you succeed academically, York University offers a wide range of resources and services. Everything from writing workshops and peer mentorship to wellness support and career guidance is available to fulfill our LA&PS students' needs. Explore the links below to access these on-campus resources:

- Academic Advising is available to provide students support and guidance in making academic decisions and goals.
- <u>Student Accessibility Services</u> are available for support and accessibility accommodation when required.
- <u>Student Counselling, Health & Wellbeing</u> offers workshops, resources, and counselling to support your academic success.
- <u>Peer-Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) Program</u> provides student study sessions for students to collaborate and enhance their understanding of course content in certain courses.
- <u>Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele (SNACK)</u> supports students in courses involving math, stats, and Excel.
- <u>The Writing Centre</u> provides multiple avenues of writing-based support including drop-in sessions, one-to-one appointments, a Multilingual Studio, and an Accessibility Specialist.
- <u>ESL Open Learning Centre (OLC)</u> supports students with building proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking English.
- <u>Learning Skills Services</u> provides tips for time management, effective study and learning habits, keeping up with coursework, and other learning-related supports.
- <u>Learning Commons</u> provides links to supports for time management, writing, study skills, preparing for exams, and other learning-related resources.
- Roadmap to Student Success provides students with timely and targeted resources to help them achieve academic, personal, and professional success.

- Office of Student Community Relations (OSCR) is responsible for administering the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities and provides critical incident support.
- gosafe is staffed by York students and can accompany York community members to and from any on-campus location, such as the Village Shuttle pick-up hub, parking lots, bus stops, or residences.

For a full list of academic, wellness, and campus resources visit <u>Student Support & Resources</u>.