

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies
School of Administrative Studies
Fall 2025
AP/ADMS4900 3.0 A
Management Policy Part I

Term: Fall 2025

Day: Mondays and Thursdays

Time: 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Location: VH3009

Course Director: Prof. You-Ta Chuang

Email: ychuang@yorku.ca

Office Hours: by appointments

Start Date: Sept 8, 2025

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).

Note: the instructor reserves the right to change the course activities, the sequence of text materials, and the assignment of cases.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Management Policy course is designed to expose students to many facets of strategy that contribute to varied performances of firms. Strategy and policy identification, formulation, and evaluation are developed through lectures and case discussions. Emphasis is on the integration of Administrative Studies subject areas with which the student has previously become familiar; to provide a framework for the analysis of strategic problems of general management.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course examines the challenges of the strategic management process - identifying, formulating, evaluating and implementing viable business strategies. The emphasis is on issues that affect the success of the entire organization. As such, we will view the firm as a whole, but we will draw upon, and integrate into our analysis, your understanding of the various functional areas of business and the external factors.

To increase your competence in managing the strategic process, extensive use of the case study

method is employed. This allows us to practice business decision-making skills in simulated management roles. To maximize the learning experience, it is essential that all students be prepared to discuss the assigned cases. Thus, student participation is essential for the success of this course.

PREREQUISITES AND ENROLMENT POLICY:

Prerequisites: 78 credits including AP/ECON 1000 3.00; AP/ECON 1010 3.00 and AP/ADMS 2320 3.00 (or equivalent). Course credit exclusions: None. PRIOR TO FALL 2009: Prerequisites: 78 credits including AK/ECON 1000 3.00; AK/ECON 1010 3.00 and six credits in management science.

Students are personally responsible to ensure that they have the required prerequisites as stated in the course outline or in the course calendar. Students who do not have the prerequisites are at risk of being dropped from the course at any time during the course. The department will not be responsible for refunds resulting from students being dropped from a course due to a lack of the appropriate prerequisites.

Should students have any questions about enrolment policy, please contact the Office of Administrative Studies or Management Area assistant (Sandy Yang, yangs@yorku.ca). Instructors do not handle enrolment related issues. Due to the nature of the course, there is no permission for the late enrolment.

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

Hitt, Ireland, Hoskisson, and Harrison 2024, Strategic Management: Competitiveness & Globalization, 14th edition, Cengage.

Cases: Students are responsible for obtaining copies of cases. Cases can be purchased through the Ivey Publishing's website (www.iveypublishing.ca).

Recommended readings:

[Fortune](#); [Canadian Business](#); Harvard Business Review; Sloan Management Review; California Management Review; [Globe and Mail](#); [National Post](#).

COURSE EVALUATION

Midterm: 30%

Group Work: 30%

Final Exam: 20%

Class Participation: 20%

FORMAT OF THE COURSE

Each session is about three hours. Normally, there are assigned chapters and a case in each session. In the first half of the session, we will mainly focus on the assigned chapters and videos. You are required to read the assigned chapters, cases, and review the lecture slides before the class. In the second half of the session, we will focus on the cases and apply relevant theories to make sense of case situations.

MID-TERM EXAM

Time: Oct 25, 10am – 12pm

Location: TBA

The mid-term exam is weighted 30% of your final grade. The purpose is to examine your knowledge regarding the course materials and the instructor's lectures (Chapters 1-6, 7.1-7.4, 9.1-9.4). The detailed format will be announced in class.

For administration purposes, students who miss the original midterm are required to notify the instructor (by email) by Oct 25. Without such an email notification of the exam absence, you will receive a zero grade for the midterm exam. Finally, the weight of this component cannot be transferred to other grade components. Accordingly, students who have missed both original and make-up midterms will have to defer the midterm component to the midterm exam when the course is available again.

GROUP WORK

This course puts great emphasis on group work (30%) since group work is a contemporary work design in the real business world. Accordingly, students will be assigned to a group of approximate 5 members, depending upon the size of the class. Please be advised that each group member is responsible for the group process and dynamics. Instructor will be involved in group issues only if necessary. In addition, students are not allowed to switch groups after the groups have been finalized.

Sessions 9 to 11 are group presentations. Specifically, in each of these sessions, there will be two groups who perform group presentations and two groups who assess the presenting group's work. Each presenting group will be randomly assigned to be assessed by another group. In other words, there will be a pair – one group doing presentation and one group doing assessment. The structure of each presentation exercise is: a 25-minute group presentation, a 20-minute break, a 10-minute group critique, a 5-minute response, and a 15-minute Q&As from all students. Accordingly, there are two components of group work. The detailed instruction will be posted on eClass. Please note that the format is subject to change, depending on the size of the class.

Group presentation (25%): The purpose of the group presentation is to help students to develop case analysis and presentation skills. Therefore, all group members are required to do the presentation. Each group will be randomly assigned one of three cases. Each group will do the case analysis. On Sessions 9 - 11, each group will do a 25-minute presentation, followed by a 15-minute break (allowing the group who does critique to come up the assessment), a 10-minute group critique, a 5-minute response, and 15-minute Q&As where other students are invited to ask questions.

There is no required format for the presentations. Clarity and creativity are keys. As you are assigned to a case, your analysis should be **limited** to the case materials. No additional research is necessary nor recommended. By one day prior to your presentation, your group is **required** to give the instructor the outline of your presentation (no required format).

Empirical evidence shows that to achieve a high level of group performance requires effective teamwork and input from individual group members. However, past experience tells us that groups are subject to the issues of free riders if there are no mechanisms in place to motivate group members to contributing their knowledge and time. Accordingly, individual grade for this component will be based on peer evaluation. For members' peer evaluations are one standard

deviation above the average of the group's peer evaluation, the members will be rewarded additional 3 points. In contrast, for members' peer evaluations are one standard deviation below the average of the group's peer evaluation, the members' grades for this exercise will be the group grade subtracted 3 points.

As to peer evaluations, each individual member will fill up the evaluation form, available on course website, to provide his/her evaluations to other members. The evaluation, which is about the group presentation performance, will be based on five criteria:

1. Teamwork: contributing to group/firm performance, draws out the best from others, fosters activities moving the group/firm toward task completion, communicated and added value to group/firm tasks.
2. Initiative and dependability: fulfilling responsibilities on time and according to expectations of group or evaluator.
3. Quality of outputs: oral reports and written products were of high quality and organization.
4. Contribution to knowledge and learning: effectively understood, utilized, and demonstrated knowledge of course materials and added value to group/firm skill level.
5. Professionalism: attending meetings on time, responding to emails promptly, messages in a timely manner, being respectful to other members.

Below is an example of how your grade will be calculated. In a hypothetical scenario, a group consists of 4 members. Assuming the group receives 80 for its presentation and the result of peer evaluation is as follow.

	Teamwork	Initiative/depen dability	Quality of output	Knowledge and learning	Professionalism	Average
Member 1	4	4	4	4	4	4
Member 2	4	3	2	3	3	3
Member 3	3	2	2	1	2	2
Member 4	2	0	1	1	1	1

The average of the peer evaluation is 2.5 and standard deviation is about 1.3. In this scenario, both Members 2 and 3 will receive 80 as their individual grades. Member 1 will receive 83 because his/her peer evaluation is one standard deviation above the average ($4 > 2.5 + 1.3$). In contrast, Member 4 will receive 77 because his/her peer evaluation is one standard deviation below the average ($1 < 2.5 - 1.3$).

Since peer evaluation significantly contributes to your individual grades, you should take it seriously. Moreover, you are required to submit your evaluation **the day after your group presentation**. It is important to submit your evaluation on time because individual grades will be calculated two days after your presentation. Accordingly, no late submission is permitted. You will receive 5 points penalty if you fail to submit your evaluation on time.

Group critique (5%): The purpose of this exercise is to provide you with an opportunity to share the responsibility of class learning. Specifically, for each group presentation, there will be one group who is responsible to assess the ideas and quality of the work put forward by the presenting group. Each group will have up to 10 minutes to present your assessment. Groups are encouraged to develop their own assessment criteria. Importantly, your assessment should at least include a) positive aspects of the presentation (content and style), b) areas for improvement (content and style), and c) questions on the presentation content. The 5% will be evaluated based on the degree of constructive feedback provided by the group. Only group members who are present at the time when the group is asked to offer the assessment will get the credits. In other words, group members who do not show up in the class at that time will receive no credits for this component.

Words for the Presenting Groups

Your presentation can be as creative as you'd like to. In the presentation, you basically need to cover the following topics.

1. Issue identification (what are the issues)
2. Issue analysis (why those are issues)
3. Recommendations/Solutions
4. Implementation/Action

Words for Audience

To be a good audience, you need to listen to the presentation closely and read the case material in advance. 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 based on the presentation. Keep in mind that your questions need to be constructive and relevant to the presentation and course materials. Your participation in the Q&A questions is considered as your class participation (see below).

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class participation is weighted 20% of your final grade. As class participation is essential for learning processes, the outcome of remote learning truly depends upon your participation. **Class participation is not about attendance, but rather your contribution to class discussion.** Specifically, the course puts great emphasis on discussion of the course materials. Class participation is evaluated on a regular basis. The instructor will evaluate students' participation based on quantity and quality. Good quality of participation is one that can stimulate in-depth, meaningful discussion. On the other hand, a repetitive comment or simply summary of the materials would be considered as the modest participation. If students have any difficulty in participating in discussion, they should contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss how to help them to engage in the class discussion. There are two components of class participation: session participation (15%), and Q&A participation (5%). Both components are evaluated according to a 10-point scale.

Session participation (15%): This component is evaluated on a regular basis, including lecture and case discussion. There are 6 sessions (starting Session 2) in which students have opportunities to participate in class discussion. In each session, each student will get points according to his/her participation in both lecture and case discussions relative to the class average. To account for the potential errors in evaluating participation and consider the situation where students might have to miss sessions for unexpected events (e.g., illness), your participation in this component will be based on the highest 4 sessions.

Q&A participation (5%): You are required to participate in the Q&A sections in the weeks of group presentations (i.e., Sessions 9, 10, and 11). During the sessions, you are invited to ask constructive questions to the presenting groups. Similar to session participation, your performance is based on the quality of questions you ask relative to the class average.

FINAL EXAM

Final exam, 20%, will be a 3-hour exam. The exam is a case analysis in which students are required to apply ALL materials we discuss in the class to analyze the case and make recommendations.

GRADING

The grading scheme for this course conforms to the 9-point system used in undergraduate programs at York University. For a full description of the York grading system, visit the York University [Academic Calendar](#).

GRADE	GRADE POINT	PERCENT RANGE	DESCRIPTION
A+	9	90-100	Exceptional
A	8	80-89	Excellent
B+	7	75-79	Very Good
B	6	70-74	Good
C+	5	65-69	Competent
C	4	60-64	Fairly Competent
D+	3	55-59	Passing
D	2	50-54	Marginally Passing
E	1	(marginally below 50%)	Marginally Failing
F	0	(below 50%)	Failing

RELEVANT UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Please refer to the website (<https://sas.laps.yorku.ca/students/>).

COURSE OUTLINE

Session 1 Sept 8	Introduction Course outline review/Course Expectation/Administrative issues Chapter 1: Strategic Management and Strategic Competitiveness
Session 2 Sept 15	Chapter 2: The External Environment: Opportunities, threats, industry competition, and competitor analysis Case: TBA
Session 3 Sept 22	Chapter 3: The Internal Organization: Resources, capabilities, core competencies, and competitive advantage Case: TBA
Session 4 Sept 29	Chapter 4: Business-level Strategy Chapter 5: Competitive Rivalry and Competitive Dynamics Case: TBA
Session 5 Oct 6	Chapter 6: Corporate-level strategy Case: TBA
Session 6 Oct 20	Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisition Strategies and Restructuring Chapter 9: Cooperative Strategy Case: TBA
Session 7 Oct 25	Midterm Time: 10am – 12pm Location: TBA
Session 8 Nov 3	Chapter 11: Organizational Structure and Controls Group work
Session 9 Nov 10	Group Presentation
Session 10 Nov 17	Group Presentation
Session 11 Nov 24	Group Presentation
Session 12 Dec 1	Final exam Location: TBA