

**The University of Western Ontario
Management and Organizational Studies
MOS 3342A-650 Online
COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS MANAGEMENT
FALL 2008**

COURSE OUTLINE

FACULTY:

Instructor: Linda Eligh

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Campus Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 81098

Classroom: WebCt Environment

Office Location: SSC# 2248

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

I encourage you to drop by during office hours or to make an appointment for another time if the time listed above doesn't work well for you. Many students find it easier to meet their instructor in person when learning online so that they can establish a greater sense of connection with the course material and the learning environment. It can be particularly helpful to meet the instructor early in the course when engaging in your first online learning experience.

OBJECTIVES

This course provides a systematic examination of choices that confront managers in Canada who wish to manage compensation strategically. These choices are presented within a three-stage integrated decision-making framework designed to create truly strategic compensation and reward systems. The three stages are described as a Total Compensation Model that incorporates:

- Formation of strategic policies concerning internal alignment, external competitiveness, employee contributions and administration of the pay system.
- Selection of pay techniques that effectively link above noted policies to the attainment of compensation objectives through sequential decisions about internal structure, pay structure, incentive programs and various forms of evaluation.
- Attainment of strategic compensation objectives such as efficiency, fairness and legal compliance.

Throughout the course, the dynamic nature of compensation in Canada will be discussed within the context of current theory, research, international influences, current events, and practice (both new developments and established approaches to compensation systems). Numerous examples and case exercises will be introduced to illustrate how theoretical concepts of compensation are applied in practice.

TEXTBOOK

Milkovich, George T., Jerry M. Newman and Nina Cole. *Compensation*. Second Canadian Edition. McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2007. Additional readings may include assigned internet websites, readings placed on reserve at Weldon Library, or individual research for assignments.

<u>EVALUATION:</u>	Participation	20%	Mid Term	25%
	Research Assignment	30%	Final Exam	25%

ONLINE PARTICIPATION (20%)

During 11 of the 13 weeks which comprise the duration of this course, discussion topics and questions will be posted in the communications section of the course website. To participate, you will choose and respond to one question or exercise posted for the week. Participation in online discussion is an **essential component** of this course. You are expected to stay current with your readings (and the online materials), so that you can participate in online discussion. The minimum requirement for participation is to post comments online in *at least 8 different weeks* of the total course. Of the 8 required postings, at least 4 should appear *before the mid term* examination. In other words, waiting until the last half of the course to participate online will seriously impact your participation mark.

Your grade will be comprised of an equal weighting of the required minimum 8 participation attempts although you may post more than 8 times to ensure a good mark. Where more than 8 postings appear, *the best 8* postings will be selected to comprise your participation mark. Posting comments in online discussion is the equivalent of attending class and making a contribution to discussion, and is therefore subject to the Policy Regarding Illness (and other personal difficulties that prevent participation) stated in this course outline and to the General Information guidelines for students in Social Science.

To receive credit, discussion comments must be posted by Sunday midnight of the week the topic is discussed online. Comments posted after the deadline will not be assessed for participation credits. In most weeks, discussion questions relevant to the week's assigned reading will be posted by the instructor on **Mondays**. In addition, instructor feedback concerning the previous week's online discussion will be posted on Monday or Tuesday of each week. (Example: A student reads and responds to discussion questions during the week and decides to post on Friday, well under the Sunday night deadline. The student is then able to read instructor feedback for individual/group efforts by the following Monday or Tuesday.)

Online discussions, exercises or assignments will provide opportunities to clarify issues and considerations surrounding effective compensation strategies, techniques and processes. Your participation online will *contribute greatly* to understanding of course theory and your ability to do well with the written assignment outlined below and both exams. Look to the Policy Regarding Illness (described later in this course outline), and to the General Information guidelines which apply to students in the Social Science program (attached to this outline) for direction on how to handle a variety of problems that may interfere with your participation and performance in this course.

RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT (30%)

You are required to write a 10–12 page research and opinion paper on a topic described in the Guidelines for Research Assignment which will be posted on the course website early in the course. The Guidelines describe requirements, format and content expectations for your research assignment, as well as hints and suggestions to make the assignment as enjoyable as possible. See above note on the link between online participation and your ability to do well on the research assignment.

Deadlines and Penalties:

Abstract: An abstract outlining the course relevant topic for your research assignment is required and due by **November 3, 2008**. The abstract shall consist of 2 - 3 paragraphs identifying your research goal, source of inspiration, possible emerging trends, and at least 3 research sources located in your preliminary literature review. Your instructor will provide information on how to submit your abstract near the deadline.

Research Assignment: Your research assignment is due in hardcopy by 4 p.m. **Monday, November 24,**

2008. You are also required to submit a digital copy of your assignment to Turnitin.com by the same deadline. (Passwords and directions for doing so will be provided online near the deadline.)

Penalties: A penalty of 5% for the first day and 2% for each day thereafter (including each day of a weekend or holiday) shall apply to all late research assignments. Failure to submit an abstract in the format described above by deadline shall result in a deduction of 5% from the overall mark of your assignment.

MID TERM AND FINAL EXAM (25% each)

You will have both a midyear examination, and a final examination. Content for each exam is presented in the topic timetable. Both exams are equally weighted in determining your final grade. As indicated in the topic timetable these exams are non-cumulative. The mid-term and the final exam will be presented in a mixed format and may contain multiple-choice, true false, short answer, and essay questions. Note that essay questions may be based on a case incident provided with the exam. Additional details will be provided prior to the exam. Your exam results may be submitted to Scan Exam for scoring and assessment.

PREREQUISITES

Prerequisites for MOS 3342a: Enrolment in 3rd or 4th year of the BMOS program. You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis of appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course requisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the Add/Drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

3342A -650 ONLINE TOPIC TIMETABLE – FALL 2008

Schedule for coverage of textbook content is approximate; weekly discussions will include content on International Pay Systems found in the Appendix, and additional course content as provided by the instructor.

“First Class” Week of Sept. 8th	INTRODUCTION, COURSE OVERVIEW & EXPECTATIONS THE PAY MODEL	Chapter One
Week 1 Week of Sept. 15th	STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES	Chapter Two
PART I: INTERNAL ALIGNMENT: DETERMINING THE STRUCTURE		
Week 2 Week of Sept. 22nd	DEFINING INTERNAL ALIGNMENT	Chapter Three
Week 3 Week of Sept. 29th	JOB ANALYSIS	Chapter Four
Week 4 Week of Oct. 6th	EVALUATING WORK: JOB EVALUATION	Chapter Five
Week 5 Week of Oct. 13th	PERSON BASED STRUCTURES	Chapter Six
Week 6 Week of Oct. 20th	MID TERM – Covers Chapters 1 – 6 and relevant Appendix content assigned for reading, plus class handouts and additional lecture content as provided.	Mid Term Examination
PART II: EXTERNAL COMPETITIVENESS: DETERMINING THE PAY LEVEL		
Week 7 Week of Oct. 27th	DEFINING COMPETITIVENESS	Chapter Seven
Week 8 Week of Nov. 3rd	DESIGNING PAY LEVELS, MIX AND PAY STRUCTURES Research Topic Abstract due by beginning of class.	Chapter Eight
Week 9 Week of Nov. 10th	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	Chapter Nine
PART III: EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS: DETERMINING INDIVIDUAL PAY		
Week 10 Week of Nov. 17th	PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE: PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL AND PLAN DESIGN	Chapter Ten
Week 11 Week of Nov. 24th	PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PLANS Research reports due beginning of class	Chapter Eleven
PART IV: MANAGING THE SYSTEM		
Week 12 Week of Dec. 1 – 4th	THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND UNIONS IN COMPENSATION (Note: have postings in by December 4 th)	Chapter Twelve
Final Exam	FINAL EXAM – Covers Chapters 7 – 12 plus Appendix content assigned for reading, additional lecture content, and class handouts since the midterm. Exam period extends from December 6 – 17 th , 2008. Exact date of exam to be determined.	

Policy Regarding Illness

Students are entitled to a rescheduling of exams or an extension of deadlines for legitimate medical or compassionate reasons. However, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor prior to the due date, to arrange a timely makeup, and, if requested, to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. In the case of a final examination or assignment in the course, the student must arrange for a Special Examination or Incomplete through their Dean's office, for which you will be required to provide acceptable documentation.

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, you should contact the instructor and the Faculty Academic Counseling Office **as soon as possible**. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. In general, retroactive requests for grade revisions on medical or compassionate grounds will not be considered.

Policy on cheating & academic misconduct*

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences and are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere.

In writing scholarly papers, students must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar.) ***Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas or the resubmission of your own written words or ideas for a variety of assignments or to different instructors.*** Students must write their essays and assignment in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes and citations. If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate, consult the instructor. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" will not be accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students in this course (3342a/b) will be required to submit their written work in hard copy and electronic form to the instructor, as well as submitting the electronic form of the assignment directly to the plagiarism checking software.

Procedures for appealing academic evaluations

In the first instance, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor (informal consultation). If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal must be sent to the Director, The Aubrey Dan Program in Management and Organizational Studies. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, he/she may then appeal to the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean, may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office.

* For additional information, see the current Western Academic Calendar "Scholastic Offences"

STANDARDS FOR COURSE PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to participate in at least 8 online classes and to engage actively in their own learning. *Active learning means taking responsibility for your own learning, as well as helping others to learn more about course material.* Active learning in this course can include, but is not limited to: contributing to online discussion, presentations or debates, application exercises, posing interesting questions, and/or bringing relevant media articles or other exhibits to the attention of your instructor. Your instructor will assess your weekly participation, based on the quality of your postings and the following criteria for evaluation:

A – EXCELLENT contribution

- Participates in at least 8 weekly online discussions
- Contributes consistently to online discussions and supports contribution of colleagues
- Contributions indicate preparation and critical thinking
- Frequently shares insights and/or facilitates understanding of difficult concepts
- Occasionally builds arguments for a position
- Provides leadership in creating a positive online learning environment

B – GOOD Contribution

- Participates regularly and contributes consistently to online discussions
- Contributions indicate preparation and careful thought
- Often willing to address/explain challenging points or concepts
- Occasionally builds arguments for a position
- Supports a positive online learning environment

C – FAIR Contribution

- Participates occasionally in online discussion
- Provides minimal evidence of preparation and thought
- Rarely builds arguments for a position

D - POOR Contribution

- Contributes infrequently to online discussion
- Provides little or no evidence of preparation or thought

Participation is recorded by the instructor when reviewing weekly postings. Participation is assessed more fully at the conclusion of the course, when all postings and other participation have been reviewed. If you have a medical or other condition that prevents you from participating online regularly and actively (as described above), advise the instructor early in the semester. You will be required to provide confirmation of your situation from the Academic Counselor. See the Policy Regarding Illness and personal situations described in the Course Outline, as well as General Information for Students Registered in Social Science (regarding term tests, final examinations, late assignments, short absences, extended absences, documentation of various personal situations and academic concerns) also attached to the Course Outline.

GENERAL INFORMATION

If, on medical or compassionate grounds, you are unable to meet your academic responsibilities, i.e., unable to write term tests or final examinations or complete course work by the due date, you should follow the instructions listed below. You should understand that academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. You must demonstrate that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds that can be documented before academic accommodation will be considered. Read the instructions carefully. In all cases, action must be taken at the earliest possible opportunity, preferably prior to the scheduled examination, test or assignment.

1. Check the course outline to see if the instructor has a policy for missed tests, examinations, late assignments or attendance. The course outline should include the preferred method of contact (e-mail, phone, etc.).
2. Inform the instructor prior to the date of the scheduled time of the test or examination or due date of the assignment. If you are unable to contact the instructor, leave a message for him/her at the department office.
3. Bring your request for accommodation to the Social Science Academic Counselling Office, Room 2105, Social Science Centre, telephone 519 661-2011 or fax 519 661-3384. Be prepared to submit documentation of your difficulties.
4. If you decide to write a test or an examination you should be prepared to accept the mark you earn. Rewriting tests or examinations or having the value of the test or examination reweighted on a retroactive basis is not permitted.

TERM TESTS and MID-TERM EXAMS

1. If you are unable to write a term test, inform your instructor (preferably prior to the scheduled date of the test). If the instructor is not available, leave a message for him/her at the department office.
2. Be prepared, if requested by the instructor, to provide supporting documentation. Submit your documentation to the Social Science Academic Counselling Office.
3. Make arrangements with your professor to reschedule the test.
4. The Academic Counselling Office will contact your instructor to confirm your documentation.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

1. You require the permission of the Dean, the instructor, and the Chair of the department in question to write a special final examination.
2. If you are unable to write a final examination, contact the Social Science Academic Counselling Office in the first instance to request permission to write a special final examination and to obtain the necessary form. You must also contact your instructor at this time. If your instructor is not available, leave a message for him/her at the department office.
3. Be prepared to provide the Social Science Academic Counselling Office and your instructor with supporting documentation.
4. You must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the instructor and Department Chair and that the form is returned to the Social Science Academic Counselling Office for approval without delay.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

1. Advise the instructor if you are having problems completing the assignment on time (prior to the due date of the assignment).
2. Submit documentation to the Social Science Academic Counselling Office.
3. If you are granted an extension, establish a due date.
4. Extensions beyond the end of classes must have the consent of the instructor, the Department Chair and Dean. A Recommendation of Incomplete form must be filled out indicating the work to be completed and the date by which it is due. This form must be signed by the student, the instructor, the Department Chair, and the Dean's representative in the Academic Counselling Office.

SHORT ABSENCES

If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outlines for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate.

EXTENDED ABSENCES

If you are absent more than approximately two weeks or if you get too far behind to catch up, you should consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses. This must be done by the appropriate deadlines. (Refer to the Registrar's website for official dates.) The Social Science Academic Counsellors can help you to consider the alternatives. At your request, they can also keep your instructors informed of your difficulties.

DOCUMENTATION

- **Personal Illness:** If you consulted Student Health Services regarding your illness or personal problem, you should complete a Records Release Form at the time of your visit allowing them to notify Social Science Academic Counselling Office. Once your documentation has been assessed, the academic counsellor will inform your instructor that academic accommodation is warranted.
- If you were seen by an off-campus doctor, obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of your visit. The doctor must provide verification of the severity of the illness for the period in question. Notes stating "For Medical Reasons" are not considered sufficient.
- **In Case of Serious Illness of a Family Member:** Obtain a medical certificate from the family member's physician.
- **In Case of a Death:** Obtain a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director.
- **For Other Extenuating Circumstances:** If you are not sure what documentation to provide, ask an Academic Counsellor.

Note: Forged notes and certificates will be dealt with severely. To submit a forged document is a scholastic offense and you will be subject to academic sanctions.

ACADEMIC CONCERNS

- You need to know if your instructor has a policy on late penalties, missed tests, etc. This information may be included on the course outline. If not, ask your instructor.
- You should also be aware of attendance requirements in courses such as Business and English. You can be debarred from writing the final examination if your attendance is not satisfactory.
- If you are in academic difficulty, check the minimum requirements for progression in your program. If in doubt, see your Academic Counsellor.
- If you are registered in Social Science courses but registered in another faculty (e.g., Arts or Science), you should immediately consult the Academic Counselling Office in your home faculty for instructions.