

Syllabus for MSMGT 792 Capstone

Course Description

The capstone course promotes a synthesis and integration of learning gained from the courses in the MS Sustainability Management program. It also is designed to provide an opportunity to apply that learning in a professional context. As such, you will implement the area of investigation designed in the MSMGT 790 Capstone Preparation Course relevant to your current professional needs and interests under the guidance of a faculty member. The capstone project is not to be merely a lengthy term paper. Instead, it should be a synthesis—a combining of separate elements to form a coherent whole. Research is, to be sure, an indispensable part of the project; but you will be expected in addition to construct arguments and to analyze and synthesize your research in order to justify your conclusions. In other words, research is more than gathering raw data. What is most important is the synthesis of this data into a meaningful whole, which, if done properly, will be greater than the sum of its parts.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Apply a holistic sustainability perspective to an organization-specific problem.
- Evaluate and utilize academic literature within an applied context.
- Conduct an applied research project to address the previously identified problem in an organization.
- Present the results in a written and oral format that enables future action by the specific firm(s) involved in the project and meets the quality expected for a master's level project.

Course Materials

Information on course materials can be found in the [textbook section](#) of the SMGT website or in the [online bookstore](#).

Course Requirements

Updates

A one-page biweekly summary of the project status is required. The purpose of these email updates is a project update, consult or other questions that you may have or the instructor may have. The instructor reserves the right to grade students differently based on their level of promptness and quality of their updates.

Capstone Project

The capstone project requires a substantial research paper summarizing the completed activities. This paper has no maximum number of pages, should be double-spaced, in 12-point Times Roman. Follow standard rules of citing per MMA. There should be a cover sheet, subsections, and a bibliography included. Tables, photos, and charts should be in proper format and have a title. A minimum estimate would be 35 pages, not including appendices. You will be assessed on the following general criteria:

Applicability and Completion of Project: In this case it is important that you have gained the technical and business knowledge to produce either a plan or proposal applicable to the situation posed. This may be proven through completion of the MSMGT 790 Capstone Preparation course and utilizing techniques presented in the MSMGT 720 Research course. A minimum of two SMGT professors will be reading your final project, the lead professor and one other.

Quality of Writing: This is fundamental to communicating in any business as well as in an academic program. Please follow the MMA manual guidelines.

Clarity and Succinctness of Thought: This can be a challenge. This does not mean write what you want to say in as few words as possible. Rather, what will be sought after is that you provide clear ideas, reasons for the ideas, and any primary or secondary support or analysis for your ideas in a clear and understandable manner. Quantity does not mean quality in this case.

Proof of Your Ability to Think Critically: This will be evidenced through the development of your project and through participation. Demonstrate a good understanding of the SMGT course material throughout the program by utilizing applicable concepts and discussing them in the final paper.

Quality of Your Analysis, Ideas, and Positions: How much better do we understand the subject you are critiquing or writing about? How well supported are your ideas? Did you adequately research your topic and conduct the due diligence necessary for a comprehensive plan or proposal? Do you gain any insights or understanding? Do you add knowledge to the area of study through your own research and experiences? Does the evidence and support you give adequately provide reasoning for your ideas and conclusions? Note: When taking positions, it is important to have those positions supported through research/experts and scholarly writings, and of course cited appropriately.

Presentation of Results: This assignment requires you to present your research in a video and Powerpoint format. Instructions for how to do this are posted in the content section of the course.

Late Assignment Submission

Late submission of either the written project paper or presentation is discouraged unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Student Time Commitment

For each course credit, students are expected to spend a minimum of 3 hours per week on course work. Therefore, for a three-credit course, at least 9 hours per week are expected. This is a general guideline for a traditional class. The Capstone project may require a larger time commitment due to research activities.

Grading Policy

Assignment	Points
Updates	50
Written Project	350
Project Presentation	100
Total Points	500

Grade	Percentage Range
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	<60%