

Course Syllabus and Schedule

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Office Hours: Thursday 4:30-6:00pm and by appointment

Required Text: Aaker, Kumar and Day (AKD), Marketing Research (9th Ed., 2007)
Wiley (ISBN: 978-0-470-05076-7)

Required Bulkpack: Please obtain. There are cases and assigned readings.

Software: Required: SPSS
available in computer labs and at <http://www.e-academy.com/>

Website: WebCafé

Additional materials and announcements will be posted via Webcafé.

Overview and objectives

This course provides you with the skills and tools needed to understand and evaluate marketing research. Marketing research involves developing research questions, collecting data, analyzing it and drawing inference, with a view to making better marketing decisions. To this end, the course is organized into two basic parts: (1) Data Collection and Research Design, and (2) Tools and Applications of Market Research.

Marketing research is vital in the assessment of new business opportunities, go/no-go decisions for new products, pricing and product design issues, among other business issues. This is a hands-on course likely to be of use to anyone pursuing a career in entrepreneurial ventures, management consulting, venture capital, as well as more traditional marketing and management roles.

Course materials and Approach

In this course we will use a variety of readings, cases and computer-based exercises. The course bulk-pack contains selected cases and the most important readings that are required for the course. Additional material will be distributed as needed. The readings are designed to introduce marketing research concepts and principles. Cases will allow us to examine, in detail, the application of particular marketing research approach and techniques. The textbook will serve as background and general readings that will allow you to better understand the material discussed in class.

The computer and data-based exercises are designed to give you "hand-on" experience with marketing research analyses. Thus, the course is designed to help you become an intelligent consumer and producer of marketing research.

Course Software

Statistical analyses in lecture will be demonstrated using the SPSS statistical software package. SPSS is a menu and command driven statistical analysis package and is widely used in the industry and is integrated into the textbook. You are not required to do your assignments in SPSS; however, I can't promise you quality (technical) support if you use other software.

Assessment

Your final grade in the course depends on the following components.

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|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Class Participation | 10% |
| 2. Two Small Assignments | 20% |
| 3. Group Project Assignment | 30% |
| 4. Quiz I | 15% |
| 5. Quiz II | 25% |

The due dates for the assignments are listed on the course schedule. Dates are not negotiable. Failure to meet due dates will result in grade penalties of at least 30%. A more detailed outline of the evaluation procedure and requirements is included at the end of this document.

Schedule of Class Meetings

The following lists each of the class sessions, the expected topics and the bulk-pack readings (BP) you are required to do. The class schedule also includes the deadlines for each of the assignments to be handed in.

In most instances I will not lecture from the textbook, but will assume that you have read the relevant material prior to coming to class. Nevertheless, we will discuss issues related to textbook material during the class and there will be opportunities for clarification.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Session #	Topic, Readings, Cases, Assignments	AKD
W. Jan. 12	1	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Marketing Research" (BP) • "Note on Market Research" (BP) 	Ch. 1,3
W. Jan.19	2	Research Design Secondary Sources of Marketing Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Backward Market Research" (BP) 	Ch. 4-6
M. Jan.24	3	Primary Data Collection Exploratory Research Case: Boston Fight Drugs (A) (BP)	Ch. 8,9
W. Jan.26	4	Primary Data Collection Causal Research Due: List of Group Members	Ch. 13
M. Jan.31	5	Primary Data Collection Descriptive Research Due: One-page problem definition	Ch. 10,12
W. Feb.2	6	Questionnaire Design, Measurement and Sampling	Ch. 11,14,15
M. Feb.7	7	Hypothesis Testing	Ch. 17,18
W. Feb.9	8	Guest Speaker	
M. Feb.14	9	Correlation and Regression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Forecasting with Regression Analysis" (BP) • "Four Steps to Forecasting Total Market Demand" Case: Colonial Broadcasting Co. (A) (BP)	Ch. 19
W. Feb.16	10	Application/Guest speaker Due: Survey design	
M. Feb.21	11	Logistic Regression	

Date	Session #	Topic, Readings, Cases, Assignments	AKD
W. Feb.23	12	Conjoint I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "New Ways to Measure Consumers' Judgments" (BP) • "Conjoint Analysis: A Manager's Guide" (BP) Due: Small Assignment #1	Ch. 22
M. Feb.28	13	Conjoint II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A Practical Guide to Conjoint Analysis" (BP) 	
W. Mar.2	14	In class Quiz I	
M. Mar.14	15	Cluster analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Cluster analysis for segmentation" (BP) 	Ch. 21
W. Mar.16	16	Factor Analysis I	Ch. 21
M. Mar.21	17	Factor Analysis II	
W. Mar.23	18	Project Review	
M. Mar.28	19	Guest Speaker	
W. Mar.30	20	Perceptual Map <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Analyzing Consumer Perceptions" (BP) • "Perceptual Mapping: A Manager's Guide" (BP) Due: Small Assignment #2	Ch. 22
M. Apr.4	21	Guest Speaker	
W. Apr.6	22	Course Review	
M. Apr. 11	23	Projects Presentations	
W. Apr. 13	24	Projects Presentations (Cont.)	
M. Apr. 18	25	In class Quiz II	
W. Apr. 20	26	Marketing Research Special Topics	
M. Apr. 25	27	Turn in Project reports (No Class!)	

Assessment Details

1. Class Participation (10%)

Your class participation score is based on both attendance and active participation in class discussion. Please bring your name card to each class.

Every session of the course will involve interaction in the form of class discussion. I expect each class member to be prepared at all times to comment in any class session. To reinforce this expectation, I will at times “cold call” throughout the ensuing discussion.

Some class sessions in this course follow a case discussion format. The assigned cases are intended to give you practice in assembling data to support a decision. Further, the case method provides a vehicle by which to apply the theories, concepts, and analytical techniques discussed in a class or in the reading materials. Finally, the discussion forum provides an opportunity to argue your position and to learn from others by listening to their comments and criticisms.

Keep in mind that your grade for class participation is not simply a function of the amount of “air time” you take up. In general, I will evaluate you on how well you respond to questions and on how effectively you take into account the comments and analyses of your classmates. In order to obtain a grade for class participation you must attend the class sessions and contribute meaningfully.

If you must miss a class, please email me in advance (qshen@wharton.upenn.edu). Each student is allowed 3 absences which are inclusive of all rationales such as illness, travel and interviews. Additional absence results in loss in class participation score. A student missing more than 30% of classes will receive zero class participation grade.

2. Small Exercises (Group) (20%)

The purpose of these exercises is to give you “hand-on” experience with data analyses. These assignments will help clarify the concepts and techniques discussed in the classroom. The due dates are given in the class schedule.

Please note that:

- All assignments are due as **hard-copy in class**.
- Failure to meet due dates will result in grade penalties of 30% per day.

3. Group Project (30%)

The group project will give you an opportunity to design and conduct a **full-fledged** marketing research project in an area of your own choice. Since the research project will involve a considerable amount of time and effort, it is vitally important that you work on a project that you find interesting. Group size should be **five-six**. I expect class members to select their own project

groups and to be responsible for managing the division of labor within the group. Please email me the names of the persons in your group (one email per group) by **Wednesday, January 26th, 2010**.

You may select any real business problem provided that it is relevant for marketing and requires gathering of primary information. Examples include forecasting the potential demand of new product, measuring consumer attitudes and demand for an existing or new set of product offerings, analyzing the competitive set of an existing product, or assessing the likely effect of a change in price on revenues for a mature product. In the one-page problem definition, you should clearly identify the marketing problem you are working on and translate this problem into a set of sharply posed and answerable research questions and design.

Presenting research results convincingly to an audience is, in my opinion, a critical task. The last two sessions will give you such an opportunity. Each group will be asked to make an **in-class final project presentation** in these sessions. The other members of the class are expected to participate and act as the client. I will let you know the sequence of the presentations prior to April. The final written report should be no longer than twenty double-spaced pages in total (excluding exhibits and other attachments) and should follow proper report format. The final report is due on April 25th.

4. Quizzes (Individual) (15%+25%)

Each quiz is closed-book. You may bring (only) a two-sided sheet of paper with notes and a calculator to the quizzes. Students should afford the entire 80-minutes class period to complete a quiz. An unauthorized absence from a quiz will result in a grade of zero. There is no final exam in the regularly scheduled final exam period.

Group Project Self-Evaluation Form

The purpose of this evaluation form is to communicate the contribution of each individual in the group. Do this by allocating points among group members: give more points to individuals who did more work or for some reason deserve more credit; give fewer points to individuals who did less work or for some reason deserve less credit. The total points available for the entire group **including you** are 100. Therefore, if there are five members in your group, and if you feel that each member did their fair share of the work, then give 20 points to each member. If you give one or more members more than 20 points, then one or more other members must receive less than 20 points. I will consider confidentially all of the evaluations turned in by the group and any other relevant information that emerges during the term in assigning points for the Individual Effort component of the project. (Of course, you may as a group decide jointly how you will make the point allocations, if you so desire.)

Project Title:

	Group Member	Points
Your Name:	_____	_____
Other Members:	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

Comments (if any):
