MKTG 227-727: Digital Marketing and Electronic Commerce  
Wharton | Philadelphia

**Time:** Tue/Thurs 1:30-2:50pm and 3:00-4:20pm  
**Instructor:** David R. Bell  
**TAs:** Richard Lou and Andrea Cabarcos  
**Contact:** davidb@wharton.upenn.edu  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday mornings and afternoons or by appointment  
**Prerequisites:** MKTG 611 and MKTG 612 or consent of instructor  
**Course site:** Canvas  
**Optional Book:** *Location is (Still) Everything: The Surprising Influence of the Real World on How We Search, Shop, and Sell in the Virtual One* (Boston, New York: New Harvest, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014)

**DESCRIPTION**

The effect of the Internet and related technologies on business and social institutions is more profound than that of any prior invention, including the printing press and the internal combustion engine. Furthermore, marketing is critical to the success of firms that will shape the consumption-led economies that are fueled by these technologies. MKTG 727 provides a research-based and framework-driven approach to succeeding in this environment, through a rigorous approach to understanding digital marketing and electronic commerce.

The course is organized into two sections and utilizes relevant theory, empirical analysis, and practical examples, to develop the key learning points. Guests from the entrepreneur and investor communities participate as well, as appropriate (details below). Part I presents the behavioral foundations for understanding commerce and emerging business models, and covers the relevant phenomena and theory from economics, marketing, and related fields. Part II focuses on the principles and mechanics of digital marketing tools and tactics, and also briefly covers social commerce and new media.

**OBJECTIVE**

We emphasize fundamental concepts over trends and fads and the main goal of the course is to help participants understand and critique customer behavior and businesses from several perspectives—as analysts, consumers, entrepreneurs, and investors. An ancillary goal is to establish the importance of theory and empirical analysis as key facilitators of this process.
VALUE PROPOSITION

Course participants will have a solid foundation from which to: (1) evaluate opportunities in the digital and e-commerce ecosystem, and (2) develop their own ventures.

ASSESSMENT

- Attendance and Participation: 20%
- Group Assignment, details TBA 30%
- Final Exam: 50%

SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Thu 19</td>
<td>Introduction to “Digital Marketing, Social Media, and e-Commerce”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Tue 24</td>
<td>Marketing Assets in the Digital Economy</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Thu 26</td>
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<td>Guest: Lawrence Lenihan Co-CEO of Resonance</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tue 31</td>
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<td>Internet GRAVITY and Frictionless Commerce</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Thu 02</td>
<td>Classic Case: “Webvan” (Internet Economics)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Tue 07</td>
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<td>Contemporary Case: “Warby Parker” (Digitally Native Vertical Brands / Margin Disruption)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Thu 09</td>
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<td>Guest: Stephen Kuhl Founder and CEO of Burrow</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Tue 14</td>
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<td>Guests: Patrick Duffy and Boyd Renner, Founders Endeavor Life Sciences</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Thu 16</td>
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<td>Offline-Offline Substitution and the Long Tail, Networks and Neighborhoods</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tue 21</td>
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<td>Work on A1: Watch investors Aileen Lee, Kirsten Green, and Eurie Kim (in that order) located on the Recordings page of the Canvas site</td>
<td>No in-class session</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Tue 28</td>
<td>Reputation and Reviews plus Online Advertising and Marketing Optimization: Optimal Bidding on Keywords</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Thu 30</td>
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<td>Guests: Pete Borum and Ben Williams Reelio</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>Tue 05</td>
<td>Earned and Social Media, Social Advertising, Mobile</td>
<td>A1 Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Thu 07</td>
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<td>Diffusion Over Networks: Viral Features of Products, New Media, and Course Summary</td>
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VIRTUAL GUESTS (Available via Spike for the Group Assignment)

- **Kirsten Green.** Kirsten is the Founder of [Forerunner Ventures](#), a premier brand-building commerce VC based in San Francisco. Kirsten and her team have a unique investment thesis, “who’s who” portfolio, some high profile recent exits ([Dollar Shave Club](#) ($1b); [Jet](#) ($3b)).

- **Eurie Kim.** Eurie is a graduate of the Wharton School (WG ’09) and partner at [Forerunner Ventures](#) (see above) and spoke to our class in San Francisco on 11/02/2016.

- **Aileen Lee.** Aileen is Founder Partner at [Cowboy Ventures](#), an early stage venture fund, and formerly a partner at [Kleiner Perkins Caufield Bowers](#). A successful investor and operator, Aileen also introduced the “unicorn” idea into the vernacular with her influential article [Welcome to the Unicorn Club](#).

VIRTUAL GUESTS (Available via Canvas for viewing only, no assignment)

- **Rob Coneybeer.** Rob is a Wharton graduate and partner at [Shasta Ventures](#) where he focuses on mobile and connected hardware.

- **Philip Winter.** Philip graduated from Penn in 2012 and founded [Nebia](#). The first product is a shower that uses 70% less water than conventional showers. Notable investors include Tim Cook and Eric Schmidt.

IN CLASS GUESTS

- **Lawrence Lenihan** is the co-founder and co-CEO of [Resonance](#), an early stage fashion-oriented venture studio. Previously, he founded [Firstmark Capital](#).

- **Stephen Kuhl.** Stephen (WG ’17) is the founder and CEO of [Burrow](#) an online-first furniture brand based in New York City.

- **Pete Borum and Ben Williams.** Pete and Ben (both WG ’13) are founders at [Reelio](#), an influencer marketing business based in New York City.

- **Patrick Duffy and Boyd Renner.** Partick and Boyd, along with their team of with former Navy SEALS are world renowned tattoo artists will discuss the digital go-to-market strategy for a “new to the world” and about to launch DNA micro-encapsulation product. The product allows individuals to connect to the people, places, and experiences that bring meaning to their lives.
CASES AND ACADEMIC (REFERENCE) READINGS (On Study.Net)

Cases

Academic Readings
DETAILED READING SCHEDULE*

Session 1 Introduction (10/19)
Session 2 Marketing Assets in the Digital Economy (10/19)
Session 3 Lawrence Lenihan (10/26)
  - **Skim** / Read according to your interest, articles on Business of Fashion and elsewhere written by Lawrence Lenihan.
Session 4 Internet GRAVITY and Frictionless Commerce (10/31)
Session 5 Webvan (11/02)
Session 6 Warby Parker (11/07)
Session Stephen Kuhl, Burrow (11/09)
Session 8 Patrick Duffy and Boyd Renner, Endeavor Life Sciences (11/14)
Session 9 Online-Offline Substitution and The Long Tail Networks and Neighborhoods (11/16)

**Session 10 “Unicorns” Assignment A1 (No In-Class Session)**
  - **Read** Aileen Lee’s original TechCrunch article “Welcome to the Unicorn Club,” and begin watching Aileen, Eurie, and Kirsten on Spike (all three videos).
THANKSGIVING BREAK

Session 11 Marketing Optimization: Optimal Bidding on Keywords, plus Reputation and Reviews and Online Advertising (11/28)


Session 12 Pete Borum and Ben Williams (11/30)

- **Skim / Read** according to your interest, articles on Influencer Marketing and familiarize yourself with Reelio

Session 13 Earned and Social Media, Social Advertising, Mobile (12/05)


Session 14 Diffusion Over Networks: Viral Features of Products (12/07)

- **No Reading!**

* YellowDig serves as a “living library” of content to which we all contribute. Please do allocate some time at the beginning of each week to skim through the content posted there.