

*The University of Pennsylvania  
The Wharton School  
Operations, Information and Decisions Department*

**OIDD 1010: An Introduction to Operations, Information And Decisions**

**Spring 2025 Course Syllabus**

*Last updated: December 5, 2024*

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*All office hours are by appointment.*

**Canvas** TBD

**Lectures** Sec 001, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30am-10:00am, DNHL 112  
Sec 002, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:15am-11:45am, DNHL 112  
Sec 003, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:45pm-3:15pm, DNHL 112  
Sec 004, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30pm-5:00pm, DNHL 112  
Sec 005, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30am-10:00am, ARB 240  
Sec 006, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:15am-11:45am, ARB 240  
Sec 007, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:45pm-3:15pm, ARB 240  
Sec 008, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30pm-5:00pm, ARB 240

**Exam 1** Wednesday, March 5, 7:00pm-9:00pm, Location TBD. [Make-up March 19.]

**Exam 2** TBD [To be assigned by the University registrar by sometime in March.]

**PhD TAs** Borja Apaolaza Empananza, [apaolaza@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:apaolaza@wharton.upenn.edu)  
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**UG TAs** TBD

**Mentoring Sessions:** TBD

**TA Office Hours:** TBD

## Course Description

In this course, we explore a variety of common quantitative modeling problems that arise frequently in business settings and discuss how they can be formally modeled and solved with a combination of business insight and computer-based tools. The key topics we cover include capacity management, service operations, inventory control, structured decision making, constrained optimization, and simulation. Through this course, you will learn to model complex business situations, and you will master tools to improve business performance. The goal is to provide you a set of foundational skills useful for future coursework at Wharton, as well as provide an overview of problems and techniques that characterize disciplines covered in the Operations, Information and Decisions Department.

The course assumes no specific background beyond basic mathematics skills. Familiarity with the basic operations of Excel is helpful, but not required—we will provide tutorials for the needed Excel skills. Furthermore, no prior experience with programming or statistics is expected.

## Course Format

Course sessions iterate between a lecture and a recitation format. The lecture is designed to introduce concepts. The recitation reinforces the concepts through recitation exercises that provide hands-on practice and are graded. During the recitation sessions, we will work through calculations introduced in the lecture, and then you will complete a “recitation exercise” that is graded. To promote learning, you are free to ask questions regarding the exercise while working on it.

### *Electronics:*

To encourage learning, electronic devices (e.g., mobile devices, laptops) during lectures are not allowed unless explicitly directed by the instructor. Electronic devices may be used during the time in which you are working on recitation exercises.

### *Mentoring:*

There are weekly mentoring sessions. During the mentoring session, the mentor (an experienced undergraduate student) will work through several practice problems related to the week’s lecture materials. Mentoring sessions are intended to supplement rather than replace attending course sessions. Mentoring is optional. The mentoring problems/slides will be posted on Canvas after all mentoring sessions are completed so that they are available to all students in the course. The schedule of mentoring sessions will be posted on Canvas.

### *TA support:*

The course has several Teaching Assistants (TA) to help you with any aspect of the course. The schedule of TA office hours will be posted on Canvas.

## Course Materials

### *Textbook:*

We have a custom textbook for this course that is available as a printed book for \$60 or as an e-book for \$45. The book covers the material in the class. As the lectures/slides also cover the course material, the book is not strictly required. However, it is a useful resource to provide additional support, reference reading, and practice problems.

The print version is only available at the Penn Bookstore entitled: OIDD 1010: Introduction to Operations, Information & Decisions, ISBN #: 9798219039003.

The e-book version is available: <https://www.mheducation.com/highered/bookstore>. Enter the ISBN "9798219038990" where it says "Search Here for new materials". You can pay via credit card, and you will need to create an account. If you encounter any issues purchasing the eBook, technical assistance is available at McGraw-Hill support line: 1-800-331-5094, press 2, press 2 (Create), press 1.

### *Online:*

Canvas is a web-based application that houses online materials for enrolled students across Wharton. You can access our course by logging into our Canvas page listed at the front of this syllabus.

The course Canvas site will be the definitive source for all assignments and deadlines. You will not have access to Canvas until you officially register for the course.

### *Slides:*

All slides will be posted on Canvas before they are used in class.

### *Software:*

In this course we use Excel, and in particular two Excel add-ins: Solver and Crystal Ball. All software required for the course is available through the Wharton computing labs in Huntsman Hall.

If you are a non-Wharton student and want to use the software in the computing labs then you will need to create (if you haven't already done so) a "Wharton Class Account" that links to your PennKey account. It takes about 15 minutes for a Wharton Class account to sync with a user's PennKey account. Go to this link for details:

<https://apps.wharton.upenn.edu/accounts/class.cfm>

## Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the principles of the University's Code of Academic Integrity.

The following actions are a subsample of some of the ethical violations specific to this course:

- Informing students of the content of a recitation exercise before the student has attended their recitation.
- Completing any portion of a recitation exercise that is not your own.
- Broadcasting or disseminating or discussing in any manner or form solutions to graded content without actual collaboration. Put more simply, if you are sharing solutions with other students who may merely be copying your solutions, then that is an ethical violation. As discussed later, you are allowed to collaborate with other students as long as you are all making a good faith effort to do the work individually. You cannot and should not violate the spirit of this privilege.
- Falsely or inaccurately claiming activity on assignments or recitation exercises or other graded content. You should be aware that Canvas tracks ALL of your on-line activity, including each time you have logged on, each click you have made, each assignment/quiz you have opened, etc. Therefore, do not claim that you logged into an assignment and submitted it before the due date when in fact you did not because it is clear in Canvas that you did not.
- Completing the attendance survey if you did not attend the lecture.
- Using materials or aides outside of what is allowed in the course.

## Allowable materials and aides

You may use all of the materials available on the Course Canvas and textbooks in this course. You may use your notes from lectures and recitations. You may use designated software (e.g., Excel, Solver, Crystal Ball). You may seek the assistance of the professors, mentors, and TAs for this course. You may collaborate with other students registered for this course this semester on assignments, recitation exercises, and studying.

You may not use materials, aides, or software outside of the scope of the course from this semester. For example, you may not use materials from previous semesters. You may not seek the assistance from individuals not explicitly designated as part of this class. You may not use AI-based software tools.

## Deliverables and Grades

Partial credit is not given on recitation exercises, assignments, or exams. The following weights apply to determine your final score % in the course:

Attendance & participation	.10
Recitation exercises	.10
Assignments	.20
Exam 1	.30
Exam 2	.30

A letter grade is evaluated based on your class rank percentile:

Course Grade	Class Rank Percentile
A+	(90% - 100]
A	(70% - 90%]
A-	(30 % - 70 %]
B+	(7% - 30%]
B	(2% - 7%]
B- or lower	(0% - 2%]

### *Attendance & Participation:*

We will use aPlus+ Attendance to take attendance in each class session. You receive 1 point for checking in and 0 otherwise. There are 26 class sessions, but only the highest 22 scores are considered (i.e., you can miss 4 sessions during the semester without consequence). To state the obvious, it is an ethics violation if you check in without actually attending the session. Furthermore, if you check in, you are expected to remain throughout the session.

We expect everyone attending class to do so in a respectful manner that enables all students to learn effectively. Participation grades are based on adherence to beneficial conduct in class as well as attendance.

### *Recitation Exercises:*

There are 13 recitation exercises (R0-R12), which are completed in class. Your score on each recitation is 10 minus the number of incorrect responses. For example, suppose there are 9 questions on the recitation exercise and you answer 2 incorrectly. In that case, your score is 8 even though Canvas will report your score as "7". We are aware of this and will adjust your score properly before calculating your grade. Recitation exercises are submitted via Canvas and are due at 11:00 p.m. ET on the day of the recitation. Late submissions receive zero credit. We drop the lowest two recitation scores before computing your final recitation score.

### *Assignments:*

You are required to complete twelve graded assignments during this course. The questions on these assignments are similar in nature to the questions on the exams and recitations. Like recitation exercises, on each assignment, you receive 10 points minus the incorrect number of responses, and your lowest two assignment scores are dropped.

All assignments are due by 11:00 p.m ET of the assigned due date (see Summary of Calendar). Late assignments are not accepted for credit (even partial credit). You submit your assignments electronically via Canvas. Be sure to leave sufficient time in advance of when an assignment is due in case you experience technical difficulties (e.g., the power on your laptop dies, Wifi is down, etc.). *In other words, technical difficulties do not excuse you from submitting on time.*

#### *Exams:*

There are two, non-cumulative examinations. Your exam score is 30 minus the number of incorrect responses.

You may use during either exam *one* 8.5"x11" sheet of paper that contains your name and whatever notes you wish to write on either side. You may handwrite your notes or have them printed. You may only bring one sheet of paper—it is not acceptable to bring two pieces of paper stapled together even if you write on only the outside of each sheet. During the exam, you may not use any other notes, books, slides, handouts, etc.—your only source of reference material is your one 8.5"x11" sheet of paper. This sheet of paper is called a "reference sheet" because you refer to it and you are certainly not cheating when you use it.

You may use a calculator (which includes graphing or programmable calculators) during the exam. However, you may not use a computer, smart phone, iPod, or any electronic device that runs Excel or can communicate with another electronic device.

Both exams are common exams—all sections take their exam at the same time. If you have an exam or regularly scheduled course that conflicts with an OIDD 1010 exam, then you should submit a request for an alternative time via a Canvas (non-graded) quiz. You should submit your request no later than two weeks before the exam. In general, you will take the OIDD 1010 exam in the two hours after the scheduled time for the exam, and if that is not possible, you will take it during the two hours prior to the scheduled time.

If you cannot attend an exam for any other reason, then you must provide documentation as to why you will not be able to attend (or were not able to attend). In general, excused absences are given only for serious health issues. If you are granted an excused absence from Exam 1, then you will need to make up the exam, or, if that is not possible, when Exam 1 is offered in the next semester. If you are granted an excused absence from Exam 2, then you will take a make-up exam during the university's scheduled make-up exam, which usually occurs early in the next semester.

#### *Grading:*

Partial credit is not offered. This means that you receive full credit for a response or zero credit and this applies for all graded materials (e.g., recitation exercises, assignments, exams).

Why do we do this? For one, we believe it is fair because it eliminates judgment calls as to how "wrong" a response is. Second, it forces us to focus our questions on one concept rather than trying to string a bunch of learning objectives into one question. Consequently, the answer to one question is not needed as an input to another to avoid situations in which

getting one question wrong implies you get subsequent questions wrong as well (that would be slimy, so we don't do it). Put another way, we decouple questions to avoid that issue. Finally, while there is a correct answer, we always allow for some tolerance to account for minor rounding issues in the calculations. For example, we generally accept answers within 1% of the correct answer. To avoid being marked incorrect because of rounding, avoid rounding intermediate calculations. For example,  $1/3$  and 0.3 are reasonably far off, and one shouldn't be used for the other. We expect you to report your answers with at least two decimal places (but integers can be reported as integers).

### *Collaboration:*

To promote learning, you may collaborate and/or consult with other students registered this semester in OIDD 1010 on recitation exercises and assignments, although each student must submit his or her own assignment. In fact, collaboration on recitation exercises and assignments is encouraged. In other words, you are not cheating if you discuss your solutions to recitation exercises or assignments with other students in this course. You may not collaborate with another student on either of the exams.

### **Support Questions and Assistance**

The mentoring sessions provide a regular meeting for the discussion of the weekly course content. In addition to mentoring sessions, there are regular Teaching Assistant (TA) office hours.

### **Concerns with Grading**

If you have a question about your grade, please contact in writing (e.g., an email) the appropriate Professor (i.e., the professor who taught you the material in question). Your entire document will be reviewed. You may submit a request to review your assignment, recitation exercise, or exam only within the two-week period after the assignment/recitation exercise was due or the exam was taken.

### **Waivers and Prior Experience**

Many of you have significant experience with computer technologies. A potentially dangerous strategy is to assume that because you are technologically literate, you know everything you need to know about business modeling and quantitative analysis. While our goal is to make this class as accessible as possible to all students, it is very difficult to do well if you rely only on prior knowledge and/or doing the readings on your own.

As a rule, we do not grant waivers of OIDD 1010 except for M&T students and dual degree students who are receiving a degree from Engineering in addition to Wharton.

## Summary of Calendar

### Part I

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri
1/13	1/14	1/15	1/16 RECO	1/17
1/20	1/21 LEC1	1/22	1/23 REC1	1/24
1/27 <b>A1</b>	1/28 LEC2	1/29	1/30 REC2	1/31
2/3 <b>A2</b>	2/4 LEC3	2/5	2/6 REC3	2/7
2/10 <b>A3</b>	2/11 LEC4	2/12	2/13 REC4	2/14
2/17 <b>A4</b>	2/18 LEC5	2/19	2/20 REC5	2/21
2/24 <b>A5</b>	2/25 LEC6	2/26	2/27 REC6	2/28
3/3 <b>A6/Review</b>	3/4 Review	3/5 <b>Exam</b>	3/6	3/7

### Part II

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Fri
3/17	3/18 LEC7	3/19	3/20 REC7	3/21	3/22
3/24 <b>A7</b>	3/25 LEC8	3/26	3/27 REC8	3/28	3/29
3/31 <b>A8</b>	4/1 LEC9	4/2	4/3 REC9	4/4	4/5
4/7 <b>A9</b>	4/8 LEC10	4/9	4/10 REC10	4/11	4/12
4/14	4/15 LEC11	4/16 <b>A10</b>	4/17 REC11	4/18	4/19
4/21 <b>A11</b>	4/22 LEC12	4/23	4/24 REC12	4/25	4/26
4/28 <b>A12</b>	4/29 LEC13	4/30	5/1 Review	5/2	5/3
5/5	5/6	5/7	5/8	5/9	5/10

LEC = Lecture class session  
 REC = Recitation class session  
 Review = Review for exam  
**A** = Assignment due