

Georgia WebMBA
WMBA 6070: Entrepreneurship
Fall Semester 2016

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Office hours: Monday & Wednesday: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon, or by appointment or email at other times

PREREQUISITES: Admission to WebMBA and assignment to a cohort.

CREDIT HOURS: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is intended to expose graduate business students to both the spirit and mechanics of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial thinking and action. The course takes the perspective of both the needs of the would-be entrepreneur as well as the manager of creative and entrepreneurial activity within established organizations. This course is designed to offer insight for students seeking entrepreneurial careers in new or established businesses. It describes the new venture startup process and strategies for increasing the likelihood of successful venture launch. Topics covered include models of new venture formation, strategic resource acquisition and deployment, marketing, operations, and financial strategies for successful ventures, and the leadership skills and behaviors required for venture success. Participants will learn how to write a business plan and assess business plans written by others.

COURSE FORMAT: This is a fully online course. Students are required to use Brightspace/D2L throughout the semester to support faculty-to-student and student-to-student interaction, including but not limited to discussion boards, announcements, email, individual/group work, submitting assignments, etc.

The following technology will be needed for completing this class successfully:

- Access to a personal computer (PC or MAC) with speakers
- High-speed internet service (DSL, Cable, etc.) is strongly recommended. If high-speed internet is not available in your area, contact your instructor immediately. Completion of course requirements will be difficult and cumbersome without high-speed internet service.
- Software requirements: Microsoft Office 2007 or higher, Adobe Reader, and other potentially required downloads listed in Brightspace/D2L.

This course will be delivered entirely at a distance and requires the online equivalent of 2250 minutes of instruction (seat-time). Additionally, it is anticipated that students will need to work independently for twice the number of instruction minutes to complete the coursework (i.e., 4500 minutes of supporting activities).

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The major objective of this course is to give students the opportunity to examine entrepreneurial activities for both new and established businesses. The course helps students to investigate the start-up process that can be applied to new, stand-alone businesses or to new product development or new venture subsidiaries of established businesses. The course examines the concepts and issues associated with entrepreneurship and the analytical skills of an entrepreneur or manager of corporate innovation. While the course is practically oriented, theory is used as the basis for good practice. Specific learning objectives for the course include:

1. Choosing the processes, strategies, and systems needed to guide the overall organization by conducting SWOT analysis; conducting competitive analysis; forecasting income/sales; conducting break-even analysis; developing action plans; using budgets to control operations; analyzing cash-flow patterns; and tracking performance of business plans or feasibility studies.
2. Integrating general business knowledge to formulate a business plan or a venture feasibility analysis.
3. Constructing a comprehensive, written business plan.

4. Assessing the multiple impacts (e.g., financial, economic, and behavioral) of introducing a new product or service, or making a significant change to an existing product or service.

The course will use a combination of textbook content, explanations and exercises posted on-line, case studies of actual corporations, class discussion boards, team project, and examinations to accomplish these objectives.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Textbook: Either the 3rd or 4th edition is acceptable. Both are available through Amazon.com. (The 4th edition was available for about \$25 and the 3rd edition was available for about \$5 as of July 2016.) You may also choose the 5th edition which is now available, but note that the price will be substantially higher (around \$110 to buy used and \$40 to rent on Amazon.com).

Entrepreneurship: Successfully Launching New Ventures. 2010. Third edition. Bruce R. Barringer and R. Duane Ireland. Pearson. ISBN 13: 978-0-13-608353-5. ISBN 10: 0-13-608353-6.

OR

Entrepreneurship: Successfully Launching New Ventures. 2012. Fourth edition. Bruce R. Barringer and R. Duane Ireland. Pearson. ISBN 13: 978-0-13-255552-4. ISBN 10: 0-13-255552-2.

OR

Entrepreneurship: Successfully Launching New Ventures. 2015. Fifth edition. Bruce R. Barringer and R. Duane Ireland. Pearson. ISBN 13: 978-0-13-379719-0. ISBN 10: 0-13-379719-8.

Articles and Cases: Cases and articles available from your professor are posted on Brightspace/D2L.

Brightspace/D2L: Throughout the semester, announcements and assignments may be posted on Brightspace/D2L. Students should check Brightspace/D2L frequently.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR COURSE MATERIALS: Technical support is available for the systems you will use in this course.

For assistance with Brightspace/D2L, you can access the University System of Georgia’s help site or receive phone support.

Online: <https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/home.do>

Call: To speak with a DHC Help Center agent, 24x7x365, call the University System of Georgia Support Hotline:

TOLL FREE 1-855-772-0423

TOLL FREE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED 1-800-892-4315

Appropriate adaptive technology (hardware) is necessary to use this number.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The content material for the course is organized into five modules or units. The first unit will also get you started with the set-up of the course. The textbook chapters that we will cover are distributed across the modules as shown in this table. A few chapters were re-numbered in the 5th edition of the textbook – note the chapters for the edition you are using.

Module	Module Title	Chapters in 3 rd and 4 th editions of textbook	Chapters in 5 th edition of book
1	Getting Started in the Study of Entrepreneurship	1	1
2	Opportunity Recognition and Plan Formulation	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 6
3	Market Analysis and Marketing Plans	5, 6, 11, 15	4, 5, 11, 15
4	Financing and Staffing	8, 9, 10	8, 9, 10
5	Ethical and Legal Issues and Growth of the Business	7, 12, 13	7, 12, 13

There is a separate folder on CourseDen for each module. Each folder contains a checklist for the module that identifies the work you should complete for that module. The PowerPoint files, cases, articles, and any videos posted for you will be included in the appropriate module folder.

Additionally, there are separate folders posted for the case assignment and for the business plan project (instructions and drop boxes).

COURSE EVALUATION

COURSE EVALUATION CRITERIA

Discussion Boards (4 boards for 6.25% each) [Modules 1, 2, 3, and 5]	25%
Learning Module Quizzes (4 quizzes for 5% each) [Modules 2, 3, 4, and 5]	20%
Case Analysis	20%
Business Plan Project	35%
Total Course	100%

DETAILS ABOUT ASSIGNMENTS

DISCUSSION BOARD CONTRIBUTIONS (4 sessions, 6.25% points each): There will be four discussion board sessions during the semester. Each session will be weighted 5% of your semester grade. All boards will be open from the beginning of the semester, and you can post any time before the deadline. Your syllabus schedule indicates recommended due dates for the discussion boards to pace your work through the semester. The deadline for all discussion posts is Monday, November 14, at noon. No late posts will be accepted after that deadline.

During the discussion board posting period, students are required to (a) post comments, analysis, thoughts, and reactions to questions specific to the unit and (b) post a response, reaction to, or comment about at least one post made by another student. You may need to return to the discussion board more than once during the open window in order to post your comment about another student's ideas. The questions that begin each discussion are included in the checklists that accompany each module.

These posts will be graded for (a) participation, accuracy and detail in your answers, and (b) the thoroughness, depth of insight, courtesy, and professionalism of your response to posts made by other students. The highest scores will be earned by students who identify important themes in the discussion, tie together several comments, and connect the discussion directly to the content material either covered in the current unit or building on previous units.

QUIZZES (4 quizzes, 5% each): There are quizzes associated with four of the learning modules (2, 3, 4, and 5). These quizzes are taken online and students may use their textbook and notes in completing the quizzes. Each quiz will consist of approximately 30 questions, primarily multiple choice format.

Students will be permitted to take each quiz up to four times. The highest score for each module's quiz will be counted as the graded score for that module's quiz. The questions are not designed to be particularly difficult but to give structure to the chapter readings and call attention to key concepts. The quizzes can be completed any time before the deadline, Monday, November 14 at noon. No quizzes will be accepted after that deadline.

CASE ASSIGNMENT (20% of semester grade): Each student will analyze one case chosen from a set of cases provided by the instructor and will submit an original analysis of the case. The analysis should be approximately two single-spaced pages in length (or four double-spaced pages if you prefer to double space the document). Any summary tables, illustrations, or financial analysis can be attached as additional pages.

The analysis requires that you identify key issues facing the main character company in the case – these questions and issues may be specified in the case or may be inferred by the student as important from the content of the case. Then, evaluate alternative courses of action. Finally, choose a course of action to recommend and support that recommendation.

More instructions, a grading rubric, and the cases available for analysis are posted in the Case Assignment folder in Brightspace/D2L.

BUSINESS PLAN GROUP PROJECT (35% of semester grade): Working in their cohort-defined groups, students will prepare a written business plan for a business or product of their choice. The group will write an original, comprehensive business plan. The information in the business plan must be accurate and realistic. Do not make up any relationships, agreements, or assets owned to enhance your plan. You must use the resources actually available to your team.

The group is expected to submit the sections of the plan in draft form at specified times throughout the semester (see Course Schedule for due dates for section drafts). The instructor will provide feedback on the drafts to aid in revising the plan for final submission, but the drafts will not be graded. Only the final submission will be graded.

Chapter 4 of the textbook explains the sections of a business plan, and Table 4.2 outlines those sections. The drafts you submit will group these sections as follows:

Draft Part 1	Explanation of the Opportunity and Description of the Company Industry and Market Analysis
Draft Part 2	Marketing Plan Operations Plan Product/Service Design
Draft Part 3	Management Team Financials Risks
Final Paper	Executive Summary Revised/Completed/Finalized parts previously submitted

Note that the executive summary is not written until you are submitting the final paper. As noted in your textbook, although the executive summary appears at the beginning of the plan, it should be written last. The plan may evolve as it is being written, and the executive summary should reflect the most accurate overview of the completed plan.

More detailed guidelines and suggestions for approaching the assignment are presented in the Business Plan Assignment folder in Brightspace/D2L.

ASSIGNMENT GRADES AND FINAL GRADE FOR THE COURSE

Grades for individual assignments are letter grades worth the following points:

A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0
B+ = 3.4	C+ = 2.4	D+ = 1.4	F = 0.0

The **final grade** for this course is based on the average of grades for each assignment, using the weights specified in the course evaluation criteria above. There is no adjustment for trends over time (either positively or negatively). Final Grades will be assigned based on the following distribution:

A	3.01 to 4.0 average
B	2.01 to 3.0 average
C	1.01 to 2.0 average
D	0.50 to 1.0 average
F	0.00 to 0.49 average

COURSE POLICIES

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Carefully review the information at this link: http://www.westga.edu/assets/Dept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review this information each semester. Information available through this link includes policies regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG e-mail, credit hours, and the honor code.

ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION: Student attendance for this course will be verified by students logging in and accessing the course (as reported in the classlist function of Brightspace). It is expected that each student will have at least logged in to begin the course by Monday, August 29, 2016, at 11.59pm EST.

DEADLINES: No late assignment will be accepted unless the student notifies the professor in advance or, in the event of an unforeseen emergency, immediately after the assignment was due and provides a legitimate reason (as determined by the instructor). The instructor follows university policy regarding approved absences and late submissions with university-accepted reasons including, but not limited to, illness and travel for university-sponsored teams or events.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The basic principle of academic integrity is that students take credit only for ideas and efforts that are their own. Behavior outside that guideline is prohibited. Without truthfulness, honor, and responsibility we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of the college degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate academic dishonesty.

Penalties for Breach of Academic Integrity: Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of penalties including but not limited to failing the assignment, failing the course, and referral to Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

NOTE: *Violations of the academic honesty policy may result in expulsion from the University.*

DISPUTES: If you feel your grade on an assignment is inaccurate, you are encouraged to return the assignment or exam for re-grading. Please employ the following process: Type all comments on another sheet and turn it in to me within three days of the assignment's return to you. Your request for re-grading must clearly indicate why you believe you deserve a higher grade. I will not discuss the problem with you until it is put into a written request. Reviews can lead to either an increase or decrease in total points

PROPRIETARY MATERIAL AGREEMENT: The materials on this course website are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

ONLINE PRIVACY: This course may require you to work with other sites and entities beyond WebMBA and Brightspace/D2L where some personal information (e.g. your name, affiliation with WebMBA, or current employment) may be displayed. You have the right to regulate the displaying of information pertaining to yourself on the Internet. If you are uncomfortable displaying information that you deem overly personal, you may take steps to post more anonymous manner (such as posting online your first name and last initial only or other pseudonym). You also agree to respect other people's wishes to remain anonymous.

LINKS TO AND FROM THIRD-PARTY SITES: There may be links established between this course and other entities and sites on the World Wide Web, Internet or other areas that are not under the control of, nor maintained by your professor or the University of West Georgia (UWG). These links do not necessarily constitute an endorsement by your professor or UWG, and UWG has no obligation to monitor such sites, and the user agrees that neither your professor nor UWG is responsible for the content of such sites or for any technical or other problems associated with any such third-party site, links, or usage.

COURSE COMMUNICATION & GRADING: Instructor response time to email is 24 – 48 hours M – F. There may be a delay on weekends. Grades for activities and assignments will be posted within 7 – 10 days in CourseDen. However, some grading may take longer than 7 – 10 days depending upon the assignment. Students will be notified in CourseDen if an assignment's grade will not be posted within the 7 – 10 day window.

SYLLABUS CHANGES: This syllabus provides a general plan for the course. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus plan as necessary. Changes will be announced through CourseDen.

CLASS SCHEDULE: WMBA 6070 ENTREPRENEURSHIP

[Schedule is subject to change at discretion of instructor.]

NOTE: Deadlines (EXCEPT for final business plan and final exam week) are 12 noon on Monday following the end of the week/weekend indicated

Week [Sun to Sat]	Modules (approximate, suggested dates)	Discussions and Quizzes [final deadline for all discussions and quizzes Mon, Nov 14, 12 noon]	Case	Business Plan Components
1 Aug 14 – 20	1			
2 Aug 21 – 27	1/2	Module 1 Discussion		
3 Aug 28 – Sep 3	2			
4 Sep 4 – 10	2/3	Module 2 Discussion; Module 2 Quiz		
5 Sep 11 – 17	3			Business Plan Part 1: Industry, Market, and Opportunity Assessment [draft submitted by Mon, Sep 19, 12 noon]
6 Sep 18 – 24	3			
7 Sep 25 – Oct 1	3	Module 3 Discussion; Module 3 Quiz		
8 Oct 2 – 8	4			Business Plan Part 2: Business Model, Mktg Plan, and Operations [draft submitted by Mon, Oct 10, 12 noon]
9 Oct 9 – 15	4			
10 Oct 16 – 22	4	Module 4 Quiz		Business Plan Part 3: Management Team, Financials, and Risks [draft submitted by Mon, Oct 24, 12 noon]
11 Oct 23 – 29	5			
12 Oct 30 – Nov 5	5		Case Analysis deadline Mon, Nov 7, 12 noon	
13 Nov 6 – 12	5	Module 5 Discussion; Module 5 quiz		FINAL Business Plan (with Executive Summary) [deadline Thursday, Nov 10, 12 noon]
Finals Nov 13 – 15		Deadline for all discussion boards and quizzes, Monday, Nov 14, 12 noon		

WMBA PROGRAM GOALS

Program-level assessment has become an important component of assuring program quality and in maintaining professional accreditations with organizations such as the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Some of the assignments in this course may be used to assess student learning at the program level. When a course assignment is used in this manner, we will follow Federal guidelines to protect the confidentiality of student information.

This table indicates how major components of this course support the WMBA program-level goals and, thus, contribute to your opportunities to realize these objectives through your participation in the WMBA program.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze and evaluate alternative courses of action using appropriate qualitative and quantitative tools in order to create value. 	Business Plan; Case Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize and evaluate the impact on business decisions of the ethical and social dimensions of business activities. 	Business Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulate and assess integrated technology solutions to influence structures, processes, and techniques of management. 	(Not directly assessed in this course)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze global economic environments, integrate multiple business components, and assess impact using a risk analysis. 	Business Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate multiple business functions across a broad range of situations by solving problems and making strategic decisions. 	Business Plan; Case Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply team-development and leadership skills in group settings to produce, evaluate and present business decisions. 	Group Participation