

Psych 6520, Systems Analysis Practicum, CRN 15618
Spring 2010 Course Syllabus

Instructor Information

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Course Materials

Rummler, G. A. & Brache, A. P. (1995). *Improving performance: How to manage the white space on the organization chart*. San Francisco: Josey-Bass.

Diener, L. H., McGee, H. M., & Miguel, C. F. (2008). *Behavior systems analysis workbook 2.0. The ASDIER Group*.

Dr. McGee used this workbook in PSY 6510 last semester, thus you should all have a copy of it. If you do not, let me know and I will make it available to you.

Course pack that *will* be available in Western's Campus Book Store, Bernhard Student Center:
This will not be available until about the 2nd week of classes.

General Course Description

This course is an advanced course stressing integration of behavior analysis and systems analysis applied to the design, creation and management of human performance systems within organizations. Students will be assigned to consulting teams of 2 - 3 members, and apply analysis concepts/tools in organizations as the concepts are being presented in class. In addition, each team will complete a systems analysis project within the organization that will focus on one of the three levels of an organization: the organization level, the process level or the job/performer level. Course prerequisite: PSY 6510

General Course Format

The course meets Mondays, 6:00-9:00 pm. In general, the class period will be broken into two segments.

1. There will be a short quiz during the first half-hour. The quiz will cover systems analysis concepts as presented in the Rummler/Brache text. After the quiz, I will then solicit comments/questions from students regarding the material but I will *not* lecture over it.
2. For the remaining class period, students will meet with their organizational consulting team to complete analyses based on their interactions with the organization during the week. During this time, I will meet with each organizational team to discuss the details of the analyses, or any problems that may have arisen with the organization.

Because I will be meeting with each individual team, when I am not meeting with your team, you will have time to work on team project work that must be completed during the week. It will also mean, however, that if you do not have any work to do in class, you will have “down-time” while I am interacting with the other teams. In the past, some teams have elected to do their work at other times and come to class only to take the quiz, hand in the required products for that week, and give me their “action plan” for the upcoming week. While that is fine with me (this is a very functionally-oriented class), I suggest that you take

advantage of the time that is scheduled to work with your team members on the assignments for the following week.

I will be handing out a detailed course calendar and for each week, I have designated the items that you should be working on in class.

Computer Software

Most of the analysis documents require diagrams. I expect you figured this out in PSY 6510. But if not, for Window users, the program most students use is Visio. Also, although Visio provides some templates, for example for process maps, in the past students have found that the templates are not flexible enough and caused more trouble than what they were worth.

Many of my professional colleagues who use Windows prefer Optima to Visio.

For Mac users, most use Professional OmniGraffle, although any object-oriented drawing program can be used. Professional OmniGraffle will read Visio files, but I do not know if Visio will read OmniGraffle files.

For both Windows and Mac users: Some students have used PowerPoint for the Total Performance Diagram.

Yet another option for Windows and Mac users that is free and is compatible with most other software programs: "Open Office" that is available at the following web site: www.openoffice.org. The "Draw" program mimics much of Visio's functionality.

However, whatever program you use will need to be compatible with the programs used by your client, so you should make sure that the programs you use are compatible with the programs used by your client.

Course Calendar and Schedule

Tonight in class, I will hand out a very detailed course calendar and schedule. There are actually two schedules this semester: one for the two teams that work with Consumers Energy, and the other schedule which is relevant to all other teams. I will hand out the latter schedule tonight and talk about it. Once I determine who is going to work with Consumers, I will make that available to you.

I put each week on a separate page so you can easily keep track of the assignments for each week. ***You should bring the schedule to class every week to keep track of your progress and make sure that you are on track with your client.*** During the semester, I will develop separate schedules for each consulting team, as you will not be working on the same things at the same times - this "split" usually occurs after four weeks or so, around the second week in February. However, there are some more or less "hard due dates" to insure that you do complete all of the required analyses.

This semester, I am requiring each team to develop a timeline for the completion of each deliverable and each step in the process. That document, once developed, will take precedence over the schedule that I hand out to you in class. I will hand out a description of project management tools tonight that provides you with examples of documents you can use for this type of timeline.

Organizational Clients

I will hand out a list of the organizational clients and systems analysis projects during the first class (tonight). I will describe the clients and then ask each of you to rank order the clients/projects in terms of your preferences. To the degree possible, I assign students to work

with the clients they prefer, but clearly, I am not always able to do that. All of the clients and projects are great, so there won't be any "losers" I assure you!

Team Assignments

Tonight, I will also ask you, in a questionnaire, to indicate what other student or students in the class you would like to work with. I will also ask you to indicate if there is a person you would not like to work with. I will not ask the reason why, nor do I want to know. I will keep this information strictly confidential. In the past, I have assigned students to teams, but over the years I have decided that my main objective in this class is to teach you how to conduct systems analyses in organizations and I have found that students find it more comfortable to work with individuals they choose to work with. Also, if there conflicts in the team, it affects the client. As above, to the degree possible, I will assign students on the basis of their preferences, but I am not always able to do that.

I assign 2-3 students to work with each client. In the past, I have encountered some problems with students who were, how shall I say "romantically involved." When I have assigned couples to 2-person groups, it has usually worked out. However, when I have assigned couples to 3-person groups (sometimes without knowing it), groups have sometimes developed into a 2 on 1 situation. This is not acceptable to me, nor is it good professional behavior. Therefore, I have adopted the following procedures and policies.

1. With considerable hesitancy and as an *optional* item on the questionnaire, I have asked you to indicate whether you have a significant other in the class.
2. If you do have a significant other in the class and choose to tell me about it, it will not affect your assignment to a 2-person team (I am quite willing to assign significant others to the same team), but it may affect your assignment to a 3-person team (if a third person indicates his/her desire to work with both of you, then it will not affect assignment to work with that person on a 3-person team).
3. Whether or not you choose to disclose your relationship to me, if I do find out about relationship during the semester and if I assign you to the same team and feel that your relationship (whether it continues to be good or runs into trouble) is affecting your interaction with each other, with your 3rd teammate and/or the client, I will first talk to you about it, but if it is not resolved *immediately*, I will lower your final grade by 1/2 grade level and reserve the right to lower it more if the situation is not resolved to my satisfaction. I am not at all opposed to significant others working together in a professional setting; but if you do that, you do have to be aware of your professional responsibilities and ethical considerations (specifically, conflict of interests and how your relationship can affect your interactions with others).

Course Grades/Assignments

Your course grade will be based on the number of points that you accumulate on the required individual and group assignments and on any additional assignments required by the clients. You will earn individual points and group points. Obviously you will earn individual points on the quizzes.

I also ask individual students to complete assignments that will be used to develop a team product (e.g., a client consulting contract, a Total Performance System diagram). The group will then, based on the work of the individual members, complete a team product that will be given to the client. Individual assignments will be graded individually; however, only one grade will be

attached to a group assignment, and each organizational team member will receive the same grade.

I will permit the student teams to determine whether they want to complete/continue the individual assignments or whether they want to drop those assignments in favor of only group assignments. **The teams may initiate this change with me at the beginning of the semester after I assign the teams, or at any time thereafter during the semester. Each individual in the team, however, must agree to this procedure, since it will affect the individual points that team members receive.**

Because different organizational consulting teams will be working with different clients and focusing on different organizational analyses/projects, I cannot in advance: (a) provide with you a list of all of the required assignments (they will vary depending upon the organization); (b) determine appropriate point values for all of the assignments (the complexity of even the required assignments will vary from one organization to the next); or (c) set firm deadlines for all assignments (although I will make some very strong suggestions along the way and I am going to require you to develop a timeline with your client for the delivery of products/analyses).

In any event, we both have to be flexible. Because there are specific analysis tools for each detailed level of analysis (organizational, process, and individual), I have developed a list of potential assignments (all based on the tools provided by Rummmler/Brache), which will help guide your activities. We will decide together as the course progresses which tools are relevant for your organizational client. With the exception of the job model tool in RB, these tools are the same tools presented in the Diener, McGee, and Miguel workbook so you should already be familiar with them.

With respect to point values for assignments that I have not yet determined, I will assign an appropriate number of points to each assignment after it has been completed. The main criteria will be the complexity, quality of the assignment and presentation style, since you are working with actual organizational clients as consultants.

At the end of the syllabus, I have provided a list of the required and potential assignments in the course. I have categorized the assignments according to the level of analysis (organization, process, job/performer). This document will help you see how everything "fits" together and also help you to see what the potential assignments may be required.

I have also provided an "Individual Progress Plotter." I will keep individual progress plotters for each of you on my computer that will serve as grade sheets. As the course progresses I will add any additional assignments appropriate to your work with the organizations.

I have assigned point values for those assignments for which I felt comfortable doing so in advance (which is not many). Required products are identified as such in the first column. The point values are listed in the columns labeled "Individual Points" and "Group Points." This may be stating the obvious, but if points are listed in the Individual Points column but not in the Group Points column, it means that only individual points are available for that assignment and vice versa. If points are listed in both columns, it means that each student will complete the assignment, take it to the organizational team, and the organizational consulting team will produce a team product. I will grade the individual assignments and also assign a team grade for the team product (the final team product will not be considered complete until it is signed off by the client). Note that when both individual and group points are assigned, the same number of points is available for the individual product and the team product.

The individual product is important because a person cannot contribute to the group if he/she has not done the individual work. The team product is important because it

represents the give and take, and (hopefully) the improvement that can occur as the result of the interaction of group members.

The assignment and point procedure means that the total number of points that a student can earn in the course will vary from student to student. However, because additional assignments and point values will be based on the activities of the organizational consulting team, the total number of points that a student can earn will be the same for each student **within** a team.

The grade that a student will get will be based on the percentage of the total points possible as follows:

	A	BA	B	CB	C	DC	D	E	
Percent		92	85	80	75	70	65	60	<60*

* "<" means less than

Psychology graduate students must obtain at least a "B" in order to receive credit for the course (a CB won't suffice). Students who take the course on a Credit/No Credit basis must also obtain a "B" in order to receive credit for the course.

Weekly Time Requirements

You will generally have to spend 12 hours **a week outside** of class, with the time split between studying for the quizzes, interacting with the organization, and preparing your analyses/assignments. The total time requirement is based on a full graduate level course load of three 3-credit hour courses. If each course required about 12 hours, then your "work" week would be about 36 hours.

Class Attendance

Due to the group work that will occur during the scheduled class meeting time and the fact that the class only meets once a week, attendance is critical. If you miss class you are responsible for any announcements regarding changes in the weekly assignment, quiz schedule, room change, etc. In addition **you are responsible for contacting your team leader** (or if you are the team leader another team member) to determine the action plan for your team for the upcoming week and your assigned role in that plan. If you fail to do so or do so too late to contribute to your team's activities, I reserve the right to deduct points from the grade you receive for the team product, and from any relevant individual assignment, including awarding no points for a particular assignment (for example, if you fail to complete an individual product on time, then you will not be prepared to contribute to the team product, and you will be penalized accordingly for "sponging" off you team members).

You may miss **one** class without penalty as long as you make up the work. If you miss a class when a quiz is scheduled, you may take a make-up quiz on Monday, April 26, during final exam week.

If an individual assignment is due during the class period you miss, you may turn that assignment into me the following class period; **however if you turn it in later than that you will receive a zero for the assignment.** To make up for the missed group work, the organizational team, the student and I will negotiate a work assignment that will contribute to the group's activities.

Additional absences will lead to point losses unless otherwise approved by me.

Quizzes

There will be six quizzes, each worth 20 points. They will cover material from Rummler/Brache. I will hand out the study objectives in class. Only the text material specified in the objectives

will be covered on the quizzes. The page and paragraph where the answer can be found to the study objectives is provided at the end of each study objective. For example, 5,6 means that the answer to the study objective can be found on page 5, in paragraph 6, **counting down from the top of the page.**

The quizzes will be straightforward, that is, the questions will, for the most part, consist of the study objectives. In other words, I won't ask any application, example, or "high level" synthesis questions - you will be conducting analyses in your client organization so there is no need for me to try to develop a sophisticated repertoire through the quizzes. The purpose of the quizzes is to make sure you understand the concepts behind the analyses and related analysis tools.

You should keep all of the study objectives so that you can refer to them later in the course.

Quiz Regrade Requests

After the quizzes have been graded and returned, you may submit your quiz to me for regrading if you believe that it was not graded accurately or if you have any questions with respect to why points were taken off. I have included the format for the regrade request below - please use this format when submitting your requests. You may put this on your computer - it is easier than my having to provide the forms to you.

Regrade requests **MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING THE WEEK** after the quizzes have been returned. When submitting a regrade request, you must attach your set of exam questions, and your own exam answers. The request should state the reasons why more points should be awarded for a particular answer.

NOTE AGAIN: REGRADE. REQUESTS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING, NOT VOCALLY

To give adequate consideration to your request I need to review the question, recall my original grading criteria and reevaluate your answer - in quiet contemplation.

REGRADE REQUEST FORM

Dr. A. Dickinson

Student Name: _____ Course #: _____ Quiz Number: _____

Attach:

1. The quiz questions
2. Your answers

Where to return the request:

1. Hand it to me in class or
2. Put in my faculty mailbox in Wood Hall

Quiz Question Number	REASON FOR THE REGRADE REQUEST
	(write your justification here)

Make-up Quiz

As indicated earlier, if you miss a quiz, you can take a make-up quiz on Monday, April 26, during final exam week. You will be given study objectives for this quiz.

If you do not miss any quizzes and only if you do not miss any quizzes, you may replace your lowest quiz score with the make-up quiz score. If your make-up quiz score is lower than the

scores on the six quizzes, the make-up quiz score will be discarded. In other words, the make-up quiz cannot hurt your grade.

If you do not miss any quizzes the make-up quiz is optional. If you are satisfied with the scores you have obtained on the six quizzes, then you do NOT have to take the make-up quiz.

Individual and Team Products

You will not be able to rewrite individual products for remediation purposes. You will not receive any credit for a late individual product except for your one allowed absence. The individual products are due the same day the group will begin working on the related group product. Thus, if you have not completed your individual work, you will not be prepared to contribute to the group.

Most of the team products will go through several revisions based on consultation with the client and these revisions are indeed acceptable (and necessary). **I want to see a product before it is given to the client, however, because of the MLK day recess, I may not have the opportunity to do so with all of the products early in the course.** I will not assign a grade to the product **until the client has signed off on it**, indicating that the product is acceptable and accurate. However, if the team hands in something that is of low quality, either due to its content or **presentation style** (including grammar and spelling), then I will deduct points that will be subtracted from the final point score I award.

A warning: I will consecrate grammar and spelling errors heavily in *any* individual and team product you hand into me and certainly the products you give the client. Recently, I have found that some students have seen me as “their first line of defense.” That is, they give me a document that is a *rough* draft and expect me to edit it. I do not find this acceptable. Any document you hand into me should be a *final* document. I will not be there in the future when you are interacting with clients and when you hand in something to me that you intend to give a client, I must assume it is your *best* work.

I will be flexible with respect to the due dates since they depend heavily on the client organization and the nature of the work. However, once we agree upon a deadline, I will expect the product to be delivered by that deadline. Points will be deducted for lateness. Each week I will consult with each of the organizational teams to determine an appropriate schedule and due date for assignments.

Final Report

Your final report is due on Monday, April 26 during final exam week. With the exception of one document (learnings in this course), the report that you give to me will be the same one that you give your client. You will be completing many assignments during the semester, and the report is a way to organize the work that you completed for the semester. It will also serve you well to have a portfolio of the whole experience (for job interviews).

The report should contain: (1) all of the documents that you completed for the client during the course; (2) any final analyses or recommendations about future work that the client would find useful; (3) a comparison of what you were able to get done in comparison to what you proposed to complete in your original proposal, (4) a short description of your learnings during the class – in my report only, and (5) a computer CD with all of the material on it. You may hand the report in earlier should you wish to do so.

Some teams, for example, both Consumer teams, will be completing two “final reports.” One of the final reports is the report that will be given to the stakeholders in the organization; the other is the final report that will be given to the team you are working with and to me.

Some General Points About Some of the Assignments and Assigned Point Values

Sign-offs by the Client. Before I accept a final product and assign points to it, I will require it to be "signed off" (initialed) by the client. That permits me to know that the client finds the work acceptable.

Hours. Keep a self-report track of the number of hours that each team member and the team spends on your work for the client and include this information in your final report. This is useful for the client in terms of the value that you add to the organization.

Evaluation of your work by the client. A client evaluation of your work is due on Monday, April 26 of final exam week. You and your student team are responsible for designing this evaluation. The client will be given the opportunity to return the evaluation directly to me or return it to you and discuss it with you. I have attached a high point value to this evaluation - 150 points.

Note that a primary consideration when I assign the grade to this evaluation will be the **extent to which the client was satisfied with your work**. One of the main concepts in this course is the customer-focus. Therefore, I want the point values for the course aligned with that concept. Please keep that in mind throughout the course in all of your interactions with the client organization.

In fact, it would not be a bad idea at some point in the semester (if not at the beginning) that you and your teammates develop draft criteria for the evaluation and get client agreement that those are the key expectations that the client has for you. The evaluation should include the quality and timeliness of the products, as well as the professional skills/behaviors of the team members – clients usually like to rate each team member separately rather than the entire team. If you develop this instrument early on with your client, then you can periodically ask the client to complete the form to see how you are doing so that there won't be any surprises at the end of the course.

You can make up your own format and talk to your client about it. I recommend a brief descriptive word that covers the criterion/expectation and then perhaps five faces underneath each one, from a frowning face on the left to a bright smiling face on the right. You should have fun with this and make it a positive experience for everyone!

You might also consider developing a similar form for YOU to give feedback to the client.

A Nit-picky Logistical Issue

The individual assignments that are related to the team product will be due the day that the team begins working on the group product. Therefore, you should always bring **two** copies of your individual assignment: one to hand in to me, and one to give to your team.

Client Confidentiality

It is VERY important that you do not violate client confidentiality. In fact, you have an **ethical obligation** to protect the confidentiality of your client organization and the clients served by that organization. When working in the organizations you may encounter some individuals who may be difficult to work with, resist cooperating with you for political reasons, etc. You may also discover "skeletons in the closet," "cans of worms," sensitive information about people in the organization, "unseemly" politics, etc. Some of these things may be interesting and fun to talk about to others outside of your organizational consulting team and outside of the class. **RESIST THAT TEMPTATION.**

Sometimes even seemingly innocent or innocuous information can lead to very serious political consequences. Further, it is impossible to know "who knows who" in a relatively small town like Kalamazoo - and certainly within the halls of Western. Your client must be able to trust you and you must keep that trust. In addition, because we may discuss problems in the class for educational purposes, **all members of the class must keep the confidence of all client organizations.**

Of course, there may be times when you need to discuss a problem and/or a particular person in an organization who, for one reason or another, is difficult to work with. You certainly may discuss the problem and/or the person with the members of your organizational consulting team and with me in order to solve the problem.

The general rules are:

1. **What gets said in this class about an organization and its members stays in the room.**
2. **NEVER say anything bad about the organization or any named individual in the organization to anyone outside of the class.**
3. **You may say general positive things about the client outside of class.**

Due to the importance of client confidentiality, I will consequence violations of it. Violations of confidentiality will result in a **failing grade in the course**. Minor violations will result in a decrease in your grade by either one full letter grade or a half a letter grade (from A to a B or a BA). The client and I will determine the seriousness of the violation and, hence, the penalty.

If you are in doubt about what you can and cannot talk about, ask me.

Dress for Success!

A word about dress. You need to dress appropriately for the organization in which you work. This varies from organization to organization. Also, the tolerance of "student" dress will vary from organization to organization. When I work with organizations, I do think about what style of dress is appropriate and dress accordingly. **I never wear jeans when I work in organizations, and I do not want you to.** Remember that your clients will be older (45 or older, most likely) and used to business dress not "student dress."

Some organizations have dress codes for their employees. **You should ask whether your organization has a dress code and comply with that dress code.** For example, in some organizations employees cannot wear any visible body rings or studs because of potential safety hazards. Even though you may not be exposed to those safety hazards, you still must conform to the dress code. Also, you should know that executives at some organizations, have talked to me about the fact that some of our students, even on interviews, have dressed in what they consider to be an inappropriate manner.

If your organization has a dress code and you do not comply with it, or if clients complain to me about the way you dress, I will deduct points from your total point score. Depending upon the seriousness of the violation, I may decrease your grade by 1/2 letter grade or 1 full letter grade if I talk to you about it and it is not immediately resolved to my satisfaction.

Whether you like it or not, whether you believe it or not, people's reactions to you are influenced by what you wear. If you dress like a student, employees in the organization may well react to you as a student rather than as a professional who really does have something of value to offer the organization. Interestingly, sometimes you can overpower clients and make them feel uncomfortable if you wear clothes that are too formal; on the other hand, clients (particularly those not used to working with students) may, in subtle contingency-shaped ways (in other words, without their awareness), dismiss your credibility if you dress too informally. Also, one

style of dress may be appropriate if you are meeting with the executives of an organization; another style of dress may be appropriate if you are working with the staff in that same organization. However, you never know when you may run into executives when you are at the organization. Again, **if in doubt, ask your organizational client what is appropriate – he/she is here to help with your professional training.**

Some "don'ts:"

1. No visible body rings or studs, unless the client approves them. That means, you cannot wear them to your first client meeting. This includes tongue studs, nose rings, eyebrow rings, and lip rings.
2. Men: No earrings unless expressly OK'd by the client – which again means you should not wear them at your first meeting with the client.
3. Women: No long dangling earrings
4. Women: No bare belly buttons or bare midriffs (this goes for men as well but I don't think current fashion for men includes bare belly buttons and midriffs).
5. Women: No tight-fitting or low cut blouses or tops. And, while I might be getting old, no lace showing under a blouse.
6. Women: No spike heels or heels over ~2 ½ inches (I guess my definition of spike heels begins with heels over 2 ½ inches, but watch the platform shoes as well!). Save those for graduation and social events.

How to Win Friends and Influence Enemies

This year, when I was interacting with a potential client, the client expressed the view that WMU psychology graduate students are often very arrogant. Clearly this is not good, and it does not promote effective interactions with organizational employees and staff. None of the clients in this class has complained about this in the past, so I am not sure how relevant it is, but it is a good thing to keep in mind. We are behavioral psychologists – if an organizational member that you are working with does not have the same skills as you do or does not appear to you to be very “sophisticated,” it is because they have been exposed to a different set of contingencies than you have. Also remember, that many staff in organizations have skills that we do not have and finally, remember that you have not walked in their shoes in the organization. There are excellent business executives and employees who have never taken a class in behavior analysis and you can learn a lot from them if you allow yourselves to do so.

Also, be VERY careful with your professional communications with clients. Your main clients are going to be over 40 years old. Emails have become increasingly informal over the past couple of years and texting has been creeping in email text. Be careful! You are not social networking: You are interacting with a business client. You should capitalize all letters that should be capitalized (no “i” instead of “I”, for example). Also, do not start emails with “Hey,” unless your client does it.

That said, recognize that in business and industry people do not use titles – it is very different than in academic settings and human service settings. Thus, while I am “Dr. Dickinson” to most of you, the clients will expect you to call them by their first names and will find it odd if you do not do so. Students assigned to the Consumers teams will notice that in the client consulting contracts that I have referred to myself as “Alyce.” Typically, clients consider it arrogant for a person to use “Dr.” in a business setting, and when an individual uses his/her title, it usually has the effect of inhibiting their interactions with you. People respect formal degrees, but I have

always gotten the feeling that they consider it arrogant and disrespectful of *their* skills if you actually use the title in every day interactions.

Cheating

For the quizzes, cheating consists of, but is not limited to, copying from another student's exam paper, from "crib sheets", from notes, from books, or from any other material on which course information has been written. Cheating also consists of turning in another student's work as you own. However, *I do not at all mind if you work together on any of the individual assignments*. In fact, if you want to work with another member of your team and submit a joint product, that is fine. Just let me know if you decide to do that so I am not surprised when two or three students hand in exactly the same work. Cheating also consists of "double dipping" – that is, using material in two different classes for credit in both, unless the instructors give you permission to do so.

If I have evidence of any form of academic dishonesty, I will charge the student with violating the Academic Honesty Policy of the University in a report to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. The student will be given an opportunity for a hearing. I will recommend to OSJA that a student who is found responsible for an act of academic dishonesty be given a failing grade in the course. They have complied with my recommendation in the past.

Incompletes

According to the University's policy, Incompletes can be given only when the student is doing well in the course and can make up any missed work in a reasonably short period of time. In keeping with the university's policy on incompletes, I will not give an incomplete as a substitute for a failing grade (or for any grade below a B) - the failing grade stands.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and need reasonable accommodations, please contact me during the first week of classes so that I have time to ensure that your needs are met in a timely manner. In order for me to provide accommodations, students must contact the University's Disabled Student Resources and Services or the Office of Services for Students with Learning Disabilities at the beginning of the semester to inform them of the disability and obtain a letter from them indicating the type of accommodation that is appropriate. The web site address is: www.dsrs.wmich.edu. These offices also provide very useful services. According to University policy: "Any student with a documented disability who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the professor and the appropriate Disability Services office at the beginning of the semester."

Religious Holidays and Religious Observance

I am very willing to excuse students from class for the purpose of observing major religious holidays *provided they make a request to me two weeks in advance* so that I can alternative arrangements for them to make up the work.

Emergency Class Cancellation

In the event that classes are officially canceled (due to a snow storm, for example), the quiz and any individual assignment, group assignment that was due that class will be due the next class. *However, you should keep working with your client that week*. Therefore, you should not hold up your work, even if you have to give a product to a client before I review it and approve it.

Class Calendar and Assignments

I will give you a detailed calendar for each class meeting the first night we meet. The schedule may change depending upon how the work goes with the client. Do NOT worry about that – I expect changes. I cannot anticipate how the work with each client is going to go. But do read the next page about what I expect you to do for each class meeting and for each client meeting.

General Instructions Related to Each Class and Each Client Meeting

NOTE: I will deduct points from your total point score if the following instructions are not followed each and every week. These are basic “project management” skills that are very important for consulting projects. And, I need them as the project manager to keep on top of what each team is doing. What I do with you each week is very similar to what a project manager does with consultants in an actual consulting firm to keep up to date on how various consulting projects are going.

- A. Every class period the team leader of the group should provide me with the following two items:
 1. Action Plan that contains
 - A. A list of the **products/deliverables** you completed and are handing in to me that night
 - B. A list of **activities** that you completed last week related to the client project (some products will take several weeks to complete and thus I need a list of your activities as well as the products/deliverables)
 - C. A list of the **products** that you are going to give me the following week
 - D. A list of the **activities** you plan to complete in the coming week
- B. Every class period the team leader of the group should provide me an agenda for your upcoming meeting with your client. You, not the client, are responsible for developing an agenda for each meeting and giving it to the client at the beginning of each meeting.
- C. For each client meeting, you should first provide the client with an agenda, indicating what should be accomplished during the meeting. You should provide enough copies of the agenda for each member of the client team and your team.
- D. The **FIRST** item on the agenda with your client will be a report re your activities for the preceding week (similar to the items A&B in the Action plan that you hand in to me each week) and a discussion of any barriers that occurred/prevented you from achieving your objectives for that week.
- E. After you develop a timetable with deadlines and milestones for each step/major activity/product for the client, you should review that with the client to determine whether you are “on target” or need to adjust and/or realign your timeline. This should be done as part of your report of your activities.
- F. You should end each client meeting with an agreement of what you are going to do the next week (similar to items C&D in the Action Plan that you are going to give me each week), and what the client team is going to do. Obviously, this then becomes part of your productivity/activity review at your next client meeting.
- G. Whenever you are doing an analysis or asking the client to respond to something, i.e., the consulting contract, the TPS, the timetable for completion of deliverables/steps in the process, the process maps, etc., you should **ALWAYS** have a document ready to give the client with as much information filled in as possible based on your meetings and knowledge to date. You also should prepare questions to ask the client based on the information that is missing. Then you ask the client to review the document and ask your additional questions. It is much easier for clients to respond to that type of document/tool than it is for you to simply ask questions related to the analysis or tool and then create the document later. It is also much more efficient. And, for consultants, time IS money.

PSY 6520 Systems Analysis Practicum, Spring 2010: Required and Potential Products

Organizational Level Analysis

Individual Required	Potential	Group Required	Potential
1. Consulting Project Proposal		1. Consulting Project Proposal	
2. TPS		2. TPS	

Process Level Analysis

Individual Required		Group Required	Group Potential
1. An "Is" process map		1. An "Is" process map	
2. (Identification/analysis of disconnects must be done by group)		2. Identification/analysis of disconnects	
3. A "should" process map		3. A "should" process map	
			4. Process Goals on should map

Job/Performer Level Analysis

Individual Required	Individual Potential	Group Required	Group Potential
	1. One Job Model		1. One Job Model
	2. Additional Job Models		2. Additional Job Models
	3. Performance Measurement system		3. Performance Measurement System
	4. Performance Management System		4. Performance Management System

General

Individual Required (none)	Individual Potential (none)	Group Required
		1. Evaluation of work by client
		2. Final project report and CD with all documents and comparison of initial project with final project.

