IBUS – 6354 TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
FALL 2020

Instructor: Dr. Fernando R. Jiménez
Class Format: Hybrid – Online and face-to-face meetings
Virtual Meetings: Tuesdays from 1pm to 3:45pm. Blackboard Collaborate
Face-to-face meetings: College of Business Room 312 @ 1pm
October 20, December 1, December 8.
Email: frjimenezarevalo@utep.edu
Virtual Office hours: By appointment

Course Description
The purpose of this course is to introduce doctoral students to academic scholarship and theory building. Students will learn how to develop and apply theory to explain and predict business phenomena in marketing and management.

Course Objectives
1. Understand the structure and purpose of scholarly articles.
2. Develop the ability to advance the field of marketing and management through theoretical development.
3. Develop the ability to elaborate theoretically driven hypotheses.
4. Develop the ability of thoughtful evaluation and critical analysis of research in marketing and management.

Required Readings
(3) Wall Street Journal. For a special rate, use: https://r.wsj.com/PROFz9qd

Recommended Readings

Virtual Meetings – Blackboard Collaborate
Go to: https://my.utep.edu/My
Select Blackboard
Enter your UTEP email and password
On the left menu, select Courses
Find our course
On the left menu, select virtual meetings
Course Requirements

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<td>Class participation</td>
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<td>Midterm paper</td>
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<td>Final paper</td>
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**Homework**

**Reading summaries.** Students will read newspaper articles, book chapters, and academic articles throughout the course. Students will summarize each reading assignment in one page following the format below. Summaries that exceed the page limit will be penalized. Students must submit their summaries in one Word file by email prior to class time each week. Add a cover page and page numbers. Summaries should follow the style of the Journal of Marketing. Late homework will not be graded.

Format for Newspaper articles
1. Citation (Journal of Marketing style)
2. Description of the business issue
3. Propose a research question
4. Propose a hypothesis for the research question
5. Provide a list of 3 academic papers on this topic. Search top journals first.

Format for book chapters and conceptual articles
1. Citation (Journal of Marketing style)
2. What is the main point that the author wants to communicate?
3. Create bullet points for the key points of the reading. Briefly explain.
4. How is the article related to other topics in this course?

Format for empirical papers
1. Citation (Journal of Marketing style)
2. Description of the business problem
3. Research question
4. Theory and hypotheses
5. Data collection (i.e., type of study design, sample frame and size)
6. Data analysis (i.e., statistical procedures)
7. Major findings
8. Practical recommendations

**Voicethread Presentations and comments**
Students will be asked to create Voicethread presentations and comment on their peers' presentations. A list of assignments appears in the course schedule. To join the voicethread group for this class, go to:
https://voicethread.com/groups/subscribe/22929445/2dbdac374/
**Class participation**

Students are expected to actively participate in the discussion each week. To accomplish this, students must be ready, willing and able to discuss readings. Successful participation requires diligent preparation. It takes more than a quick reading of an article or book chapter to be prepared to discuss it. Students are also expected to comment on the Voice Threads of their classmates. Throughout the semester, students will also be asked to conduct class presentations.

**Midterm paper – October 20**

Over the course of the semester each student is required to develop a scholarly research project culminating in a research model and hypotheses based on one or more theoretical perspectives. This is to be a “new-to-the-world” project based on your own efforts. The Midterm paper should include the following sections:

1. Cover page
2. Background. In this section explain in detail the problem being investigated. What is it? Why is it important? Who is impacted by this problem?
3. Research question. What is the research question? What is the dependent variable?
4. Annotated bibliography. A brief summary of the annotated bibliography. Tables are useful here. What are the main research questions? What are the leading articles in the area? What are the main theories, data collection methods, statistics used? What are the main findings? Students must submit a Dropbox folder with all the articles found. Label the articles as follows: Year, Firstauthor lastname, title hint. E.g., 2020 Jimenez et al Value.pdf
5. Theory. A description of the top theories used in the area to explain and predict the problem of interest. In this section, students should provide a brief summary of each theory (at least 3). What are the origins of the theory? Main authors? What does the theory explain? What does the theory predict? Why are these theories appropriate in the context of investigation?

Follow Journal of Marketing guidelines. The paper must be submitted by email and formally presented in person on October 20, in a typical national conference format (15 minutes, power point).

**Final paper December 1st**

The final paper is a continuation of the midterm paper. The paper should follow the structure of an empirical paper in the Journal of Marketing, including introduction, theory, hypotheses, method, analysis, and conclusion. No data is required. However, the student must propose a method and analysis consistent with common practices in the topic.

The student must turn in a manuscript, in journal format. Most conferences (and some journals) have a 20-page limit for paper submissions (all-inclusive); we will adopt that standard. All papers must abide the formatting of the Journal of Marketing (citations, tables, references, etc.). The minimum expected outcome from this process is a paper that is appropriate for submission to a national academic conference. The more important outcome, however, is the foundation of a
research project that can be submitted to an academic journal that contributes to theory and practice. The paper must be formally presented in class on December 1st in a typical national conference format (15 minutes, power point).

By the time of writing the final paper, students should be familiar with academic articles on the topic. I recommend students to identify the structure of such articles and follow it. The final paper should include:

1. Cover page
2. Introduction (what is the managerial problem, what is the research question?)
3. Literature Review (what do we know about the problem, why current research is insufficient?)
4. Theoretical Background (what theory can explain the problem and predict the solution?)
5. Hypotheses (what would the theory predict?)
6. Research design. Propose the method to test the hypotheses. Data collection, sample (size, frame), type of study design (experiment, survey, secondary data, etc.).
7. Findings. What do you expect to find? Graph the expected results.
8. Contribution to Theory and Practice. Based on your expected findings, what contribution would you make to theory? What practical recommendations would you provide to managers?

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is not condoned nor tolerated at UTEP or in this class. Such dishonesty, when evidenced, will be reported to the Student Judicial Affairs Office at UTEP. Read UTEP’s website for more information about sanctions. Academic dishonesty is behavior in which a deliberately fraudulent misrepresentation is employed in an attempt to gain undeserved intellectual credit, either for oneself or for another. It includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following types of cases: Plagiarism - The representation of someone else's ideas as if they are one's own. Unauthorized Collaboration on Out-of-Class Projects - The representation of work as solely one's own when in fact it is the result of a joint effort; Cheating on Exams - The covert gathering of information from other students, the use of unauthorized notes, unauthorized aids, etc.; and Knowing Cooperation with Another Person in an Academically Dishonest Undertaking - Failure by a student to prevent misuse of his/her work by others.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.
### Tentative Schedule and Reading List

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<tr>
<td>8/25</td>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
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<td>Readings:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>VoiceThread. Create and upload a PPT presentation to introduce yourself. Maximum 3 minutes. Discuss: Background, experience, motivation for PhD in your field, why UTEP? what type of job do you want after you get a PhD? Provide examples. <a href="https://voicethread.com/groups/subscribe/22929445/2dbdac374/">https://voicethread.com/groups/subscribe/22929445/2dbdac374/</a>.</td>
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**Week 2**

The Domain of Marketing and Management

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<tr>
<td>9/01</td>
<td>Readings:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. Find the textbook for the intro course for Marketing or Management at UTEP. From that textbook, read Chapter 1 and define marketing or management. Discuss what kind of managerial issues the discipline entails. If you don’t have access to a textbook, find another textbook at the library or find a definition in the AMA (American Marketing Association) or AOM (Academy of Management) website. In addition, look up the program for the latest major AMA or AOM conference. What tracks are there? How are the subfields organized?</td>
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<td>2. Choose one WSJ article that discusses an issue relevant to business decision-makers related to marketing or management. Summarize the article and highlight its relevant to practitioners.</td>
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3. Identify (and summarize) a current article in Harvard Business Review or Sloan Management Review about the same topic in #2 above.

4. Identify (and summarize) a current empirical article in an “A” academic journal about the same topic.

5. Identify (and summarize) a current empirical article in a “B” academic journal about the same topic.

6. In one page, compare and contrast the articles (WSJ vs. HBR vs. B journal vs. A journal). How are they similar, how are the different?

VoiceThread: From this week’s WSJ, identify 3 current problems that business decision-makers are facing in marketing or management. One problem can be the same used for the assignment above. Tell us, why are the problems relevant for managers? Comment on your peers’ videos as appropriate (e.g., directing them to readings, commenting on the topic, etc.).

Length of presentation: Maximum 4 minutes.

Week 3 Typology of Academic Contributions

Readings:


6. In one page, compare and contrast the articles.

VoiceThread: From this week’s WSJ, identify 3 current problems that business decision-makers are facing in marketing or management. Tell us, why are the
problems relevant for managers? Comment on your peers’ videos as appropriate (e.g., directing them to readings, commenting on the topic, etc.).
Length of presentation: Maximum 4 minutes.

Week 4 Finding a Research Question
9/15


8. Compare and contrast the articles. What are the recommendations to find a research topic?

VoiceThread: From this week’s WSJ, identify 3 current problems that business decision-makers are facing in marketing or management. Tell us, what research questions can be derived from those problems? That is, what would managers like to know the answer to? Comment on your peers’ videos as appropriate (e.g., directing them to readings, commenting on the topic, etc.).
Length of presentation: Maximum 4 minutes.
**Week 5**  
**Finding a Research Question**  

9/22

1. GMIM (2005), Chapter 1, “The Process of Developing Management Theory,” Hitt and Smith


5. Find and summarize an empirical article that employs each theory in marketing or management.

VoiceThread: From this week’s WSJ, identify 3 current problems that business decision-makers are facing in marketing or management. Tell us, what research questions can be derived from those problems? That is, what would managers like to know the answer to? Comment on your peers’ videos as appropriate (e.g., directing them to readings, commenting on the topic, etc.).  
Length of presentation: Maximum 4 minutes.

**Week 6**  
**Research Question - Presentation**  

9/29

From the WSJ articles you have read so far, choose a research question. In class, students will present their choice. In a PPT, answer the following:

a) What is the managerial problem? Provide background. For example: Why is it a problem? What decision can managers make with the results of the research? Why is the decision relevant? Provide details and examples of companies affected by the problem.

b) What is the research question?

c) In the research question, what is the independent variable and what is the dependent variable?

d) What would your hypothesis be to answer the research question?

e) How would you test your hypothesis? What data would you need? How can you collect and analyze the data?

**Week 7**  
**Annotated Bibliography**  

10/06

Start an annotated bibliography. That is, find as many articles as possible in A level journals about the topic and write a one page summary for each article.
Submit the summary of the 5 most recent empirical articles. Organize the summaries in one Word document in chronological order. Create an Excel table summarizing the articles (using summary headings).

Create a Dropbox folder and add all the articles you find. See the description for the “Midterm assignment” for details. Share the folder with your instructor and your classmates. Include the annotated bibliography and excel file in the same folder.

Students will present (PPT) their initial annotated bibliography in class. Specifically, answer the following questions:
   a) What are the main research questions in the articles?
   b) What are the theories used to develop hypotheses?
   c) What type of data and research method is used to test the hypotheses?
   d) What type of statistics and software are used to analyze the data?
   e) What has the research found? How are the findings useful to managers?
   f) How many articles have you found? Which journals?

**Week 8**
10/13

**Annotated Bibliography**

Present an update on the annotated bibliography. Update your Drop box articles, your Word file, and your Excel file. Also, answer the following questions:
   a) What are the main research questions in the articles? Can you identify streams?
   b) What are the theories used to develop hypotheses?
   c) What type of data and research method is used to test the hypotheses?
   d) What type of statistics and software are used to analyze the data?
   e) What has the research found? How are the findings useful to managers?
   f) How many articles have you found? Which journals?

**Week 9**
10/20

**MIDTERM PRESENTATION**

Face-to-face meeting.

**Week 10**
10/27

**Theoretical contributions**


6. After reading the articles, answer the following questions: What is a theoretical contribution? What is the structure (parts) of academic papers that make a theoretical contribution?

VoiceThread: Comment what you found about the following:
1. Imagine you are submitting your paper to a top conference in your field (AMA, AOM). If possible, try to go to the website and follow the process. Choose a track for the paper. Comment: What tracks are there, which one would you choose? Why?

2. Imagine you are submitting your paper to a top journal in your field. Go to the website, register, and start the submission process. What key words would you choose? What field for the paper? Based on this paper, what field of expertise would you classify for yourself (when registering)? Length of presentation: Maximum 4 minutes.

Week 11 Theory Development
11/03


10. Identify the main takeaways for this session.

VoiceThread: Identify 3 associations, business groups, or organizations that specialize in your research area. What do they do? What type of data do they collect?

**Week 12**  
**Theory-based research**  
11/10


VoiceThread: Choose one empirical paper in your annotated bibliography (top journal, empirical). Present the following: What is the managerial issue? What is the research question? What is the theory? What are the hypotheses? Explain the link between the theory and the hypotheses (paragraph before the hypothesis).

**Week 13**  
**Theory and hypotheses**  
11/17


Prepare a presentation (PPT) about the following: Choose one empirical paper in your annotated bibliography (top journal, empirical).  
What is the managerial issue?  
What is the research question?  
How did the author organize the literature review?  
What is the theory the author chose?  
What are the hypotheses?  
Explain the link between the theory and the hypotheses

**Week 14**  
**Hypothesis Presentation**  
11/24

Choose a theory for your project and write hypotheses to answer the research question. Prepare a PPT presentation with the following:  
1. What is the research problem?  
2. What is the research question?  
4. What theory can explain the problem and predict a solution?  
5. Who wrote the theory? Explain a little bit about the origins of the theory. What did the theory attempt to explain initially? What are its main components?  
6. Drawing from the theory, write a hypothesis (or several).
Week 15  Philosophy of Science
12/01

1. Hunt (2003), Chapter 3, “The Development of the Philosophy of Science Discipline: From Classical Realism to Logical Empiricism”


9. What are the main takeaways for this week? What type of research will you be conducting for your project? What is the dominant research paradigm in marketing and management? What alternatives to the “scientific method” are there?

Week 16  FINAL PAPER PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINAR PAPERS DUE
12/08

Face-to-face presentations.