Reading packet

All required course materials will be distributed via email or through Canvas.

There is an additional text that is not required but is recommended. Thinking Strategically: The Competitive Edge in Business, Politics, and Everyday Life by Aninash K. Dixit and Barry J. Nalebuff. It is available from Amazon.com and other bookstores.

Course Overview

The main course focus is on the international operations business simulation INTOPIA and your company’s operations in it. Each company must be well prepared to make and execute decisions each week as indicated by the schedule. The flavor of the simulation and of the course as a whole is distinctly entrepreneurial. You will be a member of a 4 person team who comprises one of the companies in the INTOPIAN world. You and your teammates will be responsible for all aspects of your company’s operations.

Each week in the course represents one financial quarter of activity in the INTOPIAN world. The first week of the course will be an adventure as we get acclimated, but after that we will settle into a routine. Our typical pattern will be to utilize Monday for initial negotiations among Intopian companies with the possibility of the occasional lecture on a Monday. Near the end of the quarter, we’ll use Mondays for company presentations. Wednesday will be reserved interactions among Intopian companies and to finalize company decisions that will be due on Thursday morning. The goal will be distribute a “check run” of your decisions on Thursday for you catch any errors in your submissions and to distribute final results on Friday which will afford you the weekend to do your initial analyses. Wednesday class will be reserved for activities related to the INTOPIAN marketplace.

Each company will give a comprehensive company presentation near the end of the semester. Each company must keep a (rather informal) log or diary of deliberations, work papers, and general running history of the company for submission at the end of the academic quarter. This “diary” should accumulate naturally week by week as a byproduct of your work. It will be useful to type up two or three paragraphs a week to summarize. But 30 to 45 minutes of effort per week to keep up to date with the diary is the spirit of things here, not more. Your diary entries should reflect what you expected, your assumptions, and the outcomes. Understanding what did (or didn’t) happen – and why – is important. You will learn both by keeping the diary and by reviewing it occasionally.

You will also be well advised to keep an informal personal journal – not to be turned in – of your reactions, insights, confusions, general thoughts and other personal mental events that occur during your INTOPIAN experience. This material will be very valuable to you in deepening your learning experience and in helping you to prepare your final assignment.

In Week 2, each company must submit a brief company strategy statement, suitable for framing—whoops, I mean suitable for distribution to the entire INTOPIAN marketplace, including an organization chart (with names and titles) and company name. Try to hold it to one page. Its purpose is to allow each company to position itself in the marketplace and to facilitate efficient market development and structure by increasing awareness and perceptions of other companies. Companies are free to modify the statement from time to time as they see a need to do so. EACH COMPANY MUST E-MAIL ITS STRATEGY,
CORPORATE NAME AND OFFICER ROSTER (NAME AND POSITION) TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE CLASS. TRY TO DO IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I WILL DETERMINE THE ADDRESS FOR GENERAL CLASS EMAILS.

In some circumstances, I may act as a representative of the board of directors of each company and I hope to meet or talk with the management at least once during the quarter. (I also fulfill other roles, as you will see.) Feel free to phone me (best to reach me on my cell phone at 614-256-1755) about ANY management problem, sooner rather than later. The cell number is generally more successful. Acceptable civilized phone hours are 9 am to 10 pm (though I may be out from time to time). If you e-mail me, please INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER(S). Phone messages/voicemail are probably the most efficient way to get my attention and the cell number is answered pretty reliably, though email also works pretty well. Be sure to leave substantive detail in your voicemails so that I can respond substantively to your voicemail recorder. Again, please leave me a callback number.

The INTOPIA Gazette is published weekly with frequent Gazette EXTRAS for news of extraordinary importance.

A written individual assignment will be due two days after the last day of class on Thursday, December 10. The Final Assignment must be submitted as hard copy; email alone is not acceptable. However, in addition to your hard copy submission, please e-mail it to me for backup. Instructions for the Final Assignment will be distributed in approximately Week 5 or Week 6.

Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intopia Company Performance</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Company Presentations (including journal)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final assignment</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Course Schedule

A detailed course calendar follows on the next page. It is important to be at class on time because there are often important announcements each week. Companies adjourn to their headquarters and conduct meetings and negotiations and meet with Arthur DeBig as needed. The Intopia Gazette and the Intopia Gazette Extra are also published weekly. While the calendar represents the intended schedule for the course, it is subject to change as the course evolves.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 8/21</td>
<td>Introduction and Team Formation</td>
<td>Wed 8/23</td>
<td>Th 8/24 or Fri 8/25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 8/28</td>
<td>Intopia Q1/Q2 Decisions</td>
<td>Wed 8/30</td>
<td>Th 8/31 or Fri 9/1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9/4</td>
<td>Intopia Q3 Decisions</td>
<td>Wed 9/6</td>
<td>Th 9/7 or Fri 9/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9/11</td>
<td>Intopia Q4 Decisions</td>
<td>Wed 9/20</td>
<td>Th 9/21 or Fri 9/22</td>
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<td>Mon 9/18</td>
<td>Intopia Q5 Decisions</td>
<td>Wed 9/20</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Intopia Q6 Decisions</td>
<td>Wed 9/27</td>
<td>Th 9/28 or Fri 9/29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10/2</td>
<td>Intopia Q7 Decisions</td>
<td>Wed 10/4</td>
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<td>Th 10/12 or Fri 10/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10/16</td>
<td>Intopia Q8 Decisions</td>
<td>Wed 10/18</td>
<td>Th 10/19 or Fri 10/20</td>
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<td>Mon 10/23</td>
<td>Intopia Q9 Decisions</td>
<td>Wed 10/25</td>
<td>Th 10/26 or Fri 10/27</td>
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<td>Mon 10/30</td>
<td>Intopia and Team Presentations Q10 Decisions</td>
<td>Wed 11/1</td>
<td>Th 11/2 or Fri 11/3</td>
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<td>Th 11/23 or Fri 11/24</td>
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<td>Mon 11/27</td>
<td>Intopia and Team Presentations Q13 Decisions</td>
<td>Wed 11/29</td>
<td>Th 11/30 or Fri 12/1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12/4</td>
<td>Course Wrap Up</td>
<td>Wed 12/6</td>
<td>Th 12/7 or Fri 12/8</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Final Assignment Due</td>
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**Thanksgiving**: Mon 11/27

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**Notes:**
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- Mon 8/28 Intopia Q1/Q2 Decisions
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- Mon 9/11 Intopia Q4 Decisions
- Mon 9/18 Intopia Q5 Decisions
- Mon 9/25 Intopia Q6 Decisions
- Mon 10/2 Intopia Q7 Decisions
- Mon 10/9 No class (Fisher reading day) No decisions
- Mon 10/16 Intopia Q8 Decisions
- Mon 10/23 Intopia Q9 Decisions
- Mon 10/30 Intopia and Team Presentations Q10 Decisions
- Mon 11/6 No class
- Mon 11/13 Intopia and Team Presentations Q11 Decisions
- Mon 11/20 Intopia and Team Presentations Q12 Decisions
- Mon 11/27 Intopia and Team Presentations Q13 Decisions
- Mon 12/4 Course Wrap Up Final Assignment Due

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- Mon 9/18
- Tu 9/19
- Wed 9/20
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**Thanksgiving:** Mon 11/27

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**Course Wrap Up:**
- Final Assignment Due
COURSE SCHEDULE

SESSION 1
Tuesday, August 22, 2017

Course Introduction and Orientation and Company Team Formation

We will go over key aspects of the Intopia simulation and the course. Most importantly, we will form teams of four members each that will remain together throughout the quarter. We will also distribute software for the course. Bring at least one laptop per group. If all goes extremely well, we will attempt to do the startup practice exercise listed for next week and described in your reading packet entitled Decision Exercise with Print Out.

While not required until the next class period, you will benefit greatly if you have already read the INTOPIA Executive Guide and INTOPIA Q&A prior to class.

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SESSION 2
Tuesday, August 29, 2017

INTOPIA: You will be preparing to Execute Quarters 1 & 2. It will be a zoo.

READINGS: You should have read the INTOPIA Executive Guide and INTOPIA Q&A prior to class. You will need to know it thoroughly and the sooner you get started the better informed (and less mystified) you will be about the INTOPIAN world. It may help to divide the reading chores among your team members. For example, let each team member concentrate on a different functional area purely for purposes of learning the mechanics, not necessarily for the way you organize the business.

Be sure you have carefully read this course calendar.

Submit Organization Chart and Company Name. One person must be designated as president.

Final Assignment due by Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 6:15 pm