Title of Course: Contemporary Issues in Business

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION AND CREDIT HOURS OF COURSE:

A three-hour course intended to introduce students to current research on contemporary business issues and questions. Students will be expected to read, understand, and critically evaluate research and analysis on contemporary issues and demonstrate an understanding of how research and analysis affect proposed solutions or responses to these issues or questions. (3)

II. PREREQUISITE:

Admission to MBA Program or consent of MBA Director

III. PURPOSE OR OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

A. Locate information (e.g., via computer bibliographical searches, internet) regarding current business issues and questions.
B. Evaluate current business literature in terms of its quality, validity, applicability, etc.
C. Analyze cases regarding current business issues and questions.
D. Show awareness of and sensitivity to current business issues and questions and carry on informed conversation regarding current business issues and questions.

IV. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students are expected to participate fully in classroom activities, including discussions, individual and team projects and other class assignments. Students should display a professional attitude and behave in an academically honest manner to preserve the integrity of the classroom and the learning environment.

Specific conditions and expectations for this course will be set forth in the class outline to be distributed to students at the beginning of the semester.

LEARNING GOALS FOR HARRISON MBA STUDENTS

The Harrison business faculty has identified five critically important learning goals for those pursuing the Masters of Business Administration degree offered by the Donald L. Harrison College of Business. A student receiving the Harrison MBA degree should:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in effective communication and team work by writing a clearly focused, organized and mechanically correct business document, creating and delivering a professional presentation on a relevant business problem with substantive content, organization and delivery; recalling work related information and exhibiting effective team work.
2. **Demonstrate advanced knowledge** of accounting, finance, business law, management, marketing, management information systems, and economics by using business related terms, concepts, theories and principles appropriately.

3. **Demonstrate the ability to apply critical thinking skills and advanced research skills** to business problems and ethical dilemmas by identifying a problem or ethical issue, presenting and evaluating relevant information; evaluating alternatives; and resolving the problem or ethical dilemma with a justification based on general principles, discipline-specific understanding and professional judgment.

4. **Demonstrate upper-level management and leadership skills in a diverse environment** by providing evidence of understanding of individual management styles, evidence of adapting to a diverse environment and other cultures.

5. **Demonstrate executive management level knowledge (mastery) of technology** by using the Internet, business computer applications, statistical software, and presentation software when creating and making presentations.

V. **COURSE CONTENT OR OUTLINE:**

The emphasis of the course would change to correspond with current issues and trends in business and the preferences of the instructor. In general, the topics will be drawn from five broad areas: macro, industry, environmental, strategy, and tactics. One example of course content is provided below, based upon three major segments--Business Ethics, Internal Management Issues, and Re-engineering the Organization.

**Business Ethics (macro and environmental)**

- Recognizing Ethical Issues
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Applying Moral Philosophies to Business
- Impact of Environment of Ethical Decision Making
- Ethical Decision-Making Frameworks
- Corporate Values-Internal
- Corporate Values-External
- Employee/Employer Rights
- Corporate Values-International
- Excellence in Business Ethics

**Internal Management Issues (macro and tactics)**

- Compliance with Legislation
- Violence in the Workplace
- Telecommuting
- Family-Friendly Benefits
- Dual-career Issues
- Expatriates/Repatriates
- Temporary Employees/Contract Workers
- Catastrophic Illness Policy-Making
Re-engineering the Organization (strategy and tactics)

- Organizations and the Need for Change
- Explanation of Change Theory
- Organizational Re-engineering
- Total Quality Management
- Self-Managed Teams
- Quality Function Deployment
- ISO 9000
- Designing Change (Re-engineering steps)
- Evaluating Change (Evaluating the improvement)
- Planning for the Future

VI. TEXTBOOK(S) AND OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS OR EQUIPMENT:

Required reading materials would be dependent upon current business literature. Selection of a textbook would be at the discretion of the instructor.

VII. BASIS FOR STUDENT EVALUATION:

- Scholarly papers
- Written examinations
- Oral presentation
- Case Studies
- Debates
- Role-playing exercises
- Class participation
- Team projects and evaluations

VIII. GRADING POLICY:

The weight of the evaluation criteria may vary according to each instructor and will be communicated at the beginning of the course.

IX. Academic Policy Statement:
Students will be expected to abide by the University Policy for Academic Honesty regarding plagiarism and academic honesty. Refer to:
http://www6.semo.edu/judaffairs/code.html

X. Student with Disabilities Statement:
If a student has a special need addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires materials in an alternative format, please notify the instructor at the beginning of the course. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate special needs.