Course Information Sheet

Course:	BMGT 332 (Operations Research for Management Decisions)
Time:	Tues. & Thurs., 2:00 – 3:15 pm (Section 0201)
Dates:	Fall Semester 2014
Room:	VMH 1202
Instructor:	Dr. Bruce L. Golden
Phone:	(301) 405-2232
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Email:	bgolden@rhsmith.umd.edu
Home page:	scholar.rhsmith.umd.edu/bgolden
Office:	4339 VMH
Office hours:	Monday 2:00-4:00 pm & by arrangement
Admin Assistant:	Janet Cavanagh (jcavanagh@rhsmith.umd.edu)
Teaching Assistant:	Teresa Russell (t.russell213@gmail.com)
Office hours:	Thursday 3:30-5:30
Office:	4473 VMH
Texts:	*The Craft of Decision Modeling (Chapters 1-7)* by Patrick Rivett, John Wiley & Sons (1994). Available from Copy Services in room 1406 VMH.
Key dates:	Exam 1: 10/7/14
	Exam 2: 11/6/14
	Exam 3: 12/4/14
	Final Exam: 12/18/14 (10:30 am to 12:30 pm)

Course Goals

The course is designed as an introduction to the field of operations research (OR) and business analytics. The focus will be on the application of the scientific approach to decision making and data analysis. Numerous, small case studies will be covered. It is not our intent to train OR theoreticians in this course. Rather, we seek to convey an appreciation for what an OR analyst does and why it is important.

Readings

As a general rule, try to read about five pages ahead of the material we last covered in class. E.g., suppose we cover up to slide 8 in the first class. This corresponds to page 12 in the text by Rivett. Then, read up to page 17 or 18 in the text before the second class.

Assignments

There will be about 10 homework assignments. These will typically (but not always) be assigned on Thursday and due on Tuesday. Please turn in answers in hard copy form. Homeworks turned in after 2:05 pm will not be accepted. Assignments should be neat and legible, with papers stapled or clipped together. At the end of the semester, the lowest two grades will be dropped and the remaining grades averaged.

Exams

There will be four exams. The last of these will be given during finals week. The exams will be comprehensive in that each one will cover all the material studied till then. This will make it easier for you at the end of the semester. They will all be closed-book, closed-notes. The exam dates and the topics covered for each will be announced well in advance. Exams must be taken on the day scheduled. If you cannot take an exam due to a serious and verifiable illness or emergency, notify me in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made. A note from a physician will be required. The make-up will be an oral or written exam in my office.

Grades

Your final grade will be determined on the basis of a single composite score based on the following components.

Homework:	10%
Exam 1:	20%
Exam 2:	20%
Exam 3	20%
Final Exam:	30%
Total:	100%

The course grades will be determined by comparing your composite score to those of your classmates, as well as some absolute standards of performance. If your overall average exceeds 90% as of the final class, you will be excused from the Final Exam.

Study Suggestions

1. Attend class on a regular basis.

2. Pay attention during class.

3. Participate in class.

4. Turn in homework on time.

5. Read the book carefully.

6. Make an effort to learn the material.

7. If you have questions in class, ask them.

8. If you have questions in general, see me or my TA (sooner rather than later).

9. In case of difficulties that cannot be cleared up in class, feel free to see me in my office, either during my office hours or by appointment at other times.

10. Don't be lazy.

Academic Integrity

The University's Code of Academic Integrity is designed to ensure
that the principles of academic honesty and integrity are upheld. All students are expected to adhere to this Code. The Smith School does not tolerate academic dishonesty. All acts of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this code. Please visit the following website for more information on the University's Code of Academic Integrity: http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html

On each exam or assignment you will be asked to write out and sign the following pledge. "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

Special Needs

Any student with special needs should bring this to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible, but not later than the second week of class.

No Electronics Policy

Finally, to encourage class participation and to enable all students to focus on the in-class discussions without distraction, I ask you not to use laptops or other electronic devices (Blackberries, iPads, cell phones, etc.) in class. There will be one exception at the end of the semester. Thank you, in advance.

About the Professor

Bruce Golden received his undergraduate degree in mathematics from the University of Pennsylvania and his masters and doctoral degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined the faculty of the University of Maryland Business School in 1976 and served as a Department Chairman from 1980 to 1996. Currently, he is the France-Merrick Chair in Management Science in the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland. His research interests include heuristic search, combinatorial optimization, networks, and applied operations research. Bruce has received numerous awards, including the Thomas L. Saaty Prize (1994 and 2005), the University of Maryland Distinguished Scholar-Teacher Award (2000), the INFORMS Award for the Teaching of OR/MS Practice (2003), and the INFORMS Computing Society Prize (2005). He was named an INFORMS Fellow in 2004. Since 1999, Bruce has served as Editor-in-Chief of *NETWORKS*. Before that, he was Editor-in-Chief of the *INFORMS Journal on Computing*.

In addition, he has received numerous contracts and grants, has consulted for a wide variety of organizations, and has served on the Board of Directors of several high-tech companies based in Maryland. In 1980, he founded a management consulting company with several colleagues. The focus was on business logistics. Clients included IBM, UPS, the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Army, Federal Express, Toyota, DuPont, and many others. In the late 1980's, Bruce co-founded a second company, specializing in the design and sales of vehicle routing software. He and his partners successfully grew these companies and sold them in late 1998. The surviving company is RouteSmart Technologies, Inc. When Federal Express delivers packages to homes each and every day, it uses RouteSmart software.