

An Evidence-Based Approach Course Syllabus Fall 2024

Instructor: John L. Dennis, Ph.D. Credits: 3 Contact Hours: 45 Prerequisites: None Class Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:45am-12:15pm Office Hours: Course Type: Course with Service Learning component Lab/Site-Visits Fee: USD\$95

Working hard and working smart sometimes can be two different things – Byron Dorgan Being a professional is doing the things you love to do – even on the days you don't feel like doing it - Julius Erving

Course Description

This course introduces students to the concepts and topics in Organizational Behavior, using an evidence-based approach on three levels: the individual, the interpersonal, and the group. At the individual level, we look at decision-making, motivation, and personality. At the interpersonal level, we concentrate on power, influence, and negotiations. At the group level, we explore the leadership and organizational context, while looking at the intricate set of cultural assumptions and prejudices about human behavior that we unknowingly bring with us to the workplace. Emphasis is placed on the role of the first-line supervisor in balancing, coordinating, and integrating individual and organizational needs. It is intended that students gain a better basis for understanding, evaluating, and managing complex organizations.

Effectively using concepts of Organizational Behavior means being able to diagnose problems, communicate clearly, and make evidence-based decisions, while applying the intercultural tools necessary to work effectively in organizations on a worldwide level. Among these skills are the ability to analyze, develop, and implement appropriate solutions. It is intended that students become: 1) more perceptive and knowledgeable about how organizational systems work (and why they may not work); 2) more aware of the consequences of choices made as a manager; 3) more confident in possessing the necessary skills to succeed in a corporate setting. Other subjects covered include the development of management thought, the role of the supervisor as a decision-maker, and the processes of planning, organizing, leading, and controlling organizational activities. The intention is to motivate and influence others to drive organizational change. In this sense, this course will help students gain leadership skills within a structured classroom environment, additionally providing them with a direct experiential knowledge of working with local companies.

The course service learning project will use organizational behavior concepts studied in this course to help <u>Birrificio La Gramigna</u> at the individual, interpersonal, and group levels.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Measures
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Reflect on organizational behavior concepts at the individual, interpersonal, and group levels	Class Discussion, Presentations, Podcast
Develop applicable critical thinking skills regarding organizational behavior concepts	Tickets, Class Discussion
Generate effective leadership skills	Presentations, Service Learning Project
Analyze how organizations and people within them work	Ticket, Service Learning Project
Gain knowledge of how leadership motivates and influences people regarding organizational change	Service Learning Project, Presentations
Design a project with community partner that applies organizational behavior concepts as viable solutions for a well-defined issue	Service Learning Project, Podcast
Create and broadcast materials that will help students to start thinking about their future careers	Class Discussion, Podcast, Community Engagement Presentations

Course Materials

Books (selected chapters)

Clear, J. (2018). Atomic Habits. Random House.

Collins, J. (2009). Good to great: Why some companies make the leap and others don't. Harper.

Coyle, D. (2017). Culture Code. Random House.

Edmondson, A.C. (2018). The fearless organization: Creating psychological safety in the workplace for learning, innovation, and growth. Wiley.

All the required chapters will be available online on the course Google Drive

Instruction Methods

This class uses a method where students gain significant knowledge before each session begins. Once class starts, students actively and interactively clarify and apply their new knowledge, with the professor guiding them as a facilitator. This is referred to in pedagogy as a <u>flipped classroom instruction method</u>.

Assignments will be completed using several cooperative tools that align with the flipped instruction method outlined above:

1. Students will submit short reactions (250-500 words) to readings 24 hours before class on Google Drive.

2. Students will review materials submitted by fellow students.

3. Students will guide part of a classroom discussion with mini-presentations based on readings, exercises, case studies, and individual/team assignments.

Note: All writing should be in 12-point, Garamond font, single-spaced, and justified. All submitted files should

include the following information in the top left corner of the page:

First Name Last Name File type (e.g., Ticket #1, Podcast) Book section name, article title, or Podcast title

Laptop/Smartphone Policy

An ever-increasing body of research shows that open laptops and telephones in the classroom create a distraction (both visual and auditory) for those using them and those around them. You can type faster than you can write, so you end up processing less when you're simply typing notes. For this reason, students are asked to keep computers and phones away and use a regular notebook. There are four exceptions: 1) if you have a vision or other accommodation; 2) if you are using a tablet to take notes, one which is not connected to the internet; 3) if we have an in-class tutorial about online research tools; or 4) if you make an office hours appointment with me to discuss the use of a computer.

Assessments

Attendance	10%
One-to-One Professor Meetings	5%
Service Learning Project	20%
Community Engagement Presentation	5%
Tickets	20%
Podcast	15%
Peer Reviews	10%
Presentations	15%

Attendance (10%)

Student attendance is mandatory for all courses at the Umbra Institute (see below Attendance Policy).

One-to-One Professor Meetings (5%)

During the semester, students will meet with the professor one-on-one for two 10-minute meetings. Those meetings can be online or in person. Use the <u>Calendly link</u> to reserve those meetings.

Service Learning Project (20%)

Students will work as a team with La Gramigna using interviews, observations, and/or surveys to answer the following questions:

- 1. What is the nature of the area in need of improvement?
- 2. What are its causes?
- 3. How can organizational behavior concepts be applied and extended to solve the area in need of improvement?

4. What specific action steps should the organization take to solve the area in need of improvement? 5. What changes should be implemented?

6. What are the potential barriers, obstacles, and challenges you foresee?

7. What are the risks, costs, and possible unintended consequences of your recommendations? 8. How will you communicate your findings to the organization and overcome potential resistance?

Grading for the Service Learning Project is ongoing. It is highly recommended to create Notes pages within Google Drive to indicate active information gathering for the project. These notes can include article summaries, links to videos, images, interviews, etc. Active engagement in answering the above questions will occur regularly during the semester. Please see Moodle for a detailed prompt.

End of Semester Community Engagement Presentations (5%)

During Special Academic Events Week, the class will present a 15-minute summary of the project experience to the Umbra community during the Community Engagement Presentations on **Wednesday, December 11**. Students will receive the guidelines and presentation order after the mid-semester break. Participation in this event is MANDATORY and an integral part of the community engagement grade. Please see the <u>End of</u> <u>Semester Community Engagement Presentations Guidelines and Rubric</u>. Please see Moodle for a detailed prompt.

Tickets (20%)

Students will submit one ticket (250-500 words) per reading. Odd-numbered tickets will be completed in class, while even-numbered tickets will be submitted online to Google Drive at least 24 hours before class. See the <u>ticket rubric</u> to better understand what is expected of you. For articles and book chapters, tickets must answer the following 4 W's:

- 1. What was the reading's main question in a single sentence?
- 2. What was done/discussed, and what did they find?
- 3. How does the reading relate to other readings, in-class discussions, and/or class projects?
- 4. Which part of the reading did you find useful or are you critical of?

The first two W's help students remember the key points from the reading, while the last two W's integrate their experiences and thoughts with what they have read. Remember, you are writing for your future self, so examples, definitions, and context matter. Write so that when you open your tickets in 5 years, you will be able to reconstruct the reading. Once your ticket has been peer-reviewed, you will need to edit it and "submit" it for a final review. Given that tickets must be between 250–500 words, students should not give a summary of the entire reading. Instead, focus on the part you found most interesting. Please see Moodle for a detailed prompt.

Podcast (15%)

Students will work in groups of 3-4 to submit one podcast entry (about 7 minutes) to Google Drive based on classroom experiences during the semester. We will periodically use class time to create a Podcast notes page, then divide the class into groups and work during class time to develop podcasts according to our Podcast schedule, which will be shared with you at the beginning of the semester.

Podcasts will follow the Podcast hourglass structure, which includes:

- 1. A narrative story that creates conflict.
- 2. Core concepts from the readings.
- 3. Implications of those concepts.
- 4. A narrative story that helps resolve the conflict for listeners.

Podcasts will always include concepts from the readings, but the narrative story can be based on the Service Learning Project, interviews with other MPP professors, other students, Italian UNIPG students, or any other exercise, discussion, etc., that occurs inside and outside the classroom. Once the Podcast has been reviewed and approved, it will be submitted for publication on the Umbra Institute podcast channel. Please see Moodle for a detailed prompt.

Presentations (15%)

Students will lead a portion of the class with a short presentation of their ticket during the semester. Presentations and student-led discussions will typically occupy the first half of the class, while the professor will guide the discussion during the remaining half.

Presentations should include an activity for the class and a discussion of the reading that connects to the reading. Activities for the class might include filling out a questionnaire, doing an improvisation game, breaking into groups to answer specific questions, etc. For activity ideas, it is highly recommended to consult online resources, as we did in the first class. These resources usually provide a good starting point for class activities.

Do not rely solely on Google Slide presentations. The presentation should include a summary of the reading—enough that anyone who has not done the reading can follow what you are talking about. Presenters should be able to answer the four questions for the tickets, then focus on the part of the reading they find most interesting.

All presentations will have two co-presenters. Please see the <u>Presentation Rubric</u> on Moodle to assist you as you construct your presentations. Please see Moodle for a detailed prompt.

Peer Reviews (10%)

Student pairs will review presentations, Tickets submitted by fellow students, and Podcast entries. Reviews should consist of helpful and constructive comments, providing "additive feedback" by making suggestions about what the writer might add or develop further.

Students are responsible for completing one Ticket peer review per class. Podcast reviews and presentation

reviews will be assigned during the semester. For presentation reviews, two randomly assigned students will review presentations to help improve them. A signup sheet for all peer reviews will be shared on Google Drive.

Reviews are due within 48 hours of when the document you are reviewing has been submitted to Google Drive or completed in class. Please use the <u>peer review guidelines and rubric</u>. For detailed prompts, please see Moodle.

Additional Notes

Feedback and Questions

This course should be a valuable learning experience for all students. Their feedback regarding the class is appreciated at any time during the semester. It is easiest to reach the professor by email or right before or after class, or an appointment can be set up.

Email

Please understand that the professor responds to emails between the hours of 12:30-6:30 pm Monday to Thursday.

Participation

The core work of this course involves reading and collectively making sense of the assigned readings. Being consistently prepared for class, asking questions, responding to questions, and attentively listening to others is essential. Successful participation has four prerequisites, which can be considered the participation rubric. Each class, you will be given a maximum score of 5, with 1 point given for each:

1. *Being there.* When a student is absent, the class cannot benefit from their comments and insights. Absences will therefore hurt the participation grade. If a student is absent, they should make arrangements with a classmate to take notes and pick up any assignments or handouts.

2. Being on time. If a student needs to be late for class, they should notify the professor at least 24 hours in advance.

3. Being prepared. To contribute to class discussions, students must come to class having carefully prepared all assignments (i.e., readings, tickets, cases, exercises). If students are unsure of the assignments for an upcoming class session, they should ask.

4. *Being brave.* Students are expected to participate fully in all class exercises, voice personal views during discussions, and ask questions about things that are not understood. Asking questions might be intimidating, but doing so helps classmates by moving the discussion forward in new directions.

5. *Being conreas.* Listening carefully to classmates' comments and questions helps everyone learn from different perspectives. Voicing disagreement is essential as it often leads to thoughtful and informative class discussions. Disagreements should be kind and considerate.

Note: Some people are uncomfortable presenting viewpoints in a large group setting. However, contributing to discussions is an important part of the student's career development. If anything may interfere with your ability to contribute on an ongoing basis, discuss it with the professor sooner rather than later. The professor will work with you offline to develop a strategy or plan to increase your comfort level and performance in class participation. If you have questions about your participation grade, it is your responsibility to make an office hours appointment and discuss it with the professor before the semester ends.

Broadcasting

Students will significantly improve submitted materials during the semester, and, in the process, develop skills so that they are <u>so good they can't be ignored</u> (*So Good They Can't Ignore You* by Cal Newport). The result will be materials that will be so good that we will broadcast them online. For example, selected documents, videos, photos, etc., will be used as the basis for student Podcast posts, and, in the past, they have been shared on social networks such as LinkedIn, Twitter, and Slideshare. The goal of broadcasting is to help students develop materials that will allow them to think about their careers – to think like they are a <u>start-up</u> (*The Start-Up of You* by Reid Hoffman and Ben Casnocha).

Peer-Reviewed Research-based Article

Every semester, this course includes a project that occasionally results in a peer-reviewed article submission, completed in the months following the course. Writing this article is open to all students but requires a commitment of about an hour each week. Bi-weekly meetings (or as needed) will occur via Zoom at a time that

fits all co-writers' schedules. Student-authors will always be first authors, according to my practice.

You will learn how to read and summarize original research articles and organize our Service Learning project using APA guidelines. Students who participate in this writing project will be encouraged and supported in submitting this research to their institution, such as for an honors thesis. Additionally, if funding opportunities exist, I will support you in obtaining them so that you can present this project at international conferences specializing in similar projects. For detailed information, please see Moodle.

Grading

Students are reminded that it is their responsibility to note the dates of exams and other assignments. No alternative exam dates will be offered and professors are not required to give partial credit for any late work (they do so at their discretion: the Institute's default policy is no extensions and a zero for any work turned in late). Students who book travel when they have an exam or other assessment will have to change their plans or accept a zero. Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

Letter Grade	Numerical	Student
Range	Score	Performance
	Equivalent	
А	93% - 100%	Exceptional
A-	90% - 92%	Excellent
B+	87% -89%	
В	83% - 86%	Superior
В-	80% - 82%	
C+	77% - 79%	
С	73% - 76%	Satisfactory
C-	70% - 72%	
D+	67% - 69%	
D	63% - 66%	Low Pass
D-	60% - 62%	
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

<u>Please note:</u> decimal numerals between 1-4 are rounded down while 5-9 are rounded up: e.g., expect 89.4 to be 89.0 while 89.5 to round up to 90.

Extension & Submitting Late Work

Work submitted after the deadline will receive a grade of zero, not partial credit. Each student is allowed one extension of 24 hours over the entire semester. This can be used for any assignment but the final project. Students need to email the instructor before the deadline and inform the instructor of their use of the extension. Any work submitted after the 24-hour extension will be marked zero. As for all policies, exceptions can be made by the Director for students with special accommodations or in case of medical emergencies, etc.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected and mandatory for classroom times and co-curricular activities. The first two absences per course due to illness will be considered excused "sick days" and do not require medical documentation. To receive additional excused absences due to illness, students are required to see a local physician or request a letter from an Institute-approved doctor documenting they should be excused from class for illness.

Unexcused absences will adversely affect a student's academic performance and will result in a reduction of the student's final course grade by 2% per absence up to a maximum of 10%. Excessive unexcused absences may result

in a failing grade or disciplinary action. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the number of absences or late arrivals for each course, and to ask the instructor when in doubt.

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. Any work missed in class because of an excused absence may be made up within one week of the return to the class. Any work missed that was a quiz or other test must be made up outside of class time and will, in the interest of intellectual honesty, be a slightly different test than the one given in class.

Presence during mandatory field trips is especially important. <u>Missing a mandatory field trip for a course, unless for a very serious reason that is communicated to Umbra staff in a timely manner, will lower the students' grade by half a letter grade (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B).</u>

Legitimate reasons for an excused absence or tardiness include death in the immediate family, religious observances, illness or injury, local inclement weather, and medical appointments that cannot be rescheduled. Absences relating to illness may be excused by the Director, but only if a medical certification is provided.

Students who request an approved absence to observe a religious holiday must submit a formal request to the Institute's Director within one week after the add/drop period when course schedules, including any field trips, are finalized. No exceptions will be made after this deadline.

Except in the case of medical emergencies, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason. Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

Tardiness Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes punctually. Any student arriving up to 15 minutes late or leaving up to 15 minutes earlier than the scheduled class end time will be marked as tardy. Each incident of tardiness (late arrivals to or early departures from class) is 0.5% off the final grade. However, should a student arrive more than 15 minutes late or depart more than 15 minutes before the conclusion of the class, it will be recorded as an absence. Students are also expected to remain in class during the time of instruction except for a reasonable amount of time to use the restroom. Students who leave class and do not return during the class session will receive an unexcused absence or late penalty.

Academic Integrity

All forms of cheating (i.e., copying during an exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and plagiarism (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

Utilizing ChatGPT or other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the generation of content submitted by a student as their own as part of any assignment for academic credit at the Institute constitutes a form of plagiarism. Should the Institute become aware of a student's use of such platforms and services, the student will be subject to the same consequences and judicial proceedings as are in place for plagiarism (defined above).

Classroom Policy

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate respect for the historical premises that the school occupies. Please note that cell phones must be set to silent mode before the beginning of each class. Computers and other electronic devices cannot be used during class lectures and discussions for anything other than note-taking, unless there has been specific academic accommodation.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

WEEK 0 Day 1	Introductory meeting Wednesday, Sept. 4 @1730 Aula Magna
WEEK 1 Day 1	No Class
DAY 2	Class Online Introduction and Course Overview Coyle, Chapters 1-3 Ticket 1 - In class
WEEK 2	
DAY 1	Service Learning Project Development In-class presentation of partner and project by Umbra staff
DAY 2	Class Online <i>Collins, Chapter 1-2</i> Ticket 2 - GoogleDrive <i>Podcast</i> Concepts discussed and initial notes due on GoogleDrive
WEEK 3	
DAY 1	Clear, The Fundamentals, Chapters 1-2 Ticket 3 - In class Service Learning Project Development Present current project: In-depth overview
DAY 2	Edmondson, Chapter 1 Ticket 4 - GoogleDrive Service Learning Project Development
WEEK 4	
DAY 1	<i>Coyle, Chapters 7-9</i> Ticket 5 - In class
DAY 2	Collins, Chapter 3-4 Ticket 6 - GoogleDrive Service Learning Project Development Prepare for Field Trip
DAY 3	<u>Friday, October 4</u> : Field trip to Birrificio La Gramigna (community partner for this course). A detailed itinerary will be sent early this week
WEEK 5	
DAY 1	Service Learning Project Development Work through project. Clear, The 1st Law, Chapters 5-6 Ticket 7 - In class
DAY 2	Podcasts Concepts discussed and 1 st draft due on GoogleDrive

Service Learning Project Development Work through project.

WEEK 6

DAY 1	Service Learning Project Development
	Debriefing from Field Trip
	Podcasts
	Concepts discussed

DAY 2	Edmondson, Chapter 3
	Ticket 8 - GoogleDrive
	Service Learning Project Development
	Work through project.

SEMESTER BREAK

WEEK 7

DAY 1	Coyle, Chapters 13-14 Ticket 9 - In class Service Learning Project Development
	Work through the project.
DAY 2	<i>Collins, Chapter 5-6</i> Ticket 10 – GoogleDrive <i>Podcast</i> Concepts discussed and 2 nd draft due on GoogleDrive
WEEK 8	
DAY 1	<i>Clear, The 2nd Lan, Chapters 8-9</i> Ticket 11 - In class
DAY 2	Service Learning Project Development Conversation with partner - TBC
WEEK 9	
DAY 1	Edmondson, Chapter 4 Ticket 12 - GoogleDrive Service Learning Project Development. Resolve areas in need of improvement
DAY 2	<i>Collins, Chapter 7-8</i> Ticket 13 - In class <i>Podcasts</i> Concepts discussed and 3 rd draft due on GoogleDrive
WEEK 10	
DAY 1	Service Learning Project Development. Practice presentation for partner.
DAY 2	Clear, The 3rd Law, Chapters 13-14 Ticket 14 - GoogleDrive

WEEK 11

DAY 1	<i>Edmondson, Chapter 5</i> Ticket 15 - In class
DAY 2	Service Learning Project Development. Presentation with partner.
WEEK 12	
DAY 1	Service Learning Project Development. Work on the presentation for Community Engagement Presentations. Podcast Final versions are due.
DAY 2	Service Learning Project Development. Practice Community Engagement Presentation Ticket Final versions with all revisions due.
WEEK 13 Final Classes	s, Final Exams, & Special Academic Events Week

DAY 1 Wednesday, December 11. Community Engagement Presentations. The full Special Academic Events Calendar will be provided later in the semester



BUS/PSYC 460 - Organizational Behavior: An Evidence-Based Approach Service Learning Project Syllabus Appendix

Service Learning Overview

Service learning is a form of experiential education integrated into a course where students:

- Engage in an organized activity or project designed to address a community need identified in collaboration with a community partner.
- Critically reflect on the connection between their community experience, course content, and learning goals.
- Participate in reciprocal learning, benefiting both the students and the community partners.

Successful service learning requires students to be flexible, creative, and self-initiated. Organization and open communication with the professor and team members are crucial for student success.

Service Learning Project Overview

La Gramigna brewery, founded in 2016 in Casa del Diavolo, a small village near Perugia, specializes in producing beverages from organically cultivated local ingredients, without the use of pesticides. In addition to the brewery, La Gramigna operates a taproom in Perugia's city center, a gin specialty location, and a new hospitality project called "Bed & Beer" near the brewery.

Project Description and Goals

This course introduces basic concepts in organizational behavior, focusing on three main areas: the individual, interpersonal, and group levels.

- Individual Level: Students will analyze the decision-making practices of the brewery's co-owners to better understand their motivations, helping students define their role in the project.
- Interpersonal Level: Students will explore the power dynamics, influence, and negotiations involved in organizing the brewery's various events and divisions.
- **Group Level**: Students will assess Alberto Castaldo's (co-owner) leadership and organizational skills, identifying areas of weakness and informing potential interventions.

Based on their visit to Birrificio La Gramigna and online research, students will develop recommendations to enhance the company's marketing and communication strategies for both local and international clients. Their work may eventually support Birrificio's broader outreach efforts.

Methodology

Students will work as a team using methods such as best practices, interviews, observations, and surveys to address the following questions:

- 1. What is the nature of the area needing improvement?
- 2. What are its causes?
- 3. How can organizational behavior concepts be applied to solve the issue?
- 4. What specific steps should the organization take to improve the identified area?
- 5. What changes should be implemented?

- 6. What potential barriers, obstacles, and challenges might arise?
- 7. What are the risks, costs, and possible unintended consequences of the recommendations?
- 8. How will the findings be communicated to the organization, and how will potential resistance be managed?

Organization, Expectations, and Roles

Students will be divided into self-selected teams. Significant class time will be dedicated to the project's progress, but teams will also need to meet outside of class for approximately 1–2 hours per week for four weeks. Teams are responsible for dividing tasks to ensure equal contributions from all members throughout the project.

Group Presentation

Each team will collaborate on and deliver a detailed final presentation using PowerPoint. Every student is expected to complete a Presentation Feedback Form and engage with questions for other teams to foster a community of learning and support.

Presentation Guidelines:

- Use PowerPoint (ensure it is spell-checked).
- The presentation should be 10 minutes long.
- Each team member must contribute to the preparation and delivery.
- Rehearse the presentation as a group to ensure smooth content delivery, appropriate length, and transitions.

End of Semester Community Engagement Presentation

During Special Academic Events Week, the class will present a 15-minute summary of the project experience to the Umbra community during the Community Engagement Presentations on Wednesday, December 11th (the final week of the program). Guidelines and presentation order will be provided after the mid-semester break.

Presentation Structure:

- 1. Introduce the community partner.
- 2. Describe the project.
- 3. Discuss takeaways and challenges.
- 4. Include a meaningful activity related to course topics (optional and should not exceed five minutes).

Participation in this event is mandatory and is a key component of the community engagement grade.

Grading Rubric

The service learning project, including the final presentation, accounts for 25% of the final course grade. This is divided into three categories, each worth 8.33% of the final grade:

- 1. Construction of the learning project.
- 2. Execution of the learning project.
- 3. End of Semester Community Engagement Presentation.