

# PROJ MGT 433 - International Construction

## Course Objective:

The objective of this course is to familiarize students with the challenges of managing the planning and execution of international design and construction projects. Addressing a broad range of technical, logistical, legal, financial, cultural, and personnel management issues, students will learn ways to decrease the risk of international work and increase their personal enjoyment of overseas work. The course material is drawn from the text book, instructor experience, and focused research conducted by the students. Students pair up into teams of two and will present a summary of their case study research to the class.

Following is a week-by-week description of the course:

- Week 1: Introduction / Cultural & Global Issues** – The course begins with an introduction to the global opportunities and risks of international construction. Cultural considerations for both the design and the actual construction are explored along with the characteristics of a successful global project manager.
- Week 2: Managing Global Projects** – Management functions and the process of developing project objectives are examined with special attention to how objectives are dependent on the perspective of various international stakeholders. Some of these project objectives can be quite different from those seen on a domestic project.
- Week 3: Managing Global Projects** – Calendars used throughout the world, holidays, workweek differences, different outlooks on the use of time, and employee motivation factors, are reviewed to identify scheduling and cost estimating factors that must be taken into consideration for establishing more realistic expectations. Presentation of Case Study 1.
- Week 4: Managing Global Projects (Finish)** –Selecting appropriate technology and developing sound safety plans are discussed in order to reduce the adverse impacts of construction to the health and safety of employees and local population as well as to the environment.  
**Global Competitiveness** –Competition in the international arena is defined and the factors affecting competitiveness are investigated.
- Week 5: Global Alliances** – Contracts, relationships, teaming agreements, and risk in global projects are discussed in order to develop appropriate strategies that increase the probability of winning work and executing it successfully.

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**Global Financial** – Financing techniques, invoicing, and payment methods are reviewed in order to give the project manager a better awareness of how financing decisions may affect their project and how cash flow is often a critical aspect during the execution of an international project.

Presentation of Case Study 2.

**Week 6: Global Legal Issues** - International Contract Clauses, Claims and Change Orders, International Arbitration, Regime Changes, and Liability Issues associated with international work are presented and discussed.

Presentation of Case Study 3

**Week 7: Global Standards** – Technical Standards; Standards Organizations, Quality Control Standards, and the process for developing standards are explored as a means to raising the quality of work and fostering more efficient execution of the work.

**Week 8: Global Planning & Construction Delays** – Common, predictable delays to global projects are identified along with ways to prevent the delays or mitigate the impacts.

Presentation of Case Study 4.

**Week 9: Preparing to Work Globally** – A presentation and discussion of the physical, mental, financial, and emotional preparations that a professional project manager must make to be successful when working outside of their home country.

Presentation of Case Study 5.

**Week 10: Course Recap and Synthesis**

**Week 11: Final Exam**

**Text:** Yates, J, *Global Engineering and Construction*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2007 (ISBN 0-471-74382-8).

**Evaluation:**  
Participation: 10%  
Homework: 30%  
Case Study Presentation: 30%  
Final Exam: 30%