



**Nathan M. Bisk College of Business  
Extended Studies**

**MGT 5064 Cost and Economic Analysis (3 credits)**

**SPRING 2019 - ONLINE  
Course Syllabus**

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**Instructor:** Dr. Maribel M. Howell

**Meeting Times:** **Online**  
**This is a distance-learning course and class materials will be posted online.**

**Office Location:** FIT – Redstone Site  
6767 Old Madison Pike, Bldg. 7, Ste. 720  
Huntsville, Alabama 35806

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**Textbook (Not Required):** *Cost-Benefit Analysis: Concepts and Practice* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) by Anthony E. Boardman, David H. Greenberg, Aidan R. Vining, and David L. Weimer, Prentice Hall, Inc., Upper Saddle, NJ, 2011 (ISBN-10: 0137002696)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course relates microeconomic theory with policy analysis using “cost and benefit analysis” to evaluate projects. CBA attempts to provide a formal assessment and comparison of economic efficiencies among policy options. The objective of the course is to provide students with the conceptual foundations and skills needed as users and producers of CBA.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- (1) Demonstrate an understanding of principles and foundation of CBA and their applications;
- (2) Develop analytical and critical reasoning skills in analyzing cost and benefit analyses by others;
- (3) Demonstrate knowledge of evaluating alternative policies using CBA and economic concepts; and
- (4) Conduct a cost-benefit analysis.

## ASSESSMENTS

Student performance in this class will be assessed in the following areas:

<b>Midterm Exam:</b>	<b>25 %</b>
<b>Final exam:</b>	<b>25 %</b>
<b>Assignments:</b>	<b>25 %</b>
<b>CBA Project:</b>	<b>25 %</b>

There will be a homework at the end of each chapter. It is your responsibility to check the course website for due dates. Plan ahead. **There will be no make-up homework.**

It is highly recommended that you come up with alternative scenarios to handle possible technical difficulties. Please note that an extension will not be granted even if your computer is inoperable at an untimely manner, unless the problem is an FIT system-wide problem. Please be aware that you have the liberty to complete your assignments using any computer that is available to you.

The examination dates will be announced at least one week in advance. **All exams must be completed on the assigned time and date on CANVAS. You will have one attempt to take the tests. Additional attempts or extensions will not be given.**

A CBA Project Proposal is required by March. It will be assigned as a homework. However, you should start thinking about your CBA topic in the beginning of the class and start early in your data search. You can email me your proposed topic even before the deadline. The project is a cost-benefit analysis of a project that is of interest to you. See paper submission guide. The final project is due on **April 23**. CBA Projects will be graded based on content/writing (20%), quantity and quality of data used (30%), application of lessons learned and analysis (50%).

A conventional grading scale will be used (90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, <60=F). A grade of "I" (incomplete) may be assigned only if a student in a good standing (passing) has been officially excused from the final test due to hospitalization or serious sickness, in which case, the test must be promptly completed later in order to remove the "I" grade. Incomplete grades will not be considered for any other reason.

**All work must be typed using Times New Roman or Calibri, 12 points font and must be double spaced and must be submitted in MS Word; work submitted in any other format will not be graded. All submissions will be done through CANVAS.**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Class Format/Outcomes:**

The presentation of the course material will be delivered primarily online through the Florida Institute of Technology CANVAS platform. Students are expected to have an access to a computer with internet connection to access course instruction materials and complete assignments. Students must have a CANVAS account with FIT. Students are expected to read the textbook and posted notes/ materials, and are encouraged to regularly log on CANVAS to check out new postings.

Students are **required** to log-on the course website as often as possible and complete all the online activities. It is crucial that you keep up with these activities in order to be successful in this class.

**Homework and Exams will be under ‘Assignments’, Lectures and Homework Solutions, and all other materials will be available under ‘Files.’**

### **Assignments and Expectations:**

1. Students will be required to:
  - a. log on FIT’s CANVAS site regularly.
  - b. read materials assigned regularly.
  - c. complete assigned homework and quizzes.
  - d. take the MIDTERM exam and the FINAL exam.
  - e. conduct and submit a **CBA project**
2. All exams and homework are required. Missing an exam or a homework assignment will carry a score of **zero** on that exam/homework. No make-up exam will be given unless allowed by the instructor in cases like personal or medical emergencies supported by proper documentation.
3. Homework will have to be submitted **by the due date**. Students are expected to complete weekly assignments. Submissions bins will be closed after the due date. You will submit approximately 10 assignments, therefore, missing a submission will greatly impact your assignment grade which is 25% of your course grade.

**Note:** No special privilege or extra work will be given to any student to improve his/her grade. Be prepared to study and work hard.

### **Academic Integrity/Plagiarism:**

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: plagiarism, collaborating with others on individual assignments or projects, viewing or copying another student's solutions during exams, submitting completed coursework for more than one course (without consent of instructors), deliberate falsification of data, interference with other students' work, and copyright violations (including both document and software copyrights). Please familiarize yourself with the university policy on academic honesty. If at any time you have a question regarding integrity or plagiarism, ask the instructor for clarification.

Dishonest assignments (e.g., where plagiarism has occurred) will be dealt with under the University policy on Academic Misconduct. Access to this policy, including the factors that constitute a dishonest assignment is available at <http://www.fit.edu/current/documents/plagiarism.pdf>. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the definitions of academic misconduct. Plagiarism on your project will result to a failing grade (F) on the project.

Full and detailed acknowledgement (e.g. notation, and/or bibliography) must be provided if contributions are drawn from literature in preparation of reports and assignments. Student written work must properly cite and reference original work, author(s), etc. Citation and referencing must conform to either APA (American Psychological Association) or AMA (American Marketing Association) formats both in the body of your paper and the attached reference section.

### **Communication Medium Outside the Classroom:**

The primary method of communication will be through the **class e-mail on CANVAS**. It is the student's responsibility to stay current with all postings to the class Web site on CANVAS. Regularly check email and announcements on CANVAS. An announcement will be posted and an email will be sent at least once a week.

### **Incomplete (I) Grade Policy:**

The policy of this instructor is that the grade of Incomplete will not be given. A grade of incomplete may be granted **only** in unusual and documented circumstances. Under no circumstance will an Incomplete be granted if the student is failing the course at the time the Incomplete is requested. A grade of Incomplete will not be given in instances where students were unable to complete the course work due to personal constraints.

### **Attendance and Absences:**

Students are not required but are highly encouraged to participate at scheduled class meetings.

### **Student Preparation:**

As a **minimum**, all students are **expected** to have **read** and thought about the information provided in the assigned chapters **before** homework is assigned. This is a professional responsibility to yourself and your classmates. Participation includes the quantity and quality of comments and discussions, positive contributions to group assignments, ability to respond

to questions by classmates and the instructor, ability to work as a member of a group when required, and completion of online class projects/exercises. Students are expected to synthesize, analyze and integrate all reading assignments. Submission of required work on time is an essential ingredient of success in the course.

### **Computing, Information Retrieval, Speaking and Writing Expectations**

- **Computing:** Students will be expected to use computer technology in this course. Use of word-processing to compose and edit course papers, PowerPoint or HTML to make class presentations when necessary, and E-mail to communicate with other students and the instructor.
- **Information Retrieval:** Students are expected to have the ability to locate information quickly and accurately on the Internet, using browsers, search engines, CD-ROM library archives, etc.
- **Speaking:** Students will be expected throughout this course to express themselves orally during chat sessions and mainly through Fit's email system.
- **Writing:** Student will be expected to write their project reports using APA (American Psychological Association) or AMA (American Marketing Association) formats.

## **TITLE IX**

### **What is Title IX?**

Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972 is the federal law prohibiting discrimination based on sex under any education program and/or activity operated by an institution receiving and/or benefiting from federal financial assistance. Behaviors that can be considered "sexual discrimination" include sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct, and gender discrimination. You are encouraged to report these behaviors. **Reporting:** Florida Tech can better support students in trouble if we know about what is happening. Reporting also helps us to identify patterns that might arise – for example, if more than one complainant reports having been assaulted or harassed by the same individual.

Florida Tech is committed to providing a safe and positive learning experience. To report a violation of sexual misconduct or gender discrimination, please contact Security at 321-674-8111. \* **Please note that as your professor, I am required to report any incidences to Security or to the Title IX Coordinator (321-674-8700).** Confidential support for students is available by contacting the Student Counseling Center at 321-674-8050.

## **TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>TEXT CHP.</b>
<b>01/8-01/15</b>	<b>Introduction to Cost-Benefit Analysis</b>	<b>CHAPTER 1</b>
<b>01/22</b>	<b>Conceptual Foundations of Cost-Benefit Analysis</b>	<b>CHAPTER 2</b>

01/29	Economic Foundations of CBA	CHAPTER 3
02/05	Concepts of Costs; Placing Values on Ingredients	Chapters 3 and 4 Levin book
02/12	Study for Midterm Exam	
MIDTERM EXAM 02/19		
02/26	Discounting Benefits and Costs in Future Time Periods	CHAPTER 6
Spring Break – No classes 03/05		
03/12	Dealing with Uncertainty, Expected Values and Sensitivity Analysis  March 22- Last day to drop with a final grade of W	CHAPTER 7
03/19	Article: Summary and Critique	CBA Article
03/26–04/02	Chapter 14 Valuing Impacts from Observed Behavior: Indirect Market Methods Revealed Preferences	CHAPTER 14
04/09	Break for CBA Project – No class	
04/16	Study Day – No class	
TERM PAPER DUE – April 23 FINAL EXAM – April 30		

\*This schedule is subject to change and additions may be made by the instructor throughout the semester.