Course Description
This course will cover development and implementation of performance management systems. Course content and activities will focus on the breadth of performance management systems, including, strategic and general considerations in performance management, implementing a performance management system and employee development. The pedagogy will include weekly reading assignments, lectures, discussions, and practical application projects.

Calendar Description
Principles and techniques relating to the development, support, and evaluation of employee performance in organizations. Models of individual and organizational performance; identifying high performing employees; methods of measuring performance; employee development and incentive systems.
Prerequisite(s): MGMT 5100, or MGMT 5101 and MGMT 5102.

Course Learning Objectives
What any individual learner takes away from an exploratory-based course is, of course, highly variable. Nevertheless, at a minimum, following completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the concept of Performance Management and describe a complete performance management system;
2. Explain how to implement and maintain an effective performance management system;
3. Explain the different mechanisms and techniques that could be used to maintain or improve employee performance; and,
4. Explain the effect of reward systems and legal issues on a performance management system.

Course Expectations
1. Emails: I communicate with students through their student email accounts. It is your responsibility to check your emails as I will be sending important messages through this medium. Please email me again if you do not receive a reply within 2 working days; there is always the possibility of problems with electronic messaging. I will not send grades or otherwise private student information (group member’s
Assignments will not be accepted via email.

2. Please check your CU Learn on a regular basis. It is your responsibility to access this site regularly for any course updates / announcements / materials. It is essential that you read the assigned text book readings before coming to class. All weekly assignments are based on the assigned text book reading for that week. The supplemental readings are provided to enhance your understanding of the material; however, they are not mandatory to read each week.

3. **Active Participation.** Students are expected to attend, take notes, and participate in class. Students are expected to maximize their own learning by actively participating in all activities. This includes raising questions for discussion or clarification, bringing their own work and other organizational (only professional and academic) experiences to discussion, and interacting professionally and ethically with classmates and with the instructor.

4. **Follow Assignment Instructions.** Carefully read the instructions for your written assignments described in the course outline. Always use a title for your work. Strictly, follow the instructions regarding page limit/font size/margins for your written submissions. In any case do not exceed the required standard page limits for all submissions. Format for written submissions should follow the American Psychological Association (APA) Publication Manual (5th Edition).

5. **Cheating, plagiarism, and other instructional offences are not tolerated and can have severe penalties (please see the statement on plagiarism in the Sprott School attachment).** For additional help, you are strongly encouraged to consult the document “Paper Formatting & Documentation Guidelines”, on the Sprott website at Academic Programs _ Useful Links _ Paper Writing Guidelines. **Keep duplicates of deliverables.** For your protection, always keep a copy of your written assignments (either soft copy or a hard copy). In case of loss, theft, destruction, dispute over authorship, or any other eventuality, it will be your responsibility to provide a copy of your written submissions.

6. **Respect Deadlines.** All deadlines need to be respected, and exceptions will be granted only in extraordinary cases. No make-up case study, no make-up assignment. Projects which are submitted after the due date without an agreed upon extension are considered late assignments. Assignments must be handed in at which they are due. Submission of late assignments requires the prior consent of the instructor otherwise the penalty on late assignments is a grade loss of 10% per day up to a maximum of 3 days, after that assignments will not be accepted. Computer failure, printing problems, work for other classes and many other excuses are not acceptable. You may not miss a day when you are scheduled for exam and presentation in the class. Except under unusual circumstances, you have 24 hours from the time you miss your exam to contact me about your absence. Without an appropriate reason and documentation, you will receive a zero for the missed exam and presentation.

7. **Respect your classmates’ desire to learn.** In class, turn off all cell phones, beepers, or other electronic communication devices. The use of laptop computers has become increasingly common in the academic community, and they serve as a useful means of enhancing the classroom experience for some students. However, laptop computers have also the potential to serve as significant distraction for others when they are not being used for classroom activities. Thus the official policy for this class regarding laptop computers is that they may be used for note-taking purposes only. Any student found violating this policy forfeits the privilege of using his/her laptop computer for the remainder of the semester. The most obvious violations include but are not limited to surfing on the internet and IMing and/or chatting.

8. **Late arrivals and early departures are not acceptable in this class.** Do not ‘leave’ early, that is, pack up books, stand up, etc. near the end of the class. The class period is over when the allocated time is completely up or when the instructor dismisses the class. Meetings for other classes, appointments with advisors, work excuses, catching rides home, attendance at family social functions, sporting events and many other personal reasons are not considered “excused” absences. Any student missing more than 1/3 of the class periods for any reason should withdraw and retake the course; those missing 1/3 of the class periods will not be awarded a passing grade in the course. Late students conspicuously disturb the learning experience for their classmates. As a courtesy, you should plan to arrive no later than the start of class (if not sooner). **I reserve the right to reduce your final course grade by half a letter grade or a letter grade (in proportion to the extent of lateness and absences) if I deem attendance and punctuality problems to have interfered your learning or the learning of others.**
If at any time something seems unclear or unreasonable to you, please make an appointment to discuss it. I am open to your suggestions and comments. This class is meant to be an open forum for learning and discussion. Perhaps you have a question about some class material but feel uncomfortable asking it in class or the question does not occur to you until afterwards. Or perhaps you are working on a class assignment and have a question about getting started or want a second opinion to assess whether you’re appropriately approaching the project. In instances such as these, please contact me.

**Policy on Re-marking**
From time to time, students have legitimate concerns about marks they have received on a Cases and exams. If you feel that any paper handed back to you has not been marked appropriately for the work you have submitted, you do have recourse for re-marking. However, please note that to be eligible for re-marking, you must embark upon the following procedure within one week of the deliverable being handed back in class:

1. Indicate in writing specifically what your concern(s) is (are). This does NOT mean that you simply say “I think I deserve more marks.” You must clearly indicate where the marker made a mistake in his/her marking of the paper. In this regard, you must refer to the class notes, excerpt in the textbook, etc., supporting your claim.
2. After completing #1 above, you must submit the paper with your comments back to the Professor within one week of the paper being handed back in class. If you did not pick up the paper when it was handed back, you still have only 1 week from the original hand-back date to request a remark.
3. If a deliverable is not resubmitted following the above guidelines, the Professor will regard the mark as originally assigned to be the final mark for that deliverable.

**NO MARKS will be changed at a later date.** It is important to note that the Professor reserves the right to remark the entire paper in question and to either leave the mark as is or to change it positively or negatively as required. **No make-up activity or assignment** can be undertaken in order to improve your midterm, cases, final exam, or course marks. The weight on final grades of the exams and the cases cannot be changed from what is outlined above.

**Email Guidelines**
Please be professional.
- Always use your university account. E-mail from other domains (hotmail, gmail) often are treated as spam.
- Always identify the course number and section in the Subject line
- Please use proper greetings. You can refer to your instructors as “Professor X” or “Dr. X.” Any other title (Ms., Mrs., Miss, or Mr.) is less appropriate given the classroom context. As business students, it is imperative that you learn to use proper titles.
- Always sign your email with your first and last names and include your student number.

**Required Text and Other Readings:**

Additional supporting readings may be identified by the professor from time to time and posted on CU Learn as either required or suggested. Students are encouraged to regularly consult CU Learn for supplemental resources.

**Marking Scheme**
The grade for the course will be computed based on the following weightings:

1. Weekly individual Assignments (3 x 5%) 15%
2. Group Project and Presentation 35%
   a. Peer Evaluation : 5%
   b. Report: 15%
   c. presentation: 10%
3. Class participation and contribution to peer learning 10%
4. Final Exam 40%
**Note:** Personal and Professional Declaration of Academic Integrity sheets are required. Please check Appendix I and II. Peer evaluations are required with group assignments.

**Weekly Assignments (3 x 5 pts = 15 pts total) Due at start of the particular class**
For 3 of the four weeks (weeks 2-5) you will complete a short assignment focused on applying the reading from that week to a real life scenario (see tentative class schedule for details). Weekly assignments should be **MAX 2 pages long**, double spaced in 11 pt Arial font. Format is not important; i.e., point form, or paragraph form are both fine, and the format will vary by necessity, depending on the type of assignment for each week. Grades will be based on:
- *appropriate* application of readings for that week (2 pts)
- *complete* application of (relevant) readings for that week (2 pts)
- *clarity of expression* (spelling, grammar, etc.) (1 pt)

**Group Project (35 pts)**
**Build a Performance Management System.** Your group project will be to develop a complete performance management system, focused on an organization and a job, of your choice. I will assign all students to groups of 3 or 4 for the group project. As a group, you can select an organization and a job within that organization, or you can base your project on a fictional organization and job. In either case, you will need to provide a description of the Organization and the job in your report. Each week we will discuss one or more aspects of a performance management system and you will incorporate that material into your project (see tentative class schedule for details). The final report will be a proposal for a complete performance management system, including a description, explanation, and, substantiation for each aspect, including:
1. Overall performance management system, including a discussion of pertinent legal issues;
2. Performance management strategy, linking individual performance to unit and organizational priorities;
3. Reward system;
4. Performance measurement framework, including proposed performance measures;
5. Performance appraisal measure and process;
6. Communications plan;
7. Aide-memoire with guidance for supervisors to improve poor employee performance.
All groups will present their project in class and then submit a final report.

**Presentations (15 pts) –** Each group will have 30 minutes to present their project in class (25 mins presentation, 5 mins for questions and feedback). You should present your proposal as if you were proposing your new performance management system to the senior executives of your company. Your job is to convince the executives to adopt your system. Grades will be based on overall professionalism and effectiveness of the presentation. For content, follow the same standards as stated in point 2 'technical quality' section for the final report. You will not be permitted to go beyond 30 minutes for your presentation, so plan the amount of information and the level of detail accordingly.

**Final Report (15 pts) –** Try to limit reports to 50 pages, formatted in Arial, 11 pt font, double spaced. Grades will be based on:
(1) Clarity and quality of structure and writing **(5 marks)**
- Layout and format of report is professional; and,
- Writing is clear (spelling, punctuation, grammar, sentence structure, etc.)
(2) Technical quality **(10 marks)**
- The proposed performance management system is thorough and complete;
- The proposed performance management system is appropriate for the chosen job, and all aspects are linked to unit and organizational priorities; and,
- The proposed system is empirically based; i.e., supported by empirical research.

**Peer Evaluation: 5%**
Recognizing that not all participation in every group meets with expectations, students are asked to participate in the assessment process by attributing grades to their group members for their contributions to the group deliverables (i.e. the presentation and the report).

With written report, each group member should submit, in a sealed envelope, a grade for all group members. Use only the original Peer evaluation form attached with the course outline (no hand written evaluations or different forms will be accepted). Peer evaluations are supposed to be confidential so please do it in private then fold them and put them in the large envelope with the assignments. Peer evaluations will affect your mark for that particular assignment so make sure you contribute to the group effort. None of the students will have access to these forms after the submission. This evaluation is strictly confidential; all forms will be destroyed at the end of the semester.

Deadline: Due with project presentation slides and report.

- Note: Evaluation from individual students without a sealed envelope will not be accepted (no staples or glue & use the original Peer evaluation form). As a group place all peer evaluation envelopes and your final project report in One large envelope. Not following any of the instructions above could affect your grade.

- In addition, if you are not submitting peer evaluation forms for your group members, you will personally lose 5 marks for the missed evaluation. No late or emailed submissions will be accepted.

**Class Participation and Contribution to Peer Learning: 10%**

Students are encouraged to actively participate in the discussions in each of the six classes by being adequately prepared (i.e. having attentively read and reflected on all of the assigned readings). It is student contribution to peer learning that constitutes a contribution, including encouraging colleagues, building on earlier comments without repeating, listening attentively to speakers and being respectful of differences of opinion. Insights and quality of contribution rather than quantity of contribution will be valued.

While attendance is a pre-requisite to participation, it is the quality, not the quantity, of remarks that earns the grades. A discrete use of electronic devices for note-taking is permitted, however no distractions will be tolerated. Accordingly, should you engage in any non-course related use of the device in the classroom you will forfeit this permission for the remainder of the course.

It is also recognized that on some days there may be insufficient time for me to call upon each student who wishes to speak. Any such demonstration of desire to participate will also be considered in the overall assessment of class contribution.

**Final Exam: 40%**

The final exam will have 100 MCQs and will be a closed book exam. It will be held during the MBA exam week.

**Tentative Class Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Agenda</th>
<th>Chapters and class activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Occupational Informational Network</td>
<td>Class activity – In your groups, outline a performance management system (high level) for an organization and job of your choice. You will need to find or develop the organizational strategy, priorities, etc, and a job description and specification for your chosen job. If you cannot find an existing job description, develop one of your own, using O*Net and/or the NOC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>O*Net - <a href="http://www.onetonline.org">http://www.onetonline.org</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://online.onetcenter.org/">http://online.onetcenter.org/</a></td>
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<td>NOC <a href="http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplace">http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplace</a> skills/noc/index.shtml</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Performance Management and Strategic Planning &amp; Reward Systems and Legal Issues</td>
<td>Chapters 3 and 10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>De Waal, Andre, “The Secret of High Performance</td>
<td>Weekly assignment – Case Study</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.1: Evaluating Vision and Mission</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading Material</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Feb 11</td>
<td>Group presentations and final Report due today!</td>
<td>*Submit Written report, Peer evaluations, and a hardcopy of slides (handout version 3 slides per page) <strong>Everything should be in one large envelope</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Drop Course Policy:**
The deadline for academic withdrawal is the last day of classes (each term).

**Deferred Final Examination:**
Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control must contact the instructor in writing to request a deferred exam. Permission may be granted when the absence is supported by a medical certificate and or appropriate document/s to support the reason for the deferral. Deferred exams are not granted for students who have made travel arrangements that conflict with examination schedule.

**Policy for Group Presentations:**
All group members must participate in the presentations. Any student unable to do so because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control must contact the professor via email prior to the start of the class for which the presentation is scheduled. The professor may allow an alternative individual assignment when the absence is supported by a medical certificate and or appropriate document(s) to support the reason for the inability to present. Any student missing the presentation would not obtain any grades for the group presentation. The other group members must make the entire presentation as scheduled.

**Groups:**
You will be required to form groups of a maximum of 3-4 students (dependent upon class size, *exceptionally* a group of 5 may be permitted or a student without a group may be assigned to a group, all at the professor’s discretion). These groups will collectively carry out group assignments for the topics presentation and the CSR critique report.

**Group Work**
The Sprott School of Business encourages group assignments in the school for several reasons. They provide you with opportunities to develop and enhance interpersonal, communication, leadership, follower-ship and other group skills. Group assignments are also good for learning integrative skills for putting together a complex task. Your professor may assign one or more group tasks/assignments/projects in this course. If you have a group assignment you may find the resources at http://sprott.carleton.ca/wp-content/files/Group-Work-Resources.pdf. *Before embarking on a specific problem as a group, it is your responsibility to ensure that the problem is meant to be a group assignment and not an individual one.*

**Persons with disabilities**
Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities to complete the necessary letters of accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet and discuss your needs with me at least two weeks prior to the first in-class test or ITV midterm exam. This is necessary in order to ensure sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please refer to http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/ for all PMC information

**Religious observance**
Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton’s Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

**Pregnancy**
Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.
**Academic Integrity**

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Violations of academic integrity are a serious academic offence. Violations of academic integrity – presenting another’s ideas, arguments, words or images as your own, using unauthorized material, misrepresentation, fabricating or misrepresenting research data, unauthorized co-operation or collaboration or completing work for another student – weaken the quality of the degree and will not be tolerated. Penalties may include expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; and a grade of Failure in the course, amongst others. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy which is available, along with resources for compliance at [http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc/advisingcentre/academic-integrity/](http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc/advisingcentre/academic-integrity/).

**Important Dates and Deadlines** can be found at:
[http://sprott.carleton.co/students/mba/dates-deadlines/](http://sprott.carleton.co/students/mba/dates-deadlines/)
APPENDIX I

Personal and Professional Declaration of Academic Integrity observation of all Assignments and Submissions in this course

Individual
By signing this Statement, I am attesting to the fact that I have completed my work in its entirety by myself. I attest to the fact that my own work in this project meets all of the rules of quotation and referencing in use at Carleton University, as well as adheres to the Academic Integrity policies as outlined in the Student Affairs site of the university (http://www1.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/). Any evidence contradicting my declaration above may be held against me.

__________________________________________  ___________________________
Name                                           Student number

__________________________________________  ___________________________
Signature                                      Date
Appendix II

Personal Ethics Statement Concerning Assignments

Group Assignment:
The University Senate defines plagiarism in the regulations on instructional offenses as: “to use and pass off as one’s own idea or product work of another without expressly giving credit to another.”
We declare that the work submitted herewith is our work. All sources have been referenced in the footnotes and listed in the bibliography. This work has not been shared with anyone outside this group. This work is the intellectual property of each of the group members and will be returned to any one of the group members to be shared with the other group members.

Name, Capital letters   Student number
_____________________  ______________________
Signature              Date
_____________________  ______________________
Name, Capital letters   Student number
_____________________  ______________________
Signature              Date
_____________________  ______________________
Name, Capital letters   Student number
_____________________  ______________________
Signature              Date
_____________________  ______________________
Name, Capital letters   Student number
_____________________  ______________________
Signature              Date
Instructional offence cases must be communicated to the Associate Dean, MBA programs, who then refers the allegation to the Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs; individual solutions are not permitted.
Appendix III

Quick APA Guide: *Examples of APA reference format* (according to 5th Edition)

**Journal Reference:**

**Book Reference:**

**Book Chapter Reference:**

**Book Editions:**

**Internet Article:**

**Dissertation reference:**

**Same Authors in same year:**


**Text Citation:**

1. Author’s last name and year of publication [E.g., Bolognese, (2002)]
3. If you are just borrowing an idea from a text then simply write author’s last name and year of publication. E.g., Bolognese, (2002) states....
4. For quotation containing more than 40 words, indent and single-space the whole quotation.
5. If you have more than one authors. For the first time, write last names of all authors and year of publication. For second time text citation, use Cobb et al., (1995)...

6. If you are supporting a claim with more than 2 references, then quote authors in an alphabetic order after your claim. E.g., (Hinings & Greenwood, 1988; Lewis, 2002; Prochaska & Prochaska, 1999; Vallas, 2003; Zell, 2003).

**Levels of Heading:**

CENTERED UPPERCASE HEADINGS **Level 5**
Centered Uppercase and Lowercase Headings **Level 1**
*Centered, Italicized, Uppercase and Lowercase Headings Level 2*
*Flush Left, Italicized, Uppercase and Lowercase Side Heading Level 3*
*Indented, italicized, lowercase paragraph heading ending with a period Level 4*
Appendix IV

Guidelines for in class Discussions

1. Everyone who is here has the right to be here and to participate. Everyone who is here brings experience and knowledge that makes their participation valuable.

2. Everyone has the right to be silent, i.e. "To pass" in answer to a question. Remember that some topics may be more difficult or painful for some than for others.

3. Be aware of how your participation affects the participation of others. Your words, your tone of voice, your body language, the amount that you talk, all affect others.

4. Remember that people's experience and knowledge vary. What you hold most dear may not be obvious or of value to others, and vice versa.

5. Actively listen. Reflect back to people what they are saying, even as you state your position.


7. Ensuring that everyone can participate is everyone's responsibility. Preventing someone from participating impoverishes the education of all.
Appendix V

Peer Evaluation Form

Please write a short narrative addressing the evaluatee’s contributions before assigning a rating. Include in your narrative how many times the group met outside of class, how many meetings the evaluatee attended, whether the evaluatee made a serious effort to complete the assigned work before the group meeting, whether the group member attempted to make contributions in group project, whether the member was cooperative with the group effort, and whether the group member did all the readings before coming to the meetings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Carried more than her/his part of the load</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Consistently did what she/he was supposed to do</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Usually did what she/he was supposed to do</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>Minimally prepared and cooperative</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Unprepared and uncooperative</td>
<td>1 or 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name of Evaluator: ____________________________________________ Date: _______________

Name of Student Being Evaluated: ____________________________________________

Rating Scales: Rating: _____/5

Comments:__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

Name of Student Being Evaluated: ____________________________________________

Rating Scales: Rating: _____/5

Comments:__________________________________________________________________________
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Name of Student Being Evaluated: _______________________________________________________
Rating Scales: Rating: _____/5
Comments:__________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Note: None of the students will have access to these forms after the submission. This evaluation is strictly confidential; all forms will be destroyed at the end of the semester.
Appendix VI

Survival Tips for Working in a Group Project

A lot of our students don’t like to work in groups. Schedules can be hard to coordinate. Personalities sometimes clash. Some people work harder than others. Now that that’s out of our system, let’s face another reality: There is very little our students will do in the workplace that is not done in collaboration with others. As the corporate world continues to downsize, the ability to work as a member of a team is becoming increasingly important. Anyone who has had to coordinate students working in groups knows that the process often requires the professor to serve as a teacher, mentor, coach, and cheerleader. To help you through this rewarding and time-intensive experience, here are some group survival tips that you might find useful:

Remember the Golden Rule. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. No matter how stressful the situation, treat one another with respect.

Do it now! Don’t put something off until tomorrow. If you have the time, do it now. If you wait until you have enough time to tackle something from start to finish, you may never get started at all.

Trust is earned. If you say you are going to do something, then do it. Your word is your bond. If you don’t keep your word, you have no right to expect others to keep theirs.

Act with purpose and conviction. The number of meetings each group holds doesn’t determine success. It is determined by what is actually accomplished. Come to group meetings prepared to participate.

Feed off one another’s strengths. Not everyone is good at everything. But everyone is usually good at something. Try to match tasks to talents.

Perception is reality. You may be a hard worker. But if you appear lazy to others, that is how the world will define you. Do yourself a favour: Don’t forget to do work on creating a good imagine by showing good work ethics.

Use the buddy system. Work in pairs. Partners can encourage one another, bounce ideas off of one another, and check one another’s work.

Editing The person who writes a piece of copy or types it into the computer should not edit that copy. Someone with a fresh pair of eyes should check for spelling, grammatical, and factual errors. So edit each other’s sections in case you decided to divide work.

Back it up. To avoid last-minute disasters, save all computer data on at least two disks or USB drives.

"All-nighters" the evening before deadlines are not heroic. They are dangerous. Set interim deadlines and meet them. Allow the group ample time to edit and fine-tune documents. Waiting until the last minute is courting with disaster.

There is no "I" in "Team." What you say about others in your group is a reflection upon yourself. Try to build a team spirit. Don't undermine it.

Be a straight shooter. If you have difficulty with or are unsatisfied with the performance of a group member, it is your responsibility to voice those concerns to that individual privately before sharing them with others.

Take Notes. Do what most successful managers do: Keep a personal log of what was said by whom and on what date. In addition to keeping you on top of a dynamic process, you can document the performance of yourself and other group members.

Aim high. The best groups are those that place the highest expectations upon themselves.

Fair warning is better than no warning at all. If a deadline may be missed, the penalty is usually less severe when your professor is told of the problem before the deadline passes. This also holds true when dealing with members of your group. Don’t surprise your group members and your professor!

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