

# CB3045: ADVANCED SEMINAR ON BUSINESS CASE ANALYSIS

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Advanced Seminar on Business Case Analysis

### Subject Code

CB - College of Business (CB)

### Course Number

3045

### Academic Unit

Management (MGT)

### College/School

College of Business (CB)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

CB3043 Business Case Analysis and Communication

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

The primary goal of this course is to teach students how to give an effective presentation in a business case competition context. In addition to presentations using Powerpoint slides and access to external information, the students will also be required to give presentations according to the format of the prestigious annual HSBC/HKU Asia Pacific Business Case Competition, i.e., students are not allowed to refer to outside material, and students are only allowed to use transparency slides (Powerpoint slides are not allowed).

The course has the following aims:

The course will provide students with opportunities to experience and critically examine business problems faced by managers in different aspects of business operations. Through the supervised case analysis practice, students are trained in application of business frameworks and theories.

The course will provide an environment for team-based, timed, solution-driven business case analysis. Students will learn how to organize work with limited information, limited time, and limited human resources to deliver the best possible solution in simulated business environments.

The course will focus on the art and science of business case presentations. Students will be given multiple opportunities to analyse a business case study, identify the problems faced by a company, come up with creative solutions, and to organize their thoughts into a coherent business case presentation.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Evaluate a company's business model, the problems faced by the company, and identify the customers' needs/wants	30	x		
2	How to generate creative solutions to solve the problems faced by a company, how to evaluate the solutions critically, and how to develop a comprehensive strategic proposal	40		x	
3	Develop students' presentation skills, so that they will be able to present their strategy clearly, and respond confidently to questions or challenges raised by listeners	30			x

#### A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

#### A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

#### A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Mini-lectures	Equip students with essential knowledge about the theory and practice applicable to business consulting and problem solving.	1, 2, 3

2	Guest lectures and sharing sessions	Esteemed guests (experienced professionals; professors; etc.) would be invited to share their experiences and opinions on the latest development of solution driven business analysis and business competitions. They would also serve as the external judges for mini-competitions.	1, 2, 3	
3	Individual executive summaries	Students will submit a one-page executive summary for each business case study, where they will have to demonstrate their analysis of the case	1, 2, 3	Up to 6 hours per semester
4	Individual reflection	Students will have to write reflections on what they have learned and how they will improve in future presentations	1, 2, 3	Up to 4 hours per semester
5	Group Case Presentation	Students will give business case presentations, where they will have to demonstrate their mastery of the analytical and presentation skills taught in this course. External judges would be invited to share their thoughts on the case analysis and presentation.	1, 2, 3	Up to 6 hours per case, about 4 times per semester
6	Peer Review	Students will comment on the presentations by their fellow students in order to develop their comparison, analysis and evaluation skills.	1, 2, 3	

### Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Group presentations	1, 2, 3	50	Students will form groups of 4 students per group. Each group will make up to 4 presentations over the duration of the course. Students will be required to submit an evaluation of their team members' contributions.	Yes
2	Individual assignments	1, 2, 3	40	Individual assignments include individual presentations, self-reflection, and executive summaries of cases.	Yes
3	Attendance and participation	1, 2, 3	10	Attendance is mandatory. Failure to meet 70% of class sessions will result in a grade of F. Students will have the opportunity to evaluate the presentations of their fellow students, and to ask questions. Their participation marks will be based on how well they engage other students' presentations.	Yes

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

Assessing Group presentations

**Criterion**

Presentation

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Tells a clear and compelling story. The presentation shows a wholistic understanding of the company' s situation, and offers very creative and insightful ideas.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Tells a story that is generally interesting and easy to follow. The presentation shows a generally correct understanding of the company' s situation, and offers some creative and insightful ideas.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Tells a story which requires substantial effort for the listener to follow. The presentation shows a limited understanding of the company' s situation, and offers unoriginal and simple ideas.

**Marginal (D)**

Tells a story which is extremely difficult for the listener to follow. The presentation shows a very poor understanding of the company' s situation, and the offers illogical and infeasible ideas.

**Failure (F)**

Student did not take participate

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**Assessment Task**

Assessing Group presentations

**Criterion**

Peer evaluation

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Student always actively participated and contributed to the group presentation

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Student frequently actively participated and contributed to the group presentation

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Student occasionally actively participated and contributed to the group presentation

**Marginal (D)**

Student almost never actively participated and contributed to the group presentation

**Failure (F)**

Student did not take part in the case presentation

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**Assessment Task**

Assessing individual assignments

**Criterion**

Presentation

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Same as in "Group presentations → presentation"

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Same as in “Group presentations → presentation”

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Same as in “Group presentations → presentation”

**Marginal (D)**

Same as in “Group presentations → presentation”

**Failure (F)**

Same as in “Group presentations → presentation”

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**Assessment Task**

Assessing individual assignments

**Criterion**

Executive case summaries

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Same as in “Group presentations → presentation”

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Same as in “Group presentations → presentation”

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Same as in “Group presentations → presentation”

**Marginal (D)**

Same as in “Group presentations → presentation”

**Failure (F)**

Same as in “Group presentations → presentation”

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**Assessment Task**

Assessing individual assignments

**Criterion**

Reflection essay

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Insightful analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of group/self presentation

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Adequate analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of group/self presentation

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Limited analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of group/self presentation

**Marginal (D)**

Poor analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of group/self presentation

**Failure (F)**

Did not submit reflection essay

**Assessment Task**

Assessing attendance and participation

**Criterion**

Attendance

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Student always attends classes on time

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Student frequently attends classes on time

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Student occasionally attends classes on time

**Marginal (D)**

Student almost never attends classes on time

**Failure (F)**

Student did not attend any classes on time

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**Assessment Task**

Assessing attendance and participation

**Criterion**

Participation and peer feedback

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Student asks questions and offers feedback that is extremely insightful and helpful

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Student asks questions and offers feedback that is moderately insightful and helpful

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Student asks questions and offers feedback that is not very insightful and helpful

**Marginal (D)**

Student asks questions and offers feedback that is confusing and unhelpful

**Failure (F)**

Student does not ask any questions nor offer any feedback

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## Part III Other Information

**Keyword Syllabus**

Oral presentations, design of presentation slides, body language, network effect, quality control, supplier relationship management, vertical integration, switching costs, customer analysis, public relations crisis management, software as a service, cloud computing

**Reading List**

**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Customized Textbook: Case Package (e.g. Harvard Business Review, Asia Case Research Centre)
2	Duarte, N., HBR Guide to Persuasive Presentations (latest version). Boston: Harvard Business Press
3	Ellet, W., The Case Study Handbook: How to Read, Discuss and Write Persuasively About Cases (latest version). Boston: Harvard Business Press
4	Brannock, J., Business Case Analysis: Examples, Concepts and Techniques (latest version). STS Publications

**Additional Readings**

Title	
1	Nil