



The Leon Recanati Graduate School of Business Administration

Negotiations for Entrepreneurs in the Start-up World

Instructor: Dr. Hilla Dotan

Day	Hour	Lecturer	Email
Fridays	11:15-14:15	Dr. Hilla Dotan	hdotan@tauex.tau.ac.il

****The course will be taught in HEBREW but the material and simulations will be in English***

***** The course instructor and TA are available to answer your questions. Please contact us via e-mail for any inquiry and include the course number in the subject line as follows: "MBA-NEG"***

Course Units

1 course unit = 4 ECTS units

The ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) is a framework defined by the European Commission to allow for unified recognition of student academic achievements from different countries.

Course Description

Negotiations take place every day in a wide variety of contexts; between job applicants and potential employers, entrepreneurs and investors, between coworkers, roommates, landlords, parents, bosses, spouses, and even friends. We negotiate our salaries, what price we will pay, where to go to dinner, and even who will take the garbage out. Although negotiations are an inseparable part of our everyday lives, many of us know very little about our own behaviors in negotiations, the best strategies, and what makes an effective negotiation. Why did we succeed in a specific deal? How come we can't achieve the same outcome in a different context? Why do some people always get the best deals while others do not?

Negotiation is the art and science of getting what you want from the other side through back-and-forth communication. It is the art of securing agreements between two or more individuals who are both attempting to maximize their own individual outcomes. This course provides an exposure to analytical tools, frameworks, and a series of complex simulations

with the purpose of providing class participants the opportunity to analyze, understand and develop negotiation skills and tactics tailored specifically for issues faced by *entrepreneurs in the Start-up World*. In this course, participants will learn to identify their own assumptions and behaviors and the skills required to overcome difficult tactics or individuals even in complex situations or with challenging counterparts such as powerful investors and difficult partners. In addition, the course will expose participants to valuable strategies for dealing with powerful (and/or unethical) individuals as well as tools for negotiating from a weakness.

The basic premise of the course is that negotiation skills are best learned through practice grounded in deep analysis and self-reflection. Although theoretical concepts and principles will be presented in class lectures and in readings, the course will focus primarily on improving practical skills in dyadic and group situations through a series of in-class simulations. Each simulation has been carefully chosen to address a diverse set of negotiation problems that are faced by entrepreneurs in a diverse set of organizational and global settings (including multi-issue, multi-party, multi-cultural negotiations). The simulations aim to build on each other and raise issues that complement diagnostic and technical skills taught in other courses in the MBA specialization of entrepreneurship and innovation. A key focus is not only teaching participants a diverse set of skills, but learning to select the most effective strategy and how to apply the learned skills in a given situation/context that they are likely to face as entrepreneurs.

Course Objectives

The primary goal of the course is to enhance your ability as a negotiator by:

- Reflection and awareness of your own negotiating style
- Learning to develop a strategic plan prior to a negotiation
- Exposure to central concepts in negotiations and how to apply these
- Improving your ability to 'read' others and predicting their behavior
- Learning about types of negotiations and adapting different strategies for the relevant context in the Start-up World.
- Building an "*individual customized toolkit*" of useful negotiation skills, strategies and approaches for the entrepreneur

*The course incorporates readings drawn from scholarly professional and business journals and books as well as in-class simulations/exercises.

Evaluation of Student and Composition of Grade*

- **Class Participation - 63% of grade**
The class participation grade for all simulation-based sessions will be divided into three parts (Total- 9% per session).
 - Preparation: The first part will be determined by your preparation for the simulation. You will be assigned a role and be required to prepare a written analysis on a "preparation- form" prior to the simulation. All preparation forms will be completed and *handed in at every class session* and will comprise

4% of your grade. You are responsible for handing in your preparation guide at every session.

- **Feedback:** The second part will be determined by your feedback to your partner/s in the simulation. After each simulation, you will be asked to provide written feedback on a “feedback/debrief form” to your partner/s. All feedback forms will also be handed in at every class session and will compromise 3% of your grade.
- **Participation:** The final component of your grade will be influenced by the quality of your participation in class discussions. This will be determined by the value of your comments, new perspectives that you raise, and application of theoretical concepts from the readings. The grade for this component will comprise 2% of your grade.

****Note on Reading material and class simulations - Students are expected to read the material assigned for each class session, and to contribute regularly to class discussions and simulations. The students who stand out as major contributors to class discussions and apply course concepts in their simulations will be rewarded with higher grades.***

- **Final Paper - 37% of grade**

The purpose of the Final Paper is to enrich your learning through analysis and reflection on your own negotiation experiences and your abilities as an effective negotiator. Moreover, in this assignment you **must apply class concepts** and suggest ‘improvement strategies’ that will help you improve as a negotiator.

- Part A: The focus of the first part of the paper is on your past negotiating experiences and your evaluation of your strengths and weaknesses as a negotiator.
- Part B: The focus of the second part of the paper will be on perceptions others have of you as a negotiator and analysis of a current negotiation.
- ➔ There should be enough description so we can understand the context, but the focus should be on analyses. (Additional guidelines about the final paper will be provided by the instructor in class.)

Students who are unable to complete an assignment or course requirement must notify the TA or course instructor in advance via email

Class Attendance*

Given the nature of the course, students must attend ALL sessions (online when sessions are taught virtually) and actively participate in class discussions and in-class simulations/exercises for maximum course benefit. Attendance is mandatory and all efforts should be made to attend every session. In case a student must miss a session or half a session he/she must inform the instructor before the missed session to avoid interruptions to sessions. In order to avoid penalty to the grade (and if the student has a reasonable excuse) he/she may request a ‘make-up’ exercise. The make-up assignment should be submitted ASAP but before the following session. A maximum of two absentees will be

allowed throughout the course, however, only one make-up assignment will be possible per student. (i.e. a student who misses class for the second time will NOT be able to make up the 9% of that session). A person who misses more than two sessions will not be able to pass the course.

** According to University regulations, participation in all classes of a course is mandatory (Article 5).*

** Students who absent themselves from classes or do not actively participate in class may be removed from the course at the discretion of the lecturer. (Students remain financially liable for the course even if they are removed.)*

Grading Policy

In the 2008/9 academic year the Faculty instituted a grading policy for all graduate level courses that aims to maintain a certain level of the final course grade. Accordingly, the final average grade for this course (which is an elective course) will be in the range 82-87%.

Additional information regarding this policy can be found on the Faculty website.

Evaluation of the Course by Student

Following completion of the course students will participate in a teaching survey to evaluate the instructor and the course, to provide feedback for the benefit of the students, the teachers and the university.

Required Course Reader and Course Site (Moodle)

There is a **required** course reader. The reader containing all the course readings will be available for purchase prior to the start of the course (details to be posted). You must pick up the reader prior to the first session as you will need to prepare the material for our first simulation. Additional items and all simulation materials will be distributed in class or otherwise provided by the instructor.

Course Website

The course site will be the primary tool to communicate messages and material to students. You should check the course site regularly for information on classes and assignments and updates. Additional Course material will be available on the course site.

- ➔ Please note that topics that are not covered in the course material but are discussed in class are considered integral to the course and may be tested in examinations/final paper.
- ➔ IT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN TO RECORD THE SESSIONS or copy/distribute/forward the copyrighted simulation material, and/or instructor's slides. Please use these for your personal learning purposes only.