


ADVANCED PROBLEM SOLVING

Course Introduction

Overview	<p>Business professionals must solve problems and make decisions daily. The ability to make good decisions is a fundamental skill for managers in all businesses or organizations.</p> <p><u>ESSENTIAL Problem Solving</u> (lower level) course fosters one systematic framework (PrOACT) to analyze business problems and make effective strategic decisions.</p> <p><u>ADVANCED Problem Solving</u> course takes this approach one big step forward offering participants opportunity to explore various analytical decision-making frameworks in the context of a 2-week real world group problem solving project (students chose the target company).</p> <p>First 3 weeks of the course give participants a thorough overview of problem solving techniques/tools (including PrOACT formula from Essential Problem Solving), and discusses one HBS case study each week.</p> <p>Final 2 weeks is a group project, which draws heavily upon participant's critical thinking ability as well as their strategic decision-making ability.</p>
Topics	<p>Decision-making methods/frameworks How to do a situation analysis / choose objectives / generate alternatives How to apply decision-science in the real world business situation</p> <p>Cases (Harvard Business School): Rakuten, Solectron – Contract Manufacturer to global supply chain integrator, Morgan Stanley Japan.</p>
In-Class	<p>Course syllabus is built around 2-week group project (weeks 4-5), and is supplemented by articles and 3 case studies from Harvard Business School. Classes will be interactive, lively and participative.</p>
Pre-Class	<p>Students will need to spend on average about 3-4 hours per week preparing for each session including doing assigned readings from course textbook, analyzing cases, and completing exercises related to class topic.</p>
Class Time	<p>Tuesdays 19:00 – 21:40 *5 weekly sessions</p>
Instructor	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> <p>Nigel Denscombe Denscombe Corporation http://www.denscombe.co.jp/2010/CEO_profile.html</p> </div> </div>

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Course Syllabus

Week1	<p>Course overview/introduction; decision-making frameworks</p> <p>Discussion: Decision-making frameworks Discussion: Case "<u>Rakuten</u>" TEAM WORK: (PART ONE) Decide Rakuten strategy to compete with Yahoo-Japan</p>
Week2	<p>Art of analyzing decisions/decision opportunities</p> <p>Discussion: Decision-making frameworks Discussion: Case "<u>Rakuten</u>" TEAM PRESENTATION: (PART TWO) Make presentation about Rakuten strategy to compete with Yahoo-Japan</p>
Week3	<p>Art of analyzing decisions/decision opportunities</p> <p>Discussion: Case: <u>Solectron: Contract Manufacturer to Global Supply Chain Integrator</u> TEAM PRESENTATION: Make decision about Solectron path to profitability</p>
Week4	<p>Art of analyzing decisions/decision opportunities</p> <p>Discussion: Case "<u>Morgan Stanley Japan</u>" Article: "The Wise Decision-Maker" TEAM PRESENTATION: Decide about further expanding MSJ Japan investment</p> <p>*Teams formed and decide on topic for the Week5 final presentation</p>
Week5	<p>Real World Group Problem Solving Project</p> <p>Topics: 1. Situation analysis (Define problems/opportunities, identify objectives) 2. Generating alternatives 3. Decision-making</p> <p>TEAM PRESENTATION: Final presentation - Overall project recommendation (to "client")</p>
Instructor	<div data-bbox="371 1805 560 2011" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Nigel Denscombe Denscombe Corporation http://www.denscombe.co.jp/2010/CEO_profile.html</p>