

ME 490 Syllabus

Updated Fall 2024

Sample Syllabus

Instructor: Professor Sachin Gore (sag114@psu.edu)

Required text and materials: None

Exams, tests, and quizzes: None

Course Overview

This course seeks to complement your rigorous technical preparation with topics relevant to your educational and professional development. We will look at how to prepare for job searching, interviewing, and employment; career advice; and basic business skills. ME 490 guides students through the process of tailoring their college experience to suit their individual career goals. Students will complete their own personalized career and professional development plans and will even consider their personal finances and retirement planning. Professional ethics, business communication, and entrepreneurship will also be discussed. This course seeks to foster life-long learning by cultivating students' capacity for reflective practice—the examination of our own experiences and their relationship to our ever-expanding knowledge base.

Essential Questions

Every day of college brings new opportunities, lessons, and challenges. The time goes by quickly and there is a lot that needs to get done. How can we make most of this experience? What should we do to prepare for an exciting and rewarding future while also leaving time to enjoy the college years?

This course will ask you to think through how you might make the most of the nearly endless opportunities at Penn State.

Learning Outcomes

- Be professional and develop your personal brand
- Have a plan for graduation and beyond
- Learn new skills through lifelong learning
- Appreciate the value and importance of diversity, equity and inclusion
- Learn about personal finance including saving, investing and managing debt

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Topics

Module	Topic
1	Personal Brand
2	Networking & Mentoring with Alumnus Panel
3	Job Fair Preparation Tips
4	Post Graduation Options (PE, grad school) with Faculty & Grad Students Panel
5	Personal Finance - Earning and Spending
6	Personal Finance - Saving and Investing
7	Personal Finance - Credit and Borrowing
8	Personal Finance - Salary Negotiation

Grading

You grade will be determined as follows:

- 35% for Class Attendance and Participation
- 30% for Weekly Module Assignments
- 35% for Lifelong Learning Assignment

In ME 490 it is always better to turn something in late as opposed to skipping it completely. Late submissions only lose 10% per day down to 50%. Once an assignment is five days late it will not drop below a 50% late penalty.

Letter grades will be assigned based on the standard 94% (A), 90 (A-), 87 (B+), 84 (B), 80 (B-), 77 (C+), 70 (C), 60 (D) cutoff scheme. There is no dropping of grades and no extra credit. However, the penalty for late work is small.

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Assignment Due Date/Time

Weekly assignments are to be submitted by Tuesday at 11:59 pm Eastern Time each week in the appropriate Canvas assignment.

One thing that you need to know: a grade of zero is automatically applied to missing submissions once the due date is passed. However, late work is accepted at a modest penalty of 10% per day. After five days, the late deduction freezes at 50%. In ME 490, you are better off turning in your assignment late rather than skipping it completely.

Academic Integrity

From Penn State Senate Policy 49-20, Academic Integrity: [47-00, 48-00, and 49-00 Grades | University Faculty Senate \(psu.edu\)Links to an external site.](#)

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at The Pennsylvania State University, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Consistent with this expectation, the University's Code of Conduct states that all students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights, and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts.

If you have questions or encounter situations that compromise the fairness of the course assessments, please bring that to the attention of the instructor.

Note that any assignments that appear to be copied from other student work, solutions guides, manuals, or web databases (Chegg, CourseHero, etc) will be treated as academic integrity violations. The offense will be submitted to the College of Engineering Academic Integrity Committee naming both the copier(s) and the copiee(s). More information is available at: <http://www.engr.psu.edu/faculty-staff/academic-integrity.aspx>Links to an external site..

On a personal note, I will mention that although you feel pressure to obtain certain grades you will quickly find that grades count for absolutely nothing once you leave Penn State. Literally nothing. It's all about what you know, what you can do with that knowledge, and what problems you can solve. Anyone using Chat GPT or Chegg is undermining their own future. Visit me in ten years and let me know how your company deals with mediocre employees who cheated their way through college. In the meantime, know that I will do everything possible to disincentivize the use of Chegg (and any other form of cheating) by vigorously pursuing sanctions against violators.

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Disability Resources

From Penn State's Office of Student Disability Resources:

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. Every Penn State campus has an office for students with disabilities. Student Disability Resources (SDR) Web site provides contact information for every Penn State campus. For further information, please visit Student Disability Resources Web site: <http://equity.psu.edu/sdrLinks> [to an external site.](#)

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)

Students with academic concerns related to this course should contact the instructor. Students may also encounter personal issues that may interfere with academic performance. If you find yourself facing such problems, you are encouraged to seek confidential assistance at the Penn State Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center at (814) 863-0395. Visit their website for more information at: <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counselingLinks to an external site.> In addition, crisis intervention is available 24/7 at Penn State Crisis Line at (877) 229-6400, or contact University Police at (814) 863-1111.

Nondiscrimination Statement

From Penn State's Office of Educational Equity: <http://equity.psu.edu/communications-marketing/statementsLinks to an external site.>

The University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, genetic information or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University's educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901, Email: aao@psu.edu, Tel 814-863-0471.

Syllabus Subject to Change

This syllabus represents the current course plan and is subject to change at any time. Although changes to the syllabus for this semester are not anticipated, if any changes are made, they will be provided immediately in writing to students via posting to the CANVAS course website.