



MBA 848 International Study Course - Mexico Winter 2025 Course Syllabus and Schedule (Subject to change)

YOU SHOULD KNOW

- 1) This is a joint class with MBA students at Universidad de Guanajuato. Class is in English.
- 2) Meetings (attendance mandatory) on Zoom Mondays 5-8 PM. Materials are on URCourses.

MBA848AA-001 CRN(TBA) [REDACTED]

Instructor: [REDACTED]

Office hours: [REDACTED]

COURSE DESCRIPTION: MBA848 This course is designed to give students an international business immersion experience without a requirement for travel. We will be working in partnership with students and faculty at Universidad de Guanajuato in Mexico to explore and learn about each others' country, culture, economy and businesses. We will explore the evolving business environment through the eyes of several business owner / managers in each country. We will meet via Zoom throughout the term on Monday evenings from 5-8 PM. Six of the class meetings will be held jointly with our Mexican partners. Students are expected to attend all class meetings.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES This course presents an opportunity to see and experience Mexico as an emerging economic leader in the Americas. By meeting people who work in academia and business, and by working together with graduate students from Mexico, students have the opportunity to observe, experience, learn about working across cultures, and apply their knowledge in an international setting that is markedly different from ours in Canada.

KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Develop basic understanding and skills required for working across cultural, linguistic and national boundaries.
- By working on teams with graduate business students from Mexico, learn about cross-cultural relationships and how those from other countries / cultures approach and perceive business.
- Understand the Mexican business environment in terms of political/legal, economic, social and cultural perspectives, as well as seeing and experiencing real businesses.
- Learn from Mexican and Canadian business leaders about the challenges they face, how they pursue business strategies and how they make decisions.
- Develop a strong overall understanding of business and globalization, with a focus on Mexico, its businesses and leaders.
- Consolidate what you have learned from the experience with a research paper based on your own areas of focus and priorities.

GRADING: Each graded component will be assessed and assigned a grade. Students must achieve an overall score of at least 70% to earn a passing grade.

Description	Weight
Class activities (forums, reflections, assignments)	20%
Team project – presentation at online International Business Congress in March	40%
Final Paper due end of term (must pass minimum grade 70%)	40%
Total	100%

CLASS ACTIVITIES – 20%. Through the term students will be expected to contribute to discussion forums, class seminars and related collaboration – both within our Regina class group and with our partners in Mexico. Specific deliverables (forums, reflection assignments etc) will be announced in class.

TEAM PROJECT – 40%. All students are required to complete a team project in partnership with students from Mexico. Projects are expected to deal with international aspects of business, international comparisons, or in-depth case studies of businesses in one or both of Canada and Mexico. Teams will present their projects at an International Business Congress (presented by this class) in March.

FINAL PAPER – 40%. All students must complete a research based paper by end of the term in mid-April. Maximum 2,000 words (content) plus executive summary and any appendices. Each student will choose the topic of their paper, which will be based on the course, the experiences, the countries, cultural differences, specific businesses or other related topics.

***** READ THIS!!!! *****

The final paper **MUST** be informed by various evidence, experience, observations and specific applications.

- **Evidence:** May include data from the readings, your own research, company virtual tours. A substantial breadth and depth of information should be used (applied) *and cited* in your papers.
- **Experience:** May include your own life experience, what you learn from your experiences with virtual business tours and your work with Mexican students.
- **Observations and Specific Applications:** This is where you can make it your own. Specific content / focus is flexible.
- Students have the option to prepare a brief outline / proposal before completing their paper. I will be glad to provide feedback if you like.
- AI tools such as ChatGPT or Grammarly may be valuable for letting a droid do one's work or employing the world's knowledge to solve a problem, but in this case they are: a) not very helpful to your learning of the competencies we seek to develop in this course, b) not effective in communicating **your** perspectives, experiences and conclusions, and c) likely to result in low or failing grades.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE * NOTE THIS WILL CHANGE *****

	Green: UofR only	Yellow – Joint UR UG Mexico
Date	Topics	Deliverables
Jan 6	First week: brief class meeting for introductions, review of course plans.	Just show up – no advance prep required!
Jan 13	UofR Home: Introductions & overview. Cultural Competence survey. Foundational concepts: globalization, economics, environment scan.	Complete the survey. Discussion Forum: Your thoughts and observations on goals and priorities for course; intercultural competencies.
Jan 20	UofR Home: Geopolitics, trade and globalization. UofR Student teams: Escan Summaries. Note: First MEX class meeting	Forum: Escan Canada-Mexico: Is Canada ditching our partner!? Students present E-Scan summaries
Jan 27	UR-UG1: Teams meet, icebreakers, joint course & project overview. Interculturalism & cultural competencies. Business structures Mexico, Japan. Team breakout exercise / team building.	Session led by MPA Interculturalism – Mexico & Canada 30 minutes WSL: Francis Fukuyama “End of History”. Forum to follow.
Feb 10	UR-UG2: Canada: business overview. Team breakout meetings: Choose projects, team rules of engagement. Project mgmt: Canvas, other tools	Session led by WSL: Business Escan - Canada and Mexico (rule of 3) Student Forum: Building teams across cultural, linguistic, national divide.
Feb 17	Reading Week – No Classes	
Feb 24	UR-UG3: Indigenous people & business Canada and Mexico	Session led by WSL / MPA Cadmus / Santa Rosa (video / live) for 30-40 minutes each
Mar 3	UR-UG4: Ethics, social responsibility and business culture Can-Mex. Decision making simulation: Bottle Shock Mexico	Session led by WSL, MPA Forums: Ethics & CSR, reflect on simulation.
Mar 10	UR-UG5: Canada Tours – Saskatchewan and Mexico. Team breakout meetings: Projects	Session led by WSL / MPA Su Sason Ernesto at 5PM AGT Murad at 6PM Team meetings 7PM
Mar 17	Teams on own time – complete project	Mexico Holiday
Mar 24	UR-UG6 Business Congress (tentative date)	Team Presentations. Submit ppt / speaking notes / bibliography.
Mar 31	UofR Home: Individual presentations, course wrapup.	
April 6	Final individual papers due.	Final Paper.