

Business Planning and Execution for Canadian Entrepreneurs

Course: APS1088H Fall 2020

Delivery: On-line, Synchronous & Asynchronous Webinar

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Overview:

[APS1088](#) a course on how to start and run a successful Canadian business that is profitable on day one. The course was developed and is taught by successful Canadian entrepreneurs who imagined, built and later sold their successful businesses. The course materials, lectures, and assignments are based on personal experience and published best practices. Using a real start-up as an example, the course and materials provides students with a toolkit for starting and running a business, and through the course project an exercise in how to do it. The key to entrepreneurial success is focused execution of a great business plan. [APS1088](#) teaches aspiring entrepreneurs how to start a business in Canada. That business could be a start-up, a franchise, or an acquired or inherited business. The business could be for profit or non-profit. Each lecture focusses on an important aspect of starting and running a business, and supports a component of the business plan that students write as the course project. Financing taught addresses all forms from [bootstrapping](#) to seeking funding from VCs and Angel investors.

If you already have a business idea the course will assist you in making that business idea a success. If you don't have an idea the course will teach you how to find and develop a business idea. .

There is no final exam.

The lecturers who present this course have all started and sold at least one successful business and have contributed their experience to the class notes. Interestingly, we are all immigrants to Canada like the majority of our students and that fact strongly influences the course material and our approach to teaching. At strategic points during the course subject matter experts are invited to address the students in their area of specialty such as marketing strategy, sales, finance & accounting and law.

The instructors may introduce students with exceptionally good business plans to [The Hatchery](#), or one of the many incubators on campus, or even operating businesses that might be interested in their idea.

Taking Notes:

APS1088 Entrepreneurship is unique in content and structure. All of the lecture notes used in the classroom are available to you on your Quercus Class website. All lectures are recorded and available after the fact on Quercus but live(synchronous) participation is recommended and required for assignment presentation.

Recommended Reading:

Hurdle: The Book of Business Planning

Tim Berry, Palo Alto Software, ISBN 0-9712185-0-1

Small Business Management - Launching and Growing New Ventures

5th Edition by Justin Longenecker - Baylor University, Leo B. Donlevy - Haskayne School of Business University of Calgary, Terri Champion - Niagara College, Carlos W. Moore - Baylor University, J. William Petty - Baylor University, Leslie E. Palich - Baylor University. ISBN-10: 0176503900 ISBN-13: 9780176503901 608 Pages © 2013 Published.

Lecture Hours:

Monday: 1:10 – 4:00 pm in TBA, beginning Sept 14, 2020

Details

The course is on Quercus, so you should sign in as soon as possible and read the handouts. We will post on Quercus all handouts as the course unfolds on the dates shown in this document – so visit often.

Assignments

Business Press Review

As part of your class participation mark you are expected to read an appropriate article from a reliable business publication (Globe and Mail ROB, National Post – Financial Section, Financial Times, Canadian Business, etc.) and prepare a written *half page* report.

Submit your report by midnight of the day *before every lecture*. Submit on Quercus and do not forget to reference the article you are reporting on.

Your report should be about economic, political or personal issues *affecting small businesses*. These may be: a drop (or rise) in interest rates; recently released trade figures; import/export news; currency issues; government actions; approvals of financing; bankruptcies; tax matters, entrepreneurs, success stories, etc., etc. We expect you to write a thoughtful report on the meaning of the issue, not a précis of the article.

At the start of each lecture, a few students will be asked to make a 60-second oral presentation of their report (a printout of your report will be provided).

Successful business people read the financial news every day! This assignment is meant to help you understand the importance for entrepreneurs of “keeping on top of the business news” and to help you hone your speaking skills.

What is your business idea?

New business ideas tend to be the result of the recognition of a market opportunity by the entrepreneur, but there are many ways to come up with an idea for a business. The best place to start is to share ideas with family and friends. Sharing ideas and observations will lead you into hypotheses of what the value proposition of your start up should be. See the "**Pre-course information**" document on Quercus for more details – this has also been e-mailed to you prior to the first class. **Remember to bring this document with you to the first lecture because we will use it to brainstorm your business idea!! If you don't have one this will be the start of finding one to work on during the course.**

Market Research Assignment

Conducting Market Research is absolutely necessary in order to understand whether or not your business is likely to be successful. This assignment was designed to help you get started on the Market Research portion of your final Business Plan.

During the class at which this assignment is due each student will make a brief(up to five minute) presentation about their market research. The objective of market research at this stage is to determine if there is a business to made of the business idea.

Business Canvas/Business Plan Proposal

Once you have come up with an idea for your Business Plan, you must submit the idea to Professor Treiber for approval as soon as possible. While this is not a “marked” assignment, you must have this approved before you proceed with your Business Canvas/Plan.

Milestones in the Business Canvas Progress Report

The business canvas is a tool that will help you define your start up and its business model. We want to define a business model and how your start-up creates value for itself (generates profit) while delivering products or services for its customers. During this course you will have the unique opportunity to develop the different sections of the canvas and use them as the building blocks to create your final Business Plan. The term project is a full Business Plan and it is intended to give you "hands on" experience in developing a document that is *absolutely essential* if you ever get into business for yourself.

Preparing a Business Plan is not a simple exercise. We start with the Business Canvas – See the document on Quercus that describes this process in detail. The Business Canvas is a Progress Report is on what you are planning in your Business Plan to which the Canvas will lead. This is to ensure that you get started early.

Milestone #1 will be reached by the 5th lecture of the course. We expect you to have fully developed Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Canvas and there are marks for this document. This will be essential for your Business Plan's success.

During the class at which this assignment is due each student will make a brief(up to five minute) presentation about their Canvas. The objective of the Canvas at this stage is to identify any holes in the analysis of the business opportunity.

Milestone #2 will have all the Sections 1 to 9 inclusive completed. Marks will be assessed for the entire canvas and it will be due on the 8th lecture of the term.

During the class at which this assignment is due each student will make a brief(up to five minute) presentation about their Canvas. The objective of the Canvas at this stage is to identify any holes in their analysis of the business opportunity.

Final Business Plan

The final term project involves the preparation of a *full and complete Business Plan* for a company you selected as “Your Business” and of course this will be on the idea that you brought to the first lecture (or another approved) you worked on in the canvas and the materials you developed there. The Business Plan, on the average, should be 15-25 pages (cover page, table of contents, appendices etc. are not included in the count) typed, single-spaced. For details, see the handout on Quercus.

The creation of your business plan will be an organic process once you have completed all the elements of your business canvas. The comments you receive on your Progress Reports will guide you to validate your hypothesis and value proposition. There is also a lot of help available on the Internet, so please feel free to use any/all such assistance – but make sure you give credit by citing your sources.

Keep in mind that this is a business document – not a novel. Good communication is essential, so keep your language short and to the point. Always proof read to ensure accuracy of facts and language – *do not just rely on spell check!*

In-Class Presentations

Each student will have the opportunity to make a presentation during the term. The first presentation will be a 90 second “elevator pitch”. An elevator pitch is a 90 second or less sales pitch that will get an important person whom you happen to meet and you want him/her to agree to a longer meeting that will last up to an hour where they will hear in detail why your business idea is the huge opportunity for them to make money on or improve their business. Beginning at lecture 9 students will have an opportunity to make their elevator pitch. At lecture 12 all students will make up to a 10 minute business plan presentation describing why their businesses are a great opportunity to create value for their clients and investors. More details will be provided on these presentations during the course of the term but obviously they are directly related to the Term Project, the Business Plan.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

	Report or Assignment	Due
1	Market Research Assignment	Oct 19
2	Business Canvas Progress Report # 1	Nov 02
3	Business Canvas Progress Report # 2	Nov 16
4	The Business Plan.	Dec 07

Please respect the fact that we will enforce these dates. Do not make any excuses because we will not be *sympathetic!* If you encounter any problems we will always try to help you just set up an appointment and we will make time for you. **There will be a 40% discount** on the mark if an assignment is handed in late, but we will not accept assignments handed in after we have returned that marked assignment to the class and you will get ZERO for that assignment.

MARKING SCHEME

Class Participation (includes Business Press reviews)	10%
Market Research Assignment/Presentation	10%
Elevator Pitch	10%
Progress Report #1 – Canvas I/Presentation	10%
Progress Report #2 – Canvas II/Presentation	10%
Finance Class Workshop	10%
Negotiate a Contract	10%
Business Plan Presentation	10%
Final Business Plan	20%

ADDITONAL RESOURCES

Hatchery Speaker Series

Entrepreneurs and subject matter experts from the business community (even past students who started

successful businesses) speak for 45-50 minutes about their business, life, experiences, successes and failures.

The guest speaker's talk is followed by a lunch, Q and A's and an opportunity to network, which you should take advantage of. You will find the guest lectures at the Hatchery website

<http://hatchery.engineering.utoronto.ca/calender/>.

The Hatchery

The University of Toronto is dedicated to supporting entrepreneurship. Besides this course one of the ways it is supported in the Faculty of Engineering is through The Hatchery. If you have the entrepreneurial spirit or an entrepreneurial idea, The Hatchery will provide you with the tools and resources to take you to the next level. This course is the perfect place for you to start. Visit: <http://hatchery.engineering.utoronto.ca/>

HELPFUL HINTS

A word about course management

In the business world, deadlines are very important and missing them usually costs a firm dearly. For example, if you are bidding on a contract or tender, missing the deadline by even one minute can result in **your bid not being considered at all**. Similarly, in this course, missing deadlines will cost you. In any case, if you hand in anything **after we handed the marked material back** to the other students, we will not accept it at all!!

WHY TAKE THIS COURSE

In today's economy the most successful people are those who have entrepreneurial skills. Whether you wish to be your own boss or you decide to work for a large or medium sized corporation you will find this course invaluable. In fact today organizations actively search for *intrapreneurs* (an entrepreneurial individual who prefers to work within a larger firm rather than start their own). So, if you have the "talent" for business or if you can hardly wait to leave university to pursue a career in business, whether you start it yourself, or aspire to lead in a larger firm, this course is for you.

Our approach to teaching this course is based on real-life business experiences and years of successful practice of "what we preach." The course contains very little theoretical material or academic approaches. It is designed to familiarize you with the kinds of opportunities (problems) likely to be encountered in an entrepreneurial career.

If you want to lead an entrepreneurial lifestyle and are prepared to work hard, we will provide you with the practical knowledge and technical skills required to pursue this kind of career. We believe that an entrepreneurial lifestyle is not only a reasonable career alternative, but the most exciting career possible. We speak from experience; each one of the professors teaching this course is or has been a successful entrepreneur.

Everything changes rapidly in today's society whether we examine the legal, international, financial or Canadian business environments. Clearly, the end of the 20th Century went down in history as the decade of the "Great Restructuring" of the modern World's trade and business environments; the maturing of the Internet and e-Commerce and the pervasive presence of Social Media and many other events. Canadians are not immune to these changes and must adapt in order to prosper. The formation of a small business is perhaps the only real opportunity in the 21st Century for future successes for many of you!

APS1088, Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments
1	14-Sep	Organizational meeting The Canadian Entrepreneur and the Business Canvas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to the “Entrepreneur” - The Business Canvas – its role and value Business Plan and Finding a Business	
2	21-Sep	Idea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business Canvas/Plan - Business Idea Brainstorming 	
3	28-Sep	Market Research	
4	5-Oct	Marketing Strategies	
5	19-Oct	Sales	Market Research Assignment
6	26-Oct	Accounting, Financing and Analysis	
7	2-Nov	How to Negotiate a Contract <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Negotiation Role Play 	
8	9-Nov	Legal Issues	Canvas Report #1 due
9	16-Nov	Managing People	
10	23-Nov	Risk Management & the Exit	Canvas Report #2 due
11	30-Nov	Buying a Business, Franchising	
12	7-Dec	Business Plan Presentation	Final Business Plan due

Resumé

Steven Treiber, Ph.D., P.Eng

Steve Treiber was born in a refugee camp in post-world war II Europe and emigrated to Canada as a child with his parents. His background gave him a perspective on success that is common to recent immigrants to Canada and provided a unique advantage in entrepreneurial endeavour. He brings that experience and point of view to teaching.

Steve has always had an interest in business. Although he started out working for others, he always had an eye on "doing his own thing" – and he did that after just 7 years in the corporate world. So, in 1984, after an engineering career in the pulp and paper and oil industries with Scott Paper and Shell Oil, respectively, he started his own software and engineering firm in Toronto and later Houston, TX. Treiber Controls Inc. developed process control and real-time optimisation software and applications for the oil, petrochemical, pulp and paper and other process industries. In 1998 he sold his company to a NASDAQ listed competitor, Aspen Technologies, and served in various senior management roles.

He left Aspen in 2002 to launch a new business start-up – the entrepreneurial drive was still there. He continues to work with technology start-up companies to apply his knowledge and experience in engineering and business. He is now President of [Manufacturing Technology Network, Inc.](#)

After receiving a Bachelor of Engineering from McGill University he volunteered to work as a high school teacher in Uganda from 1969-1971. He also holds a Master of Applied Science from the University of Toronto, and a PhD from McGill University, all in Chemical Engineering. He has published over 40 papers in the fields of process control and optimisation, and is an author of 6 patents in the same field. See his profile on [linkedin](#).