15.000, EXPLORATIONS IN MANAGEMENT

Fall 2019. Monday 7-9 pm. E51-345. 3 units. Pass/Fail grading.

Course Administrators:

- James Orlin, Professor, Operations Research, E. Pennell Brooks (1917) Professor in Management. jorlin@mit.edu
- Scott Alessandro, Director, Sloan Undergraduate Education. salessan@mit.edu  E52-150
- Austin Ashe, Associate Director, Sloan Undergraduate Education. aaashe@mit.edu  E52-154
- Natalie Petit, Assistant Director, Sloan Undergraduate Education. npetit@mit.edu  E52-154

Course Summary:

15.000 is a 3-unit course designed for first year undergraduates so that they can learn about the Course 15 (Sloan) majors as well as learn about the disciplines we teach at Sloan.

A typical session will be:

- Students get their dinners and get settled (dinner provided at each session)
- Faculty speaker for that session describes:
  - how her/his academic discipline is used in practice
  - the types of research questions important to the faculty and others in that academic discipline
  - interactive presentation by the faculty to teach a key/interesting concept applicable to their area

Course Attendance Policy:

15.000 is graded Pass/Fail. Attendance¹ at all sessions is required in order to receive a Pass.

Course Laptop Policy:

Laptop use is not allowed during class. Laptops are a distraction for the students using them and the students around them. Since there are no exams or assignments based upon class material, laptops are not necessary for success in the class. Showing up and paying attention, though, will ensure an enjoyable class experience!

¹ An exception are absences due to one of the following reasons: absences excused by a representative of S3, (2) absences due to your observance of a religious holiday or (3) absences because of your competition in an MIT varsity sport.  S3 usually limits excused absences to illnesses, injuries, and family emergencies.  Students excused by S3 should also let Jim Orlin or Scott Alessandro know of the absence via email prior to class time.  Students who will miss classes because of athletic competitions or religious holidays should send Jim Orlin or Scott Alessandro a list of days in which they will be absent at the beginning of the semester.
**Course Assignments:**

The course assignment in 15.000 is for each student to write six personal "reflections"; that is, write one reflection based on six of our twelve evening sessions. Each reflection should (if possible) be written within three days of the evening session and should be written about any aspects of the session that resonated with you. Perhaps something in the session related to an aspect of your work at MIT or your personal life. Perhaps something in the session caused you to rethink one of your current beliefs. Or perhaps you learned a new concept that of personal relevance.

For each reflection, describe what in the presentation resonated with you and why it resonated with you. There are no "right" answers. Rather, we hope that these reflections are useful to you as you think about 15.000, and perhaps will be useful in other ways as well. On our side, the reflections will help us to learn more about you and your class-mates.

The reflections do not need to be long. One paragraph is enough. They should, in general, be less than half a page.

**Faculty Speaker Schedule:**

September 9 – Andrew Lo (Finance).

September 16 – Nikos Trichakis (Operations Management / Business Analytics).

September 23 – Georgia Perakis (Operations Research / Business Analytics).

September 30 – Antoinette Schoar (Finance).

October 7 – Jim Orlin (Sloan Undergrad Faculty Director). Discussion about and student panel on the Course 15 majors and minors.

October 14 – Student Holiday

October 21 – John Hauser (Marketing).

October 28 – Career Night. Round table discussions with Course 15 alums about career paths and career exploration.

November 4 – Erin Kelly (Organizational Studies).

November 11 – Student Holiday

November 18 – Beer Game Simulation (System Dynamics)

November 25 – Miro Kazakoff (Communications).

December 2 – 15.000 Holiday. No Class as we know this is a tough week for assignments and tests.

December 9 – Bill Aulet (Entrepreneurship).