# Course Description

In this course, you will continue to develop your professional skill set. You will continue to hone your professional writing and presentation skills, prepare for the job search process, and develop professional development plans. Other topics covered include understanding the modern work environment, business ethics and professional responsibilities, and teamwork skills. This is a required course for all undergraduate business students, and the goal is to prepare you to enter the workplace as a professional.

What makes this section different than other BUS 303 sections?

"Escape rooms are live-action team-based games where players discover clues, solve puzzles, and accomplish tasks in one or more rooms in order to accomplish a specific goal (usually escaping from the room) in a limited amount of time" (Nicholson, 2015).

This section is piloting an escape room assignment, where students will explore, apply, and create this alternative learning experience, which will then be shared with students from BUS 103 (the prerequisite) for them to explore. Students will be given design parameters—physical space, budget, number of props, narrative, and estimated time of escape room completion—to guide design and development, requiring iterative collaboration in solving the problem of design. To create an alternative learning experience to both complicate and deepen the knowledge and application of professional skills, this proposal seeks to harness the power of play to facilitate student learning and teamwork. The final products from BUS 303 will also be shared with our community through an Escape Room Exhibition.

Prerequisite: BUS 103
Course Outcomes

Students will:
1. Increase self-awareness by evaluating their interpersonal skills and the ability to influence the decision-making processes.
2. Evaluate various business trends, issues, and industries to inform their professional perspectives.
3. Research, analyze, and create information to assist with their career readiness.
4. Analyze and improve their ability to effectively organize and communicate ideas through oral and written expression.

Undergraduate Business Program Learning Goals:
Goal 1: Our students will demonstrate an understanding of the social, global, ethical, and legal contexts of business and will be able to reflect on the role of the individual in business.
Goal 2: Our students will demonstrate an understanding of and the ability to apply knowledge of professional skills necessary for success in business including effective business writing.
Goal 3: Our students will demonstrate technical and analytic skills appropriate for success in business.
Goal 4: Our students will demonstrate an understanding of and the ability to apply knowledge of core business disciplines including accounting, finance, information systems, management, marketing, and operations management.
Goal 5: Our students will demonstrate knowledge and skills appropriate for specialization in their majors.
Goal 6: Our students will demonstrate an understanding of how research in the business disciplines contributes to knowledge and how such research is conducted.

Text & Other Course Materials

Required Text:
There is NO designated textbook for this course; instead, all readings will be assigned by the instructor and provided through Blackboard. Please download required readings and assignments from our course webpage at http://courses.gmu.edu. This course will rely on a combination of online resources (articles, videos, and book chapters).

Laptops
All business students are required to have a laptop or access to a laptop.

Recommended Text:
It is highly recommended that if you do not already have a writer’s reference handbook that you purchase one for this course. Diana Hacker’s A Writer’s Reference is always a good choice. Or, if you prefer digital resources, you can use the free, online source, Purdue OWL: Online Writing Lab (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/).
Course Assignments

NOTE: More information will be posted on these assignments throughout the semester. All collaborative assignments will consist of individual contributions, group submissions, and peer evaluations.

Escape Room Proposal, Log, and Presentation (Collaborative): Groups will be created at the beginning of the semester and are expected to work together to prepare a proposal and presentation on a given topic related to course material.

Employment Package (Individual): Students will tailor their résumés and cover letters to specific job postings, complete peer reviews with classmates, and then write a brief analysis. Students will also create a LinkedIn account or enhance an existing one.

Informational Interview (Individual): Students will interview a professional in their chosen field and write a report.

Escape Room Final: Annotated Bibliography, Memo with Report, and Demonstration (Collaborative): Students will work in the same groups to prepare the documents and presentation.

Course Reflection and Projection (Individual): Students are expected to complete a reflection on the topics covered in this course and to project based on individual skills.

Participation (Individual): Students are expected to complete the assigned readings, videos, and homework prior to class and to contribute to class discussions. Students’ professionalism in class, and when communicating with classmates and faculty, will also be taken into consideration here.

Grade Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Escape Room Proposal, Log, and Presentation</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Employment Package</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Informational Interview</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Escape Room Final: Annotated Bibliography, Memo with Report,</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Demonstration</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Reflection and Projection</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Participation (professionalism, Escape Room bus, Career Fair, in-class</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>activities, discussions, LinkedIn, mock interviews, quizzes, homework,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>and Exhibition</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL Possible</td>
<td>100</td>
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Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Letter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100.00 %</td>
<td>93.00 %</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>92.99 %</td>
<td>90.00 %</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>89.99 %</td>
<td>87.00 %</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86.99 %</td>
<td>83.00 %</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>82.99 %</td>
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<td>79.99 %</td>
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<td>76.99 %</td>
<td>73.00 %</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>72.99 %</td>
<td>70.00 %</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>69.99 %</td>
<td>60.00 %</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>59.99 %</td>
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<td>F</td>
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</table>

Note that final grades will NOT be rounded up—please don’t ask.

Course & Institutional Policies

This course uses a combination of pre-class preparation through reading online resources and student collaboration, and active learning approaches during class time. Students are expected to complete all assigned pre-work prior to attending class and are expected to attend and fully participate in all class sessions. Professional behavior is expected throughout the course as defined in classroom discussions.

Teamwork
Students will engage in frequent small group activities in class and work on group assignments outside of class. During peer reviews, other students may be asked to read, review, and respond to your work. In addition, you will have the opportunity to evaluate the work of others. This component of the course mirrors professional workplace situations, so be prepared to work together and to provide constructive feedback to your classmates’ work through peer reviews and collaborative writing practices. For students who do not contribute sufficiently to their group assignment, instructors have the discretion to reduce their grades accordingly.

Professionalism / Attendance / Late / Make-Up Policy
You are expected to be professional and to abide by the class’s definition of what it means to be professional, which will be set the first week of class and posted to Blackboard. Your professionalism will be considered as part of your class participation.

Your on-time attendance is expected. Contact a peer to make sure you do not fall behind if you must miss class. If you are absent, then please submit your assignment by its due date/time. No late assignments will be accepted. All assignments are due by the assigned due date. I do not accept assignments through email.

Make-Up Policy will be for those students who have had an emergency, were sick and can show documentation from a doctor, or set up an absence with my approval prior to the missed
class (contingent on the reason). Make sure to email me if you will miss class (before the next class period), explaining why.

Email Policy
Check course materials before emailing me, as you will often be able to answer your own questions by doing so. I will do my best to get back to each of your emails within 48 hours; however, please note that I do not check email over the weekend.

Students must use their Mason email accounts to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. Consistent with federal privacy laws, I will not respond to non-Mason email addresses.

Remember that emails are formal means of communication, so consider them as extensions of your professional persona and be polite, grammatically correct, include a proper salutation and complimentary close, and show correct capitalization and spelling. Always include your name and class section when emailing.

School of Business Standards of Behavior
The mission of the School of Business at George Mason University is to create and deliver high-quality educational programs and research. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni who participate in these educational programs contribute to the well-being of society. High-quality educational programs require an environment of trust and mutual respect, free expression and inquiry, and a commitment to truth, excellence, and lifelong learning. Students, program participants, faculty, staff, and alumni accept these principles when they join the School of Business community. In doing so, they agree to abide by the following standards of behavior:

- Respect for the rights, differences, and dignity of others
- Honesty and integrity in dealing with all members of the community
- Accountability for personal behavior

Integrity is an essential ingredient of a successful learning community. Ethical standards of behavior help promote a safe and productive community environment, and ensure every member the opportunity to pursue excellence. School of Business can and should be a living model of these behavioral standards. To this end, community members have a personal responsibility to integrate these standards into every aspect of their experience at the School of Business. Through our personal commitment to these Community Standards of Behavior, we can create an environment in which all can achieve their full potential.

Honor Code
You are expected to know and follow the GMU Honor Code, which can be found through the website of the Office of Academic Integrity: http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu.

Specifically, knowledge of the following is expected:
1. All written assignments will be completed individually unless otherwise specified. Collaboration and group participation will be encouraged in developing ideas, but students shall write papers on their own, unless otherwise stated by the professor.

2. Source citations must be provided for all referenced work in this course. Intellectual property belonging to someone else must be properly cited. Use APA Citation Style on all assignments for this course.

3. Original work is expected for this class. If you are repeating this course, then all work must be newly developed material. Materials prepared for other courses are not to be used to satisfy the requirements of this course. You will receive a zero on the assignment if you turn in work that was created for another course. See me if you have questions.

4. All instances of plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, will result in a report sent to the University Honors Committee and a recommendation of a zero for the assignment, and possibly the course. See the School of Business Recommendations for Honor Code Violations (last page in the syllabus).

Special Accommodations
Students needing special accommodations for disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at George Mason University and inform me of their needs as soon as possible. Accommodations for an assignment cannot be made after the assignment due date. Consult the ODS website at http://ods.gmu.edu/.

Students who will miss class for religious reasons should inform me of anticipated absences by the second class of the semester.

Additional Resources

Business Library Liaison:
For assistance with Library resources, please contact: Jo Ann J. Henson, MLIS at jhenson3@gmu.edu, Business and Economics Liaison Librarian. Business scholarly resources are also available at: http://infoguides.gmu.edu/business. For the InfoGuide developed by the Library to assist you getting started with research for this class, please visit: http://infoguides.gmu.edu/BUS303

Career Services in the School of Business:
Call 703-993-1880 to set up a 30-minute appointment for in-depth career questions. Also, please review the events calendar at http://business.gmu.edu/component/eventcalendar/. To learn more about the School of Business Internship for credit, please visit: http://business.gmu.edu/undergraduate/career-services/bus492/

University Career Services:
For University Career events, see http://careers.gmu.edu/students/events/
Counseling Services:
George Mason University’s Counseling and Psychological Services can provide assistance if you find yourself overwhelmed by life, want training in academic or life skills, or just need to talk to a professional counselor. Please visit http://www.gmu.edu/departments/csdc/, call 703-993-2380, or stop by the Student Union, Building 1, Room 3129.

The University Writing Center:
The Writing Center provides peer-to-peer writing support. Writers at all levels benefit from sharing their work with a helpful and knowledgeable peer tutor or consultant. For more information go to http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/, call 703-993-1200, or stop by Robinson Hall B, Room 213 (new location).

Upcoming Career Events:
- Spring 2019 Career Fair, February 20 & 21, 2018, 11am - 4pm, Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall

Ask the Professionals career panels and networking series hosted by the School of Business Career Services:
- ISOM – Thursday, January 31, 2019 – 10:30am to 12:30pm
- Marketing – Thursday, February 7, 2019 – 3:00pm to 5:00pm
- Management – Tuesday, February 26, 2019 – 10:00am to noon
- Finance – Wednesday, March 6, 2019 – 10:00am to noon
- Entrepreneurship – Thursday, March 28, 2019 – 3:00pm to 5:00pm
- Government – Wednesday, April 9, 2019 – 10:30am to 12:30pm
- Accounting – Tuesday, April 23, 2019 – 3:00pm to 5:00pm

For a complete listing of School of Business events, please see: http://business.gmu.edu/calendar/

For University Career events, including practice interview days, please visit: http://careers.gmu.edu/students/events/
### Honor Code Sanctions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Violation</th>
<th>First Offense</th>
<th>Second Offense</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plagiarism</td>
<td>1. Failure to cite/attribute sources</td>
<td>An F in the class; referral to Writing Center; and Academic Integrity Seminar completion</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Representing someone else’s work as the student’s own (e.g., copying and pasting)</td>
<td>An F in the class; referral to Writing Center; Academic Integrity Seminar completion; termination from the School of Business; and at least one semester suspension or expulsion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheating</td>
<td>1. On a minor assignment (e.g., homework, quizzes)</td>
<td>An F in the class; and Academic Integrity Seminar completion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Cheating on a major assignment or exam, submitting course work from another course as original work</td>
<td>An F in the class; and Academic Integrity Seminar completion; and at least one semester suspension</td>
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<td>An F in the class; Academic Integrity Seminar completion; termination from the School of Business; and at least one semester suspension or expulsion</td>
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<td>Lying</td>
<td>(e.g., providing fraudulent excuse documents, falsifying data)</td>
<td>An F in the class; and Academic Integrity Seminar completion</td>
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<td>An F in the class; Academic Integrity Seminar completion; termination from the School of Business; and at least one semester suspension or expulsion</td>
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<td>Egregious Violation (e.g., stealing an exam; submitting coursework from another class as original work across multiple courses; lying to an employer about academic performance, false identification or posing as another, in person or online)</td>
<td>An F in the class, Academic Integrity Seminar completion; termination from the School of Business; and at least one year suspension</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>An F in the class, Academic Integrity Seminar completion; termination from the School of Business; and expulsion</td>
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</tbody>
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Note: The Academic Integrity Seminar used by Office of Academic Integrity costs $100.  
George Mason University