“The aim of marketing is to make selling superfluous” – Peter Drucker

The American industrialist and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller’s admonition “Don't blame the marketing department. The buck stops with the chief executive” illuminates one of the realities that plagues many corporations today: fewer leaders are well-schooled in marketing nor did they rise from marketing departments. In fact, there is increased scrutiny of marketing practices as they impact organizational performance and societal well-being.

Course Description

This course addresses the “application of concepts, tools and procedures employed by practicing marketing managers. Specific attention is given to product development and management, promotion development and management, channel selection and management, physical distribution management, and price setting and management.” The prerequisite(s) for enrollment are MKTG 3650 or MKTG 5000.

There is an old Latin saying "Navigare necesse est." which translates into something like “One must sail.” In the context of this marketing management course, we will collectively navigate the principles and practices that underlie marketing strategy. Marketing strategy is the nucleus of any organization’s business plan; other strategic issues such as asset management, production, research and development support an organization’s business strategy. In turn, an organization’s marketing strategy must be accordant with the organization’s core competencies. So, we will evaluate how marketing mix variables – product, pricing, promotion and placement – serve as compass points for leveraging an organization’s core competencies. In this course, we will challenge these marketing mix principles as they are operationalized in a technology-driven, globally-connected market setting. We one is to evaluate the “winds of change,” we must carefully understand the directional flows of peoples, places and perspectives in an economy that is markedly different than Eugene McCarthy’s dated taxonomy of the Four Ps in marketing.

Course Perspective

Marketing practice itself may be in a state of flux. The most cited definition of marketing was adopted more than 70 years ago by the National Association of Marketing Teachers, an association later to become the American Marketing Association (AMA). This definition was adopted by the AMA in 1948, and again in 1960 when the AMA revisited the definition and decided not to change it. This original definition stood for more than one-half century. In 2004, a new marketing definition was adopted by the American Marketing Association: “Marketing is an organizational function and a set of processes for creating, communicating and delivering value to customers and for managing customer relationships in ways that benefit the organization and its stakeholders.”

Professor Robert Dolan summarizes, asserting that marketing is simply the “process via which the firm creates value for its chosen customers.” Consider the marketing mantra of Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos. "Our vision," he said, "is to be the world’s most customer-centric company. The place where people come to find and discover anything they might want to buy online." Consider that Amazon.com (now simply known as Amazon) was launched in 1994! Five years later,
China’s first billionaire Jack Ma (a.k.a. Ma Yun). Which is more profitable today? Which will be the higher-value delivery company 10 years from now? One of many famous origins of names – a critical topic in branding and in your course consultancy project – is offered by this infamous story of how Alibabab.com got its name:

“One day I was in San Francisco in a coffee shop, and I was thinking Alibaba is a good name. And then a waitress came, and I said, ‘Do you know about Alibaba?’ And she said yes, I said, ‘What do you know about?’; and she said, ‘Open Sesame’. And I said, ‘Yes, this is the name!’ Then I went on to the street and found 30 people and asked them, ‘Do you know Alibaba?’ People from India, people from Germany, people from Tokyo and China … they all knew about Alibaba. Alibaba – open sesame. Alibaba is a kind, smart business person, and he helped the village. So … easy to spell, and globally known. Alibaba opens sesame for small-to medium-sized companies. We also registered the name ‘Alimama,’ in case someone wants to marry us!”

Now, consider that Alibaba.com is, by total valuation [market cap], the world’s largest retailer. And, Amazon.com, Walmart.com and a multitude of other companies are taking important strategic and tactical approaches for attracting and retaining customers in B2C (retailing) and B2B (business-to-business) customers. The updated definition of marketing illuminates the increased focus on a transition from a product-centric to a customer-centric approach to marketing strategy.

Philip Kotler, one of the world’s leading marketing scholars, is S.C. Johnson & Son Distinguished Professor of International Marketing at the Northwestern University Kellogg Graduate School of Management. Kotler articulates this transition in marketing practice:

“The economic landscape has been fundamentally altered by technology and globalization. Companies anywhere can now compete anywhere, thanks to the Internet and more free trade. The major economic force is hyper-competition, namely companies are able to produce more goods than can be sold, putting a lot of pressure on price. This also drives companies to build in more differentiation. However, a lot of the differentiation is psychological, not real. Even then, a company’s current advantage doesn’t last very long in an economy where any advantage can be copied rapidly. Companies must pay attention to the fact that customers are getting more educated and have better tools such as the Internet at their disposal to buy with more discrimination. Power has been passing from the manufacturer to the distributor, and now is passing to the customer. The customer is King.”

Now, reflect on Kotler’s assertion cast against the backdrop of struggling sectors. An overarching question that challenges today’s marketers is “How can marketing concurrently maximize customer satisfaction and stakeholder value?

Teaching Approach

This course is designed to be student-centric, empowering you to take an active role in your learning outcomes through experiential exercises, in-class participation and MOST OF ALL a semester-long, intensive consultancy project. This requires an active, rather than passive, engagement in each scheduled class session. It has been said that "Knowledge is a process of piling up facts; wisdom lies in their simplification." In the spirit of Fischer’s assertion, this course will attempt to simplify your understanding of marketing management, harnessing your collective experiences to build enduring learning outcomes. Often contrasted with didactic learning, experiential learning is not just an agglomeration of facts. Often referred to as “auto-didacticism,” experiential learning challenges you to actively reflect on your everyday experiences. After all, you are continually engaged in the marketing system. All of you are consumers, and many of you are already involved in product, pricing, promotions and/or distribution decisions. This course will provide learning platforms for you to critically evaluate marketing principles and practices in the domain of your own experiences. One of the overarching challenges of experiential learning is separating marketing myths from marketing realities in an ever-changing global marketplace. Advertising executive David Ogilvy asserts:

“I notice increasing reluctance on the part of marketing executives to use judgment; they are coming to
rely too much on research, and they use it as a drunkard uses a lamp post for support, rather than for illumination."

This course is a graduate-level offering. Accordingly, lectures are NOT a regurgitation of assigned readings. It is expected that course participants will self-direct her or his reading assignments, experiential assignments very value-added contributions to the semester-long consultancy project. We will also view several videos in this course. In the unlikely event that you are unable to view the video during a scheduled class period, you may make arrangements to view the video in the UNT Media Library in Chilton Hall.

Professor Access

Dr. Lou E. Pelton
358-M Business Leadership Building
University of North Texas (Denton) Campus
Office (940.565.3124) • Mobile (972.333.3132)

Access & Office Hours Policy. The University of North Texas Faculty Handbook mandates that each faculty member is required to list and maintain office hours within their department... so that students can have access to their professors. In the interest of serving your academic needs, I have designed a tripartite communications system.

Face-to-Face Meetings. I am available to meet with you at most times. I will hold formal office hours on Tuesdays 5:45 p.m. – 6:20 p.m.) at The New College in Frisco in Frisco, Texas. I can also meet at other times, but I encourage you to make an appointment to ensure that you have my undivided attention. Additional office hours will be available at my office (238-M Business Administration) at our flagship campus in Denton. I can meet you in the Frisco/Plano area, as well, by appointment. You are welcome to stop by my office at any time; however, other professional obligations may preempt unscheduled meetings.

You should be aware that I have professional obligations that may require out-of-town travel during the semester. These trips are part of my contributions to advancing marketing theory and practice. At the same time, I gain a great deal of knowledge and skills from executives and other academicians on these trips. The course schedule is designed to minimize any impact on student learning or professor access.

Email Communications. I am available via email at loue.pelton@unt.edu; however, there are a great number of filters used in the University email system. Accordingly, your email may be routed to a “junk mail” folder and automatically deleted. For this reason, you MUST use your official UNT email address. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, I recommend that you call me on my mobile telephone at 972.333.3132.

Telephone Access. I may be reached on my mobile (972.333.3132) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. In the event that I am unavailable, a voice mail system will instruct you on the procedures for leaving a message. Please speak slowly and clearly, and remember to leave a number where I can reach you. I will make every effort to return telephone calls within 24-hours of the message recording.

Course Policies and Procedures

Academic Integrity. Each course participant should be fully aware of the policies and guidelines for academic honesty in the University of North Texas Student Guidebook and on UNT web page (www.unt.edu). The Student Code of Conduct and an abbreviated list of other rules, regulations and policies are available from the Dean of Students. Please be sure to visit http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm in the event that you have any questions about these issues.
Plagiarism is a serious compromise of academic integrity. Please be certain to cite any references used in written assignments. Materials copied verbatim must be in quotation marks with a correct citation documented within the text. This applies to any and all materials taken from Internet sites.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The College of Business Administration and Honors Program comply with the ADA, and we make every effort to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a special need in accordance with ADA guidelines, please inform me immediately. Every effort will be made to accommodate your special needs. The Office of Disability Accommodations (ODA) assists faculty members and students in addressing special needs.

Cellular Telephones and Sound-activated Pagers. No cellular telephones and/or sound-activated pagers are permitted in class without my express written consent. *I reserve the right to take away any cellular telephone/sound-activated paper if it goes off in class.*

Classroom Behavior. Each course participant is responsible for classroom behavior that is conducive to the teaching-learning process. Each course participant should be fully aware of the policies and guidelines for academic honesty and classroom behavior discussed in the University of North Texas Student Guidebook and on UNT Web page (www.unt.edu). The Student Code of Conduct and an abbreviated list of other rules, regulations and policies are available from the Dean of Students. Anyone compromising the integrity of the learning process will receive a failing grade in this course and be referred to the Dean of Student Affairs for disciplinary action.

Course Performance Assessment

*“The highest reward for a person toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it.”*  
- *John Ruskin*

I think Ruskin is correct in his assessment of the highest reward for performance. Hopefully, your greatest reward from this course will be the learning experience. Nevertheless, I have a responsibility to assign each student a grade for her/his course performance.

In this course, your grade will be based on your total accumulated points on graded assignments and attendance/participation. Final course grades will be determined by dividing your total number of accumulated points over 1,000 possible points. The following table summarizes course grade assignments:

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<th>Marketing Plan (Written)</th>
<th>Marketing Plan (Oral)</th>
<th>Experiential Exercises</th>
<th>Attendance / Participation</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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Performance assessment in this course will be based on the following:

- **Experiential Exercises [30%].** There will be three Experiential Exercises that will require you to critically engage in a marketing experience and address a related discussion platform. Each of these experiential exercises will be graded based on both the depth of critical thinking and your written communication skills. All experiential exercises will be submitted as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or Adobe document (.pdf). All assignments must be submitted to pelton@unt.edu on/before the due date/time. The grading rubric for the Experiential Exercises is posted on Blackboard Learn.

- **Marketing Plan Project [60%].** You will receive a separate hand-out for this extensive, course-long
project designed for you to collectively – in a team setting – develop a comprehensive marketing plan. We will discuss this in greater length during our scheduled class session. The grading rubric for the Marketing Plan is posted on Blackboard Learn.

**Attendance and Participation [10%].** Your willingness to share relevant experiences during scheduled class sessions will enrich the lecture and text materials. Attendance is required, and participation is encouraged and expected. Attendance includes both mental and physical attentiveness. Your preparedness is a significant determination of your participation grade.

**Final Grades:**

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