



Lincoln University

BA 372 – Consumer Research COURSE SYLLABUS Fall, 2018

Instructor:	Prof. Igor Himelfarb, Ph.D.
Lecture Schedule:	Thursday, 12:30 PM – 3:15 PM
Credits:	3 units / 45 lecture hours
Level:	Mastery 2 (M2)
Office Hours:	Before and after class or in room 404 by appointment e-mail: ihmelfarb@lincolnuca.edu
Textbooks:	Solomon, M.R. (2015). Consumer Behavior: Buying, Having, and Being. 12 th Ed. Boston: Pearson. ISBN-10: 0134129938
Last Revision:	August 29, 2018

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Analyzes the factors that influence consumer behavior and apply this knowledge to develop effective marketing strategies. Emphasis is on consumer psychology and the means by which consumer behavior can be influenced or altered. The course includes both theoretical and practical aspects: (1) explore theory and research that is relevant to understanding consumer behavior, and (2) apply these theories and findings to generate ideas for developing effective marketing techniques and strategies.

Prerequisite: BA 304

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Consumer research is a big tent. Consumer researchers represent virtually every social science discipline, plus a few from the physical sciences and the arts for good measure. From this blending of disciplines comes a dynamic and complex research perspective, including viewpoints regarding appropriate research methods, and even deeply held beliefs about what are and are not appropriate issues for consumer researchers to study. Thus, this course will introduce students to variety of topics in the field of consumer research. Towards the end of the course, the class will cover attitudes and persuasion, decision making, and topics in buying and disposing.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES¹

	Course LO	Program LO	Institutional LO	Assessment Activities
1	Students will develop understanding of consumers and the role of consumer research in formulating and updating organization's business strategy.	PLO 2	ILO 1b, ILO 2b, ILO 4b	Homework In-class discussions
2	Students will develop proficiency in psychological theories of learning and memory, theories of motivation, and personality	PLO 3	ILO 2b, ILO 7b	Homework In-class discussions
3	Students will develop knowledge in research methodologies that are required to design and implement a consumer research project.	PLO 4	ILO 4b, ILO 5b, ILO 6b	Homework In-class discussions
4	Students will be able to formulate a consumer-centered strategy build on data-driven study of the market.	PLO 5	ILO 4b, ILO 5b	Homework In-class discussions
5	Students will be mindful of ethical and moral issues related to conducting consumer research, as well as to implementing its findings.	PLO 6	ILO 3b	Homework In-class discussions

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This is a direct classroom instruction course.

Lecture method is used in combination with case studies and outside readings, as assigned. The emphasis will be on learning. Every student must participate in an intensive preparation and classroom activity. The emphasis will be on learning by examples and solving problems. Every student is welcome to participate in intensive classroom activities and discussions. Reading and problem solving assignments will be given throughout the course. Video materials will be presented. There may be class discussions and group presentations by students on the project assignments during class.

Assignments and projects require students to actively use resources of the library. Detailed guide to business *resources of the library* as well as the description of Lincoln University approach to *information literacy* are available at the [Center for Teaching and Learning](http://ctl.lincolnuca.edu) website (ctl.lincolnuca.edu).

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Attendance is crucial to performing well in this course, as some of the material presented may not be found in the textbook. Further, the

¹ Detailed description of learning outcomes and information about the assessment procedure are available at the [Center for Teaching and Learning](http://ctl.lincolnuca.edu) website (ctl.lincolnuca.edu).

lecture and classroom demonstrations will emphasize and expand upon important topics found in the textbook. Thus, it is vital that you take thorough notes in class.

ASSIGNMENTS

There will be a bi-weekly homework assignment given out on Wednesday of each other week. The homework assignments will typically consist of some theoretical exercises, conducting analyses on provided data and turning in a results report (write-up) describing the findings, but may include other questions. The purpose of the assignments will be to provide a medium through which you really learn the material. Students are welcome to work with other classmates on the homework, but it is expected that each student turns in his/her own, independently written, homework. Any indication that work was directly shared will not be tolerated and will result in a non-passing grade. Please bring a **hard copy** of your **typed and stapled** homework assignment that has your name on it to class the day it is due. ***Please no e mailed assignments. No late homework will be accepted!***

There will be a number of readings (mostly journal articles) assigned periodically in addition to the reading in the textbook. There will be homework and a project.

In accordance with the university policy on cheating and plagiarism, any student who does not do his/her own write-up completely independently on any assignment will fail the assignment.

EXAMS

There will be two exams — a midterm and a final. To assess your learning in this course, exam questions will be derived from the lecture and textbook. Topics covered in lecture will be of major emphasis on the exam, and should be the focus of your textbook readings, though there will be some test questions found in the assigned readings but not covered in the lecture. To avoid guessing, there will be no multiple-choice questions on the exams. Exams may include conceptual or theoretical questions, and questions with applied scenarios. ***All exams are open books and open notes.***

QUIZZES

To encourage attendance and to help students with assessment of their knowledge, there will be a set of unannounced quizzes given at the start of class. They will be based on lecture and any assigned reading. They will not be computational in nature, but rather conceptual questions intended to help students gauge how well they understand the material.

GRADING PLAN

Percentage	Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
below 60%	F

Weights	
Homework	20%
Quizzes and class participation	10%
Midterm	30%
Final	40%

CLASSROOM POLICY

Please do not use personal computers, iPads or smart phones during the lecture. If you do need to text message or receive a call, please take it outside the classroom.

I am available and will do my best to help you learn and succeed. Questions and points of discussion are encouraged. I am also highly accessible for discussions if you wish to receive additional information or learn more about a certain topic or need help with data analysis. Please visit me during my office hours, or talk to me immediately after class, if you need study tips or additional help. No appointment is required for my office hours.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	CONTENT
Week 1	Introduction: Buying, Having, and Being.
Week 2	Research Methods in Consumer Research
Week 3	Research Methods (con-ed).
Week 4	Perception, Learning, Memory.
Week 5	Motivation Theories.
Week 6	Methods for Assessment. Decision Making.
Week 7	Group Dynamics and Social Media.
Week 8	Personality
Week 9	Employee Engagement and Assessment.
Week 10	Midterm
Week 11	Culture and Subcultures.
Week 12	Social Class and Lifestyles.
Week 13	Organizational Leadership. Management.
Week 14	Thanksgiving break
Week 15	Customer Engagement and Assessment.
Week 16	Final Exam

Note: Instructor reserves the right to modify the content of this syllabus.

Good luck!