Course Syllabus

IPD: Interdisciplinary Product Development

This course in Interdisciplinary Product Development is team-taught by faculty members from three colleges: Architecture & the Arts, Business Administration, and Engineering. Teams of six or seven students from industrial design, marketing, and engineering work together to identify and develop opportunities for new products in a broad market arena defined by a corporate client/class sponsor. The year-long (2 semesters) design process of identifying and developing a new product opportunity will culminate in the creation of form and functional prototypes. Each team will make four presentations of course progress to management of the client company.

The corporate client for 2007-08 is Elkay Manufacturing Company. They have provided an interesting and challenging assignment, as well as significant financial support for the course. They will also be sharing proprietary information and knowledge with the class. All students will be required to sign a Confidentiality Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) and an Intellectual Property Agreement (IP) that gives the client ownership of the work product of all student teams and faculty. This arrangement has been approved by the University legal department as well as the Deans of the three colleges.

Class Meetings

Tuesdays 2:00-5:00pm 311 BSB (Unless announced otherwise)
There will also be team meetings with faculty until 6:00pm.

Faculty

Prof. Stephen Melamed  Prof. Albert L. Page  Prof. Michael J. Scott
Art and Design  Business  Mechanical &
Industrial Design  Marketing  Industrial Engineering
103 JH/Tres Design Group  2220 UH  3057 ERF
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Course Web Site

http://www.IPD.uic.edu

Teams

Each team will consist of 1-3 students from each of the three disciplines - business, industrial design, and mechanical engineering. Teams will be selected by the faculty and announced in the third class.

Grading Policies

There are no tests. Grades will be assigned to individuals based on faculty assessment of performance on the group project and on student evaluations of team member performance (effort and contribution). Please refer to the accompanying handout on grading for detailed explanation of all policies, including attendance.
Week/Date | Course Syllabus - Topics, Week by Week (Subject to change)
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1. August 28 | Introduction, process overview, corporate sponsorship, administrative details, pictures, skills assessments, course mechanics, grading, talkers and listeners.  
• Assignment 0: Administrative class requirements (Due: ASAP)  
  (Including - Shop Orientation in Project Lab, A+A Bldg.)  
• Assignment 1: Background research on Elkay Manufacturing Company  
• Assignment 2: Discipline specific skills assignments
Guest speakers: Mark Lawson, Walter Moran, and Mike Douglass from Elkay
3. September 11 | Background research  
Competitive analysis, manufacturing background  
Team Assignments/class party at Giordano's
4. September 18 | Project Management  
Guest lecturer - Gene Kania
5. September 25 | VOC interviews
6. October 2 | Team building, training and exercises  
Guest speaker: Rob Cooke, PhD. Human Synergistics
7. October 9 | Jack Jones + progress reports
8. October 16 | Dry runs, followed by (or preceded by) Jack Jones
9. October 23 | Midterms at UIC
10. October 30 | Midterm debriefing  
Focus Groups, moderator's guides
11. November 6 | Ideation
12. November 13 | Class will be held at the Thinkubator 312 N. May Street in Chicago.  
Ideation training, 'Brain Game,' and brainstorming.  
• Assignment 7: Thinkubator idea master list
13. November 20 | Ideation analysis & screening. Team progress reports to class  
• Assignment 8: Screening results  
• Assignment 9: First Semester/Fuzzy Front End Deliverables for final
14. November 27 | Continued concept development, individual team meetings with IPD faculty.  
Jack Jones
15. December 4 | Final presentation at Elkay Mfg., to Elkay management and IPD faculty.  
IPD first semester/year end/holiday/annual banquet.