

COURSE SYLLABUS

Leading Through Disruption: Resilience and Innovation in Global Business

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Arash Azadegan

Professor and Vice Chair

Short Biography

Arash Azadegan, Ph.D. is Professor at Rutgers Business School and Director of the Supply Chain Disruption Research Laboratory. His teaching and research focus on risk, resilience, and innovation in global management. He has published in leading journals such as Decision Sciences, Journal of Operations Management, and International Journal of Operations & Production Management. He is frequently invited as a keynote speaker at international conferences and provides expert commentary on global supply chain disruptions in CNN, NPR, The Wall Street Journal, and other prominent news outlets.

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Introduction/Course Description

This course examines how organizations can navigate disruption and uncertainty while building resilience and driving innovation in global markets. Through real-world cases of supply chain breakdowns, geopolitical crises, and digital transformation, students will learn how leaders design strategies that foster agility, adaptability, and sustainable competitive advantage. Blending insights from strategy, leadership, operations, and international business, the program emphasizes practical learning through case studies, role-play exercises, and a tabletop continuity simulation. Participants will leave with applied frameworks and a global perspective, enabling them to anticipate disruption, respond effectively to crises, and design forward-looking strategies that strengthen organizations in today's turbulent international environment.

Course Objectives

This course aims to:

- Equip students with frameworks to understand and manage disruption in global business contexts.
- Develop the ability to apply resilience and innovation strategies to real-world managerial challenges.
- Strengthen leadership and decision-making skills through case studies, role-plays, and simulations.
- Provide students with a global perspective on risk, continuity, and adaptability in international organizations.

Course Methodology

The course combines short lectures with highly interactive activities to ensure that theory is consistently connected to practice. Students will engage in real-world case studies, leadership role-plays, group debates, and a tabletop continuity simulation that replicates decision-making under crisis. Emphasis will be placed on teamwork, problem-solving, and discussion, allowing participants to apply resilience and innovation frameworks directly to managerial challenges. The methodology is designed to foster an active learning environment where students learn by doing and leave with practical tools for leading through disruption.

Evaluation System

The course evaluation will be performed based on the following set of activities:

- Class participation and engagement (30%): Active involvement in discussions, case analyses, role-plays, and simulations.
- Group project and presentation (30%): Team-based analysis of a disruption scenario, with recommendations presented in class.
- Final applied paper (individual) (40%): A short paper where students propose a strategic response to a disruption case, integrating course concepts and frameworks.

Course Prerequisites

A background in management, business, or related social sciences is recommended, but students from diverse fields are welcome.

Curiosity about global challenges, interest in leadership and strategy, and willingness to participate actively in discussions, role-plays, and simulations will be the main requirements for success.

