

**Commerce 4MD3  
Business Marketing  
Winter 2024 Course Outline  
DeGroot School of Business  
McMaster University**

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**CO1 Wed.** 14.30 p.m.– 17.20 p.m.

**Vijay Kumar**

Professor

Class Location:

On Avenue

ramador@mcmaster.ca

**TA: Narendran Valliappan**

valliapn@mcmaster.ca

<http://www.avenue.mcmaster.ca>

**COURSE ELEMENTS**

Credit Value: 3	Leadership: Yes	IT skills: No	Global view: Yes
A2L: Yes	Ethics: No	Numeracy: Yes	Written skills: Yes
Participation: Yes	Innovation: Yes	Group work: Yes	Oral skills: Yes
Evidence-based: Yes	Experiential: Yes	Final Exam: No	Guest speaker(s): No

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Lectures: 2 hrs. 50 min.x1/week. Within the lectures are nestled class tests and presentations of assignments.

Course delivery mode: In-person

Course Description: “It may surprise you that B2B market is much bigger than B2C. In fact, it is more than double the size of the B2C market, at \$780 billion, according to Forrester Research, Feb.11, 2016.”

**IMPORTANT LINKS**

- Mosaic
- Avenue to Learn
- Student Accessibility Services – Accommodations
- McMaster University Library

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to complete the following key tasks:

- Have a thorough understanding of the theory and practice of business marketing.
- Be able to produce creative, action-oriented, practical solutions to business marketing problems.
- Improve on the ability to communicate, in writing and orally, in the context of business marketing.

**COURSE LEARNING GOALS**

This course is designed to prepare you for the unique challenges facing the practicing Business Marketing Manager.

Topics covered include: the nature of business marketing, organizational buying behavior, customer relationship management, segmentation of business markets, business market planning and strategy, business products, channel management, business marketing for global markets, managing personal selling, supply chain and the promotion and pricing of business products.

A significant part of business school graduates will have the opportunity of jobs with firms that compete in business marketing. This course examines special features of high-technology markets and the unique challenges that confront the marketing strategist in this area.

Business marketing is about marketing to organizations. The dollar volume of transactions in the industrial or business markets significantly exceeds that of the ultimate consumer market. For example, Pfizer had a contract of up to 76 million doses of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine with the Canadian government. At the other extreme a local office equipment wholesaler sells \$1000 worth of paper to a university. The buyers in both cases are organizations, and they are buying for organizational use. Different as these two transactions are, they are both part of business marketing.

After graduation, many of you will become practitioners in business marketing. This course will contribute significantly to success in your marketing career.

There are polar extremes in the world of business products. Some are very “industrial”, by virtue of being technical, complex, large, expensive or custom-designed for a specific purpose, as for example, turbines made by GE for aircraft. Other business products are very similar to consumer products, as for example, paper clips. In this course we will focus on the “industrial” end of the business-product spectrum. This approach will give you a comprehensive appreciation of just how different the worlds of business marketing and consumer marketing are.

The focus will be on marketing processes, so even if the examples are industrial products, it does not need an engineering background to succeed in this subject. This is a marketing course, so it is sufficient to understand just the *marketing* issues, particularly the benefits that the products provide to customers.

Some business products are unglamorous by comparison with some consumer products. Commodities in general, like unprocessed products like iron ore, are different from highly processed consumer products like exotic Italian sports cars. But the *marketing* of business products, even commodities, is often *more* interesting because it involves a higher level of personal contact with customers.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS AND READINGS - MANDATORY**

BUSINESS MARKETING MANAGEMENT  
by Michael D. Hutt & Thomas W. Speh published by South Western  
13<sup>th</sup> edition Priced at MindTap \$ 99.95/ Etext \$ 74.94  
Material discussed in class, postings on A2L.

**CLASS FORMAT**

This is an in-person 2 hours 50 minutes course. Nestled within the lectures are class tests, presentations of assignments and discussions.

There will be a short break part way through at a convenient time. Please use this time to take care of personal needs of various kind.

**COURSE EVALUATION**

Learning in this course results primarily from in-class discussions, conducting the group research assignments as well as out-of-class analysis. The balance of the learning results from the lectures on strategic concepts, from text and related readings, and from researching your assignments, presentations, and cases. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

***Components and Weights***

A. Group Assignment #1	15%
B. Group Assignment #2	15%
C. Group Assignment #3	15%
D. Group Assignment #4	15%
E. Class tests	20%
F. Participation	20%
TOTAL:	100%

NOTE: The use of a McMaster standard calculator is allowed during examinations in this course. See McMaster calculator policy at the following URL:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/UndergraduateExaminationsPolicy.pdf>

### ***Conversion***

At the end of the course your overall percentage grade will be converted to your letter grade in accordance with the following conversion scheme.

LETTER GRADE	PERCENT	LETTER GRADE	PERCENT
A+	90 - 100	C+	67 - 69
A	85 - 89	C	63 - 66
A-	80 - 84	C-	60 - 62
B+	77 - 79	D+	57 - 59
B	73 - 76	D	53 - 56
B-	70 - 72	D-	50 - 52
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## **COURSE DELIVERABLES**

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### ***Group Assignments:***

There will be four group assignments in this course involving research, insights, and analysis. For each assignment you will choose a **different** company.

### ***Groups***

Working in a study group is likely to enhance your learning experience. The size of each group will be 5.

Groups are encouraged to set some ground rules and expectations and to have a feedback session following the completion of each assignment so that individuals are made aware if their input is less than expected by their team. It is also very important to commend those that really rise to the surface and make the assignment better quality and the team experience more meaningful. Any member of a group may be called on to present the group assignment.

### **Field Assignments**

For the four field assignments in this course upload your PowerPoint presentation on AVENUE – instructions will be given by the TA. Rubric will be on Avenue and due date is as given in the course outline.

### **Assignment #1 (15 marks) Organizational Buyer Behaviour**

The purpose of this assignment is for you to discover the various people and functions involved in organizational buying in business marketing. Select a company in business marketing and

select one customer for this company. Find out the various steps involved in their marketing process and the people in the buying organization who influence and those who make the buying decision.

Details required:

1. Brief description of business marketing organization (seller) and the organization buying from this business marketing organization (buyer), Select a business marketing organization (seller) that is at least \$ 50MM in revenue.
2. Steps involved in the marketing process e.g. does the seller have to make themselves known to the buyers; do they have to take part in a competitive bid? Who are the others in the competitive bid? What kind of proposal has to be sent to the prospective buyer? Has the proposal to be presented to a group in the buying organization? Does the marketing/selling organization have to send a group to present? Is there a process whereby proposals are reworked based on buyer feedback? How much of to and fro takes place on proposals? If the buyer accepts a proposal, do they sign a contract/place a purchase order/make out a memorandum of agreement.
3. Who are the key personnel in the buying process? Who are influencers in the buying decision because they have to give clearances to the seller on product/service or specifications?
4. What are the parameters used by the buyers to decide the seller they will choose? Do they look for referrals? List of other customers? Reputation? Track record? Financial stability? Engineering expertise? Competitive pricing? Reliability? Availability for discussions at short notice?

Marks will be based on your POWERPOINT report, result, thoroughness of the information you gathered, and presentation skills.

### **Assignment #2 (15 marks) Marketing Strategy**

This assignment is designed to allow you to discover how a business marketing organization develops marketing strategy.

Choose a business marketing organization and a product category. Select a business marketing organization that is at least \$ 50MM in revenue. The types of things you want to determine are:

What is the mission of your organization?

What are the goals of your organization?

How do you decide which segments of the market to focus on/ customer(s) to target?

What products do you offer to these segments selected?

What is the level of competition you have?

Do you partner with any other organization to meet customer needs?

What process do you go through to meet these customer(s)?

How do you develop your alternative strategies?

Do you do a SWOT analysis? Situation assessment?

How do you select from different strategies developed?

How do you decide on what level of investment to make on resources in terms of people, equipment and materials, finance for the strategy chosen?

What are the detailed aims and action plans?

Do you do an audit on achievement against the strategy chosen?

Do you do course correction as a result of such an audit?

You will present your findings in your POWERPOINT report with a brief introduction on the business marketing organization chosen. Marks will be based on your result, thoroughness of the information you gathered and presentation skills.

### **Assignment #3 (15 marks) Communicating with the market**

This assignment is for you to find out on the communication mix. Your report should be summary style.

- A) Select a business marketing organization that is at least \$ 50MM in revenue and a product category. This **should not** be the same as in previous assignments.
- B) What is the key message the company communicates to their customer
- C) Find out target customers, what are the various methods of communicating with the market that is used and provide details on these. These methods could be advertising, direct marketing, telemarketing, catalogues, sales force training/management, web marketing, trade shows, customer web portals etc.
- D) Find out why they chose the method(s) used for communication
- E) Find out what dollar weightage is given or spend allocated to the various methods like advertising, direct marketing, public relations, trade shows etc.

You will present your findings in your POWERPOINT report. Marks will be based on your result, thoroughness of the information you gathered and presentation skills.

### **Assignment #4 (15 marks) Pricing Strategy**

This assignment is designed to allow you to discover how a business marketing organization develops pricing strategy.

Choose a business marketing organization with a revenue of at least \$50MM and a product category. The types of things you want to determine are:

What is the pricing strategy common to their industry?

What are the pricing goals of the organization?

Do they have different pricing strategy for different segments of the market?

How often do they review pricing strategy?

What are the various elements used in pricing strategy – price, financing terms, maintenance coverage, guarantees, after sales service, training, bundling vs. unbundling price elements?

Who all within the organization are involved in pricing decisions?

You will present your findings in your POWERPOINT report with a brief introduction on the business marketing organization chosen. Marks will be based on your result, thoroughness of the information you gathered and presentation skills.

***4 Multiple Choice Exams – total of 20%***

There are four multiple choice examinations in this course that accounts for **20% in total** of your final grade. The exam will cover material from the text-book, readings, lectures and class discussion.

***Participation – worth 20%***

Name cards and class pictures are used to help give credit for your participation. You must have a name card, or log in, with your **full first and last name** clearly written and displayed for every class.

Since student participation is an important component of this course, official McMaster student ID photographs will be used to ensure that each student is assessed accurately. The instructor will use the photograph to ensure the accuracy of participation marks, group work, and for identifying students for grading purposes.

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## COMMUNICATION AND FEEDBACK

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Students who wish to correspond with instructors or TAs directly via email must send messages that originate from their official McMaster University email account. This protects the confidentiality and sensitivity of information as well as confirms the identity of the student. Emails regarding course issues should NOT be sent to the Area Administrative Assistants. All students must receive feedback regarding their progress prior to the final date by which a student may cancel the course without failure by default.

- For Level 1 and Level 2 courses, this feedback must equal a minimum of 20% of the final grade.*
- For Level 3 courses and above, this feedback must equal a minimum of 10% of the final grade.*

Instructors may solicit feedback via an informal course review with students by Week #4 to allow time for modifications in curriculum delivery.

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## REQUESTING RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC WORK

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In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar [“Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”](#) and the link below;

<http://ug.degroote.mcmaster.ca/forms-and-resources/missed-course-work-policy/>

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## COURSE MODIFICATION

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From time to time there may be a need to remove/add topics or to change the schedule or the delivery format. If these are necessary, you will be given as much advance notice as possible.

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## GENERATIVE AI

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### UNRESTRICTED USE

Students may use generative AI throughout this course in whatever way enhances their learning; no special documentation or citation is required.

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## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
  - improper collaboration in group work.
  - copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.
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## AUTHENTICITY/PLAGIARISM DETECTION

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**Some courses may** use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. Avenue to Learn, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student



who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

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## COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

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*Some courses may* use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn, LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

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## ONLINE PROCTORING

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*Some courses may* use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

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## CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

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As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

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## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

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## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

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Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office *normally within 10 working days* of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

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## COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

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Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

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## EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

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The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COURSE POLICIES

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Your enrolment in Commerce 4MD3 will be considered to be an implicit acknowledgement of the course policies outlined above, or of any other that may be announced during lecture and/or on A2L. **It is your responsibility to read this course outline, to familiarize yourself with the course policies and to act accordingly.**

Lack of awareness of the course policies **cannot be invoked** at any point during this course for failure to meet them. It is your responsibility to ask for clarification on any policies that you do not understand.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Commerce 4MD3  
Business Marketing  
Winter 2024 Course Schedule**

	Date	Topics	Assignments	Chapters
1	Jan.10	Introduction. The Nature of Business Marketing, Business buyers. Business products.		1
2	Jan.17	Organizational Buying Behaviour		2
3	Jan.24	Customer Relationship Management Strategies for Business Markets	<b>Class Test 1</b>	3
4	Jan.31	Assessing Market Opportunities	<b>Assignment #1</b>	4
5	Feb.07	Business Marketing Planning: Strategic Perspectives		5
6	Feb.14	Business Marketing Strategies for Global Markets; Managing products for Business Markets	<b>Assignment #2</b>	6,7
7	Feb.28	Managing Innovation and New Industrial Product Development; Managing Services for Business Markets	<b>Class Test 2</b>	8,9
8	Mar.06	Managing Business Marketing Channels	<b>Assignment #3</b>	10
9	Mar.13	Supply Chain Management	<b>Class Test 3</b>	11
10	Mar.20	Pricing Strategies for Business Markets	<b>Assignment#4</b>	12
11	Mar.27	Business Marketing Communications	<b>Class Test 4</b>	13
12	Apr.3	Personal Selling Function/Marketing Performance Measurement		14,15

\* Tentative schedule. Individual week's contents may be adjusted during the semester. Please check with me if you miss a class.

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