

Fundamentals of Supply Chain Management

GS/MSMG 6550 SECTION M

WINTER 2026

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Instructor: Shamim Abdullah

Course Day: Tuesday

Office Hours & Location: Before/After the classes

Course eClass site: [eClass.yorku.ca](https://eclass.yorku.ca)

E-mail: sabdulla@yorku.ca

Course Time: 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Class Location: MK 6015

(Markham Campus)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Supply Chain Management studies the state-of-the-art planning tools for the operation and management of the supply chains or logistic networks. These models capture essential features of complicated real-life problems and explicitly identify assumptions under which supply chain operations strategies are practically effective.

The goal of the Supply Chain Management course is to study the essence of successful implementation of operations management techniques in improving supply chain performances. In recent years, many major global companies leveraged their relationships with both suppliers and customers and revolutionized their fundamental business models to become leaders of their industries. For example, Dell used the direct to customer strategy in the computer industry, Walmart used cross-docking in retailing and Benetton used mass customization and postponement in manufacturing. Fundamentally, all these companies capitalized on the integration of business operations. As a result, supply chain management that focuses on the integration techniques both within and across businesses becomes the focal point of interest to managers in various industries.

Though integration techniques are very powerful in improving the performances (e.g. profit and inventory turns) of a supply chain, they are not implemented without failures. Besides the potential benefit, it is thus essential also to know the basic requirements and probable pitfalls in implementing these techniques.

This course will emphasize on real-life applications of various supply chain integration techniques. For effective discussion of these applications, the students are required to prepare them before the classes.

Some mathematical models are required to understand these techniques. Rigorous derivation of these mathematical models and the intuition behind these models will be discussed. Several lectures will be used to introduce the required basic concepts. Students will be expected to incorporate and further investigate these techniques in their studies.

COURSE FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION

All classes will be held on Markham campus. During the lecture, material will be covered as described in the course schedule.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

D. Simchi-Levi, P. Kaminsky and E. Simchi-Levi, Designing and Managing the Supply Chain, Fourth Edition, Irwin McGraw Hill, 2021.

This is a very practical book and will provide a good overview of the models and tools that we will be studying. Supplements will be provided throughout the class, when necessary.

OPTIONAL READING MATERIAL

Chopra, S., and Meindl P., Supply Chain Management: Strategy, Planning and Operation, Prentice Hall, 2019.

This book is optional; it may help you particularly with the analytical models.

MARKING SCHEME

Assessment	Weight %
Assignments 1 and 2 (9% each)	18%
Executive Summaries [Best 6] (6 x 2% each ES)	12%
Midterm	30%
Final Exam	40%
Total	100%

READING AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to write a one-page executive summary (ES) of the reading assigned for that class. I expect an executive summary of the reading **typed** with your own sentences and be submitted at the beginning of the class it is assigned to.

Every student is expected to actively participate in the discussion of the material.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note that the course schedule below is subject to change as deemed appropriate/ necessary by the Professor during the semester.

A day before each class scheduled below, related material such as lecture notes extra materials, handouts will be posted on eClass. Students are expected to read the chapter(s)/readings and go over the lecture notes before the class time.

Week	Date	Topic	Chap*	Requirements
1	Jan 13	Course Introduction Introduction to Supply Chain Management Reading: M.L. Fisher, "What is the right supply Chain for your Product?" <i>Harvard Business Review</i> , Mar-Apr. 1997, pp.105-116.	1	
2	Jan 20	Inventory Management – EOQ	2	ES**#1 (Fisher), ES#2 – Lecture 1
3	Jan 27	Inventory Management – Multiple Period Probabilistic Demand Models		ES#3- Lecture 2 & 3
4	Feb 3	Inventory Management - Risk Pooling	2	ES#4 – Lecture # 4
5	Feb 10	Inventory Mgt.- Newsboy Model	2	
	Feb 17	Reading Week - No Class		
6	Feb 24	Network Planning Reading: Additional Material [TBA]	3	Assignment #1 Due ES#5 Lecture 6
7	Mar 3	Midterm in-class		Covers Weeks 1-6

Week	Date	Topic	Chap*	Requirements
8	Mar 10	Value of Information and Bullwhip Effect Reading: H. Lee, P. Padmanabhan, S. Whang, "The Bullwhip Effect in Supply Chains," <i>Sloan Management Review</i> , Spring 1997, p. 93-102.	5	ES#6 – Lecture 8 including Article
9	Mar 17	Supply Contracts	4	
10	Mar 24	Smart Pricing Reading: S. Netessine and R. Shumsky, Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Yield Management, <i>INFORMS Transactions on Education</i> 3:1 (34-44), Sept. 2002.	13	ES#7 – Lecture 10 including Article Assignment #2 Due
11	Mar 31	Distribution Strategies	7	
		(April 8-24) Final Examination		

*Chap.: Chapter,

**ES: Executive Summary

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS/RESTRICTIONS

- Students are required to have access to a non-programmable calculator.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

In this course, we strive to maintain academic integrity to the highest extent possible. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK's **Academic Integrity module** at the beginning of the course. Breaches of academic integrity range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another's work, the representation of another's ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities, and can be punishable according to the **Senate Policy on Academic Honesty**.

GENERAL COURSE POLICY

1. **WARNING: Distribution or uploading of course content is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. All material is copyright protected.**
2. Concerns regarding marks **will not be accepted after a week** from the releasing of the marks/result.
3. Students will not be allowed to submit assignments, executive summaries, and write exams unless they are on the class list / sign in sheet. There will be no exceptions. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they are properly enrolled.
4. Due to unavoidable circumstances if any lecture missed, date for make-up lecture will be announced on course eClass.
5. Please ensure you read all documentation on the course website.
6. It will be your responsibility to regularly check eClass posts and your email.
7. In case of a fire alarm, students are to get up instantly, collect their personal belongings and leave the building. (You should not wait for someone to tell you to do so.)
8. If you must miss a class, it is suggested that you try to obtain any missed notes from a classmate. **NOT all class material will be available online.** Please note that you are responsible for everything discussed in class (whether mentioned/included in the textbook or not).
9. **You are NOT allowed to take pictures or record any content of the lecture.**
10. Missed Assignments, Executive summaries, and midterm test – [Discuss with the instructor]

ASSIGNMENTS, MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAM POLICIES

1. Information concerning the Assignments, Midterm Test and the Final Exam will be posted on course eClass site.
2. **Assignments:** Students will be assigned two assignments that contain problem-solving type exercises. The purpose of the assignments is to not only help the students understand the subject matter in more detail but also help them prepare for parts of the exams. Assignment must be done individually. The assignments are due at the beginning of the class. Email submissions will NOT be accepted.
3. **Exams:** Two exams, a Midterm Exam and a Final exam, will be written in this course. They will contain mainly problem-solving type questions. There might also be a set of True/False, Multiple Choice and short essay type questions. The exams will be conducted closed books and notes but a formula sheet will be provided. Further information on the exams and the formula sheet will be provided prior to the exams.
4. If you miss the Midterm test, the weight of the test (30%) can be transferred to the final examination and the student will take a **more balanced** comprehensive exam worth 70%.

5. The more **balanced** comprehensive final exam will include material from the entire semester. Duration of Comprehensive Final Exam might be different than the Regular Final Exam.
6. ***There are no alternative exam dates and times for the Midterm Test.***
7. If a student misses the Final Examination and has to defer the exam, the deferred exam will be a **comprehensive** examination.
8. Do not write an exam if you do not feel well. Once you start any Testing Component (Midterm Test or Final Exam), the marks you receive will be used. If you quit after starting a test, then whatever you attempted will be marked and will be in your records.
9. If you need religious accommodations, please follow the York University policy/procedure and once approved, update your professor at least 96 hours prior to the testing component.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to achieve excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to perform at their best. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with **Student Accessibility Services** to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to your Professor as necessary. **Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.**

Students registered with Student Accessibility Services are instructed to deliver the letter of accommodation to each of their course directors via email within the first two weeks of class.