

Northeastern University Graduate School of Computer Science

Syllabus Project Management, INFO 6245

David A. Russo, Part-Time Lecturer

Instructor

Mr. David A. Russo received a B.S. in Organizational Management from Daniel Webster College and certification as Project Management Professional (PMP). He works as Sr. Engagement Manager in the PMO group at Blue Mantis. He has expert skills in project scheduling, risk analysis and decades of experience in Systems Engineering, manufacturing, and Operations Management at Hughes Space & Communications, AT&T Bell Laboratories, Raytheon, SAIC and consulted to many Fortune 500 companies. Mr. Russo has been early management for startups Actel, Expanets, Newpoint Technologies, Integra and has mentored classes of professionals studying for the PMP exam as a member of Project Management Institute (PMI) since 2006.

Contact: 603-759-9408, da.russo@ne.edu or connect on LinkedIn:  
[linkedin.com/in/daverussopmp](https://www.linkedin.com/in/daverussopmp)

Teaching Assistant(TA): Zihao Zhang

Contact: [zhang.zihao8@northeastern.edu](mailto:zhang.zihao8@northeastern.edu)

TA Office Hour: Monday 9:00 am - 12:00 am Pacific Standard Time

<https://northeastern.zoom.us/j/94659070063>Links to an external site.

Tuesday 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Pacific Standard Time

<https://northeastern.zoom.us/j/95177104644>Links to an external site.

Thursday 9:00 am - 14:00 pm Pacific Standard Time

<https://northeastern.zoom.us/j/99747854877>Links to an external site.

Course description

Planning and Managing IT Systems requires a look at the process of where ideas come from and their lifecycle to becoming a project. This course will cover three related areas: enterprise architecture, systems engineering, and project management. Mastery of the concepts introduced in this course should give students a significant competitive advantage in the marketplace.

The course project will have students work in teams to identify a candidate project of their choosing and create a project charter including resources, costs, schedule, and

risks. Presentation to the class is required. Class sessions will include lecture on each segment, and open Q&A.

Textbooks, required:

Making Things Happen, Scott Burkan

The Practice of Enterprise Architecture, A modern approach to business and IT alignment, Svyatoslav Kotusev

Free references:

[www.pmi.org](http://www.pmi.org) [Links to an external site.](#)

[www.sebokwiki.org](http://www.sebokwiki.org) [Links to an external site.](#)

Other pdf files will be added to course folders as appropriate.

Grading Policy

Final grades will depend on:

1. Weekly in-class participation (50%)
2. Weekly attendance (50%)

Academic Integrity Policy

- Please read carefully the University's policy on academic integrity, which is taken very seriously in this course.
- Dishonesty will result in an automatic failure of the course and reported to the Program Director and the Office of Student Conduct.

Prerequisites: none

## From Making Things Happen: Plans, weeks 1 - 6

A brief history of project management and why you should care

A brief history of system engineering and why you should care

Identify projects in the students history

The truth about schedules

Agile Methods

How to figure out what to do

Three lists: tasks, resources, priorities

Writing the good vision

Where the ideas come from

What to do with ideas once you have them

## Skills, weeks 7 - 11

Writing good specifications

How to make good decisions

Communications and relationships

How not to annoy people: process, email, meetings

What to do when things go wrong

Create a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) and explore creating a schedule

Conversation about resource and risk management

Tracking performance

## Management, weeks 12 - 16

Why leadership is based on trust

Making things happen

Middle-game strategy

End-game strategy

Power and politics

## From The Practice of Enterprise Architecture:

Weeks 1 - 6: Introduction to Enterprise Architecture

Weeks 7 - 11: The CSVLOD model

Weeks 12 - 16: Other Aspects of Enterprise Architecture