Please note: This is a preliminary syllabus and is subject to change. It provides useful introductory detail and additional course insight as you prepare for the application process.

MKTG A: Viral Marketing

Course Details

Instructor: Reihane Boghrati  
Course Dates: March 15-April 29, 2021

Office Hours: TBD (online)  
Meeting Days: TBD

Term: Spring 2  
Meeting Times: TBD (posted in EST)

Course Description & Objectives

Why do some products catch on and become popular while others fail? Why do apps and services take off while others languish? And why do certain ads, messages, or ideas stick in memory while others disappear the minute you hear them? Diffusion, social media, word of mouth, and viral marketing have become important topics for companies, brands, and organizations. Marketers want their product to be popular, organizations want their social change initiative to catch on, and entrepreneurs want their ideas to stick. This course investigates these and other topics as it explains how things catch on and become popular.

In this course, you’ll learn why things catch on, and how to make your own ideas more successful.

- Characteristics of products, ideas, and behaviors that lead them to be successful.
- How psychological processes shape social epidemics.
- How interpersonal processes or interactions between individuals drive success.
- Social networks, or how patterns of social ties influence success.

Course Overview

This course is divided into 7 weeks. Course content is delivered via video lectures, synchronous class sessions and online assignments, discussions and exercises.

Course Materials

- Viral Marketing videos by Prof. Jonah Berger
- *Contagious: Why Things Catch On* by Jonah Berger
- Optional:
  - Made to Stick
  - The Tipping Point
  - Diffusion of Innovations

Course Content & Schedule
Please note: This is a preliminary syllabus and is subject to change. It provides useful introductory detail and additional course insight as you prepare for the application process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Material</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Introduction | **Offline:** Week 1 Videos - Course Intro + Contagious: How Things Catch on  
**SUCCESs** | **Online:** Introduction and Course Outline  
**Offline:** Week 1 Videos - Making Messages Stick + Simple + Unexpected + Concrete  
**Online:** Exercise to practice |
| 2    | **SUCCESs** | **Offline:** Week 1 Videos - Credible + Emotional Stories  
**March 22nd – 28th** | **Online:** Exercise to practice (Paper #1)  
**Office hours** | **Online:** Office hours |
| 3    | Social Influence | **Offline:** Week 2 Videos  
**March 29th – April 4th** | **Online:** Exercise to practice (Influential Exercise)  
**Office hours** | **Online:** Office hours |
| 4    | STEPPS | **Offline:** Week 3 Videos - Word of Mouth + Why Word of Mouth Matters + Social Currency + Triggers  
**April 5th – 11th** | **Online:** Exercise to practice (Buzz Exercise)  
**Mid-Term** | **Online:** Quiz |
| 5    | STEPPS | **Offline:** Week 3 Videos - Emotion + Public + Practical Values + Stories  
**April 12th – 18th** | **Online:** Exercise to practice (Paper #2)  
**Office hours** | **Online:** Office hours |
| 6    | Social Network | **Offline:** Week 4 Videos  
**April 19th – 25th** | **Online:** Exercise to practice (Social Network Exercise)  
**Office hours** | **Online:** Office hours |
| 7    | Conducting Research | **Offline:** Two papers to discuss in class (Research Exercise)  
**April 26th – 30th** | **Online:** Group discussion of the paper + Conclusion  
**Final** | **Online:** Quiz |
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**Assessments & Grading**

Your final score will be determined by class attendance, active participation in class exercises, two assigned papers and two quizzes, with the following weights:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>% of total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Class Attendance and Participation in Exercises</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Two Short Papers</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Two Quizzes</td>
<td>30</td>
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