

Introduction to Human Resource Management Spring 2025

Course number 37:533:301:04
Sessions: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00PM – 3:20PM
Classroom JLB 003

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1. Course Overview

This course will introduce/overview the major topics in Human Resource Management (HRM).

HRM is a fundamental component of the competitiveness, effectiveness, and sustainability of any organization, as it influences who is hired, how they are trained, evaluated, compensated, and what steps are taken to retain them. In turn, HRM plays a critical role in predicting employees' behavior, attitudes, and performance. In other words, if an organization wants talented, productive, engaged, loyal, committed, satisfied, "go the extra mile," people, it must practice good HRM.

Course-Specific Learning Goals

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate:

1. The fundamentals of HR functional capabilities used to select, develop, and motivate workers,
2. The context and challenges of HRM and its role as a strategic function and set of practices within organizations,
3. How to calculate the value of HR practices to the organization (e.g., turnover costs, training programs, and compensation and benefits packages),
4. Analyze contemporary global issues from a multidisciplinary perspective.

MLR Learning Goals

Understanding Context - Evaluate the context of workplace issues, public policies, and management decisions.

1. Analyze the degree to which forms of human difference shape a person's experience of, and perspectives on work,
2. Analyze a contemporary global issue in their field from a multi-disciplinary perspective,
3. Analyze issues related to business strategies, organizational structures, and work systems,
4. Analyze issues of social justice related to work across local and global contexts,
5. Analyze issues related to the selection, motivation, and development of talent in a global context.

Application – Demonstrate an understanding of how to apply knowledge necessary for effective performance.

1. Apply concepts and substantive institutional knowledge, to understanding contemporary developments related to work,
2. Understand the legal, regulatory, and ethical issues related to their field,
3. Develop human resource management functional capabilities used to select, motivate, and develop workers,
4. Understand the internal and external alignment and measurement of human resource practices.

2. My Commitment to You

To accomplish the learning goals associated with this course, I will do my best to:

- Prepare helpful and interesting course materials,
- Lead meaningful lectures and discussions,
- Share my perspective of “real-world” HR, and its classroom implications,
- Provide developmental feedback to help students,
- Evaluate students’ performance with objectivity and fairness,
- Treat each student with respect and dignity,
- Listen to suggestions on how to improve the course and course correct when things are not working,
- Provide you with timely and relevant feedback,
- Use multiple resources to enhance your classroom experience.

3. Our Classroom Community

We all learn differently. It is my intention to respect your preferred learning style and to be sensitive to any and all factors that may cause barriers to our mutual success. By extension, I also ask that you be respectful of each other’s learning processes, and preferences.

The course work for this class is generally designed for collective classroom engagement, balanced with independent study. Certainly, you are encouraged to explore the course content with your peers, in small groups, as a way to facilitate subject matter discovery and to provide an avenue for the informal exchange of ideas and opinions. Helping each other is encouraged.

4. Rutgers Diversity Statement

The Division of Student Affairs works to create an environment of **inclusion** which respects and affirms the inherent dignity, value, and uniqueness of all individuals, communities, and perspectives. Our practices reflect awareness and understanding of the complexity of identity and the increasing interconnectedness of our world. It is our **responsibility** to promote and maintain a community of compassion, embracing the rich dimensions of **diversity**, and facilitating opportunities for understanding and the expression of both individual and shared truths.

5. Class Materials

Optional Text

Fundamentals of Human Resource Management for Competitive Advantage by Mary Gowan, Chicago Business Press, 2022. ISBN-13: 978-1-948426-31-2.

This text serves as a reference/source for several lectures.

Additional Course Materials

All other additional course materials, such as links to videos and articles, PDFs, lecture PowerPoint documents, will be provided in the relevant module section of the course.

Technology Requirements

- Access to the internet
- Reliable computer
- Headphones/Headsets - optional
- Webcam - optional
- Microsoft Word, PowerPoint - refer to [Rutgers University Software Portal - Free Access](#) to download/access if you don't have these applications already.

Canvas Postings

In addition to the text, articles, cases, and/or exercises will also be provided in class. We will also be utilizing the [Canvas](#) learning management system to access learning materials, pre-and-post class presentations, post announcements, submitting assignments, and communicating via the Inbox feature. (Note: Whenever anything is posted to this site, you will automatically receive a notification to your rutgers.edu email account. Checking that email account frequently is highly recommended as well.)

6. Grading Matrix

Total Points for the Semester	Percent Achievement	Grade Earned
540 or higher	90 or above	A
510 - 539	85 - 89	B+
480 - 509	80 - 84	B
450 - 479	75 - 79	C+
420 - 449	70 - 74	C
360 - 419	60 - 69	D
359 or less	Equal to or less than 59	F

7. Course Assessments

Activity	Possible Points
Quiz 1	100*
Quiz 2	100*
Quiz 3	100*
Quiz 4	100*
Quiz 5	100*
*Note: the lowest score of the 5 quizzes will be dropped	
Individual Research Project	100
Attendance (4 x 25)	100
Optional Extra Credit	20
Total Possible Points	620

Quizzes

There will be 5 non-cumulative quizzes. The common quiz format will be “true” or “false,” multiple choice, or fill-in the blank questions. For these quizzes, you are responsible for ALL assigned readings, as well as all classroom lectures, handouts, and other course material (e.g., articles, guest lecturers, videos, class activities).

Quiz Procedures include:

- All quizzes will be in class. All quizzes must be completed in class. No exceptions.
- All quizzes are “closed book” and under direct teacher/TA supervision.
- You are expected to complete your quiz UNAIDED. Failure to do so will be considered a violation of the university’s academic integrity policy and you will be subject to its potential disciplinary procedures.
- All/most quizzes will be administered through Canvas. Quizzes should only be systemically accessed when advised. No other browsers may be open.
- All of your personal belongings (i.e., cell phones) and any class materials must be stowed away and out of sight during the quizzes.
- If a class is cancelled and it impacts a quiz date, an announcement will be made in Canvas.
- Any questions or appeals about quiz content or your scores must be made in writing via e-mail within 7 days after the quiz grades are given to students. Quizzes will be kept by me.

The dates of the quizzes are noted on the course agenda. A quiz grade of zero (0) will be assigned to any student who is absent.

Individual Research Project

What is Human Resources Management?

Pretend that you are a broadcast news journalist. Interview an adult from the “working world.” This person may work in any role in a large or small business; however, they must work or partner with the company’s HR function. (HR professionals are fine as well.)

To conduct this exploratory interview, you might ask their views on what the function does, how HRM “works” in their company, what is the function’s reputation, what parts of HRM add value to their company, what parts of HRM need improvement, how does HRM contribute to the bottom-line, are HRM practices aligned with the business goals, etc.

Have fun! Explore. Listen. Learn. Take notes. As part of this effort, students should be prepared to share their work/findings for class discussion.

Please summarize your findings *and commentary/impressions* in writing. If you prefer, you may keep the name of the interviewed individual and their company anonymous.

Your submission should not exceed three (3) typed, double-spaced pages (approximately 800-1,000 words). Papers of shorter length are subject to greater scrutiny and may be penalized.

The paper deadline is firm. Late submissions will cause a 5-point deduction for each day late. You will have one week beyond the due date to receive any partial credit for assignments.

I make every effort to devote my full attention to every submission and to provide you with feedback within 14 days.

Attendance

- The content for this course is delivered Face-to-Face in our class setting. As such, attendance is a significant factor in your learning journey of this subject matter.
- Attendance will be randomly taken 4 times during the semester, with attendance in each of those classes worth 25 points.
- Your ability to perform best on quizzes is enhanced by coming to each class and listening attentively. Often, materials/topics are covered outside of the lecture notes. (Ask former students.)

Participation

- Students are expected to stay current with Canvas presentations, materials, and assignments.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions and to answer questions posed in lecture. These questions will correspond to the topics at hand, and they highlight important take-aways.
- Some lecture periods will include completion of a related exercise/activity. Although these exercises are not graded, they help students to utilize course concepts to give them direct, concrete experiences that are applicable to their personal and professional needs. Further, participating in these exercises will often give you the opportunity to interact with your fellow

students. I try to emphasize teamwork and a collaborative, supportive work environment, and I strongly believe that learning and development should be structured to provide support and feedback not only from the instructor, but also from your peers.

- All efforts should be made to foster a classroom climate that exemplifies respect for both the instructor and other class members.

Optional Extra Credit

Students should seek advance permission for an extra credit opportunity, as well as its topic. This may be done by sending me an email with your proposed topic.

An agreed-upon extra credit assignment - worth up to 20 points - will focus upon a current talent management event/headline/trend in the marketplace and HR's role/influence upon it.

Submitted assignments should not exceed three (3) typewritten, double-spaced pages (approximately 800 - 1,000 words). The submission may be made in Canvas. One extra credit assignment is allowed.

Outside references, if used, should be properly cited. Submitted papers will be subject to Turnitin verification.

8. Your voice is important!

I value the diversity of background and perspective that students bring to the classroom. Students come with a wide range of backgrounds, knowledge, interests, and perspectives. These views should be shared.

But sometimes, it's not so easy to raise your hand.

Just as we learn differently, we all experience the world differently. Some of us are more introverted; some are socially anxious; some are making cultural adjustments; some are dealing with significant challenges outside the classroom: some of us are just trying to fit in; or maybe it's just a bad day.

I want this classroom to be a "safe to say" environment, where you feel as comfortable as possible to join in the community discussion and express yourself. I will do anything and everything I can toward this end. Accordingly, please think of this class as your place to experiment and to push yourself outside of your comfort zone. Your ability to contribute can start here, as it will be called upon in months and years to follow.

For any reason, if you are not comfortable participating in the class dialogue, please see me early in the semester to discuss applicable participatory options.

9. For the Unexpected...

Accommodation Requests

You may need some type of accommodation during the semester. I will help to the extent that I can, in accordance with university policy. If it is a serious/extended accommodation request, you should go through the university's ODS. For general short-term needs (without going to the ODS), I will consider the following:

- Extended time for exam and/or assignment submissions (already built in for all but let me know if you require something different).
- Make-up quizzes or assignment extensions are offered for those with excused absences around unforeseen life events.

Accordingly, please contact me prior to class (or as soon as possible if an emergency is transpiring) and we can discuss how best to accommodate the missed obligation.

Make-up Policy

As the lowest quiz score will be dropped, *only excused absences will be considered for a makeup up quiz per Rutgers University policy-approval*. Examples include illness, a personal/family emergency, inclement weather (when Rutgers Information Service, 732-932-INFO, indicates that Rutgers is closed), when the instructor emails the class announcing that class is suspended, another university commitment of priority, or other critical circumstances such as a death in the family.

For those providing an approved absence notice from the university, make-up quizzes will be administered as soon as possible with agreement/coordination with the instructor.

Rutgers policy on religious holidays: <https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/religious-holiday-policy>

Absences

It is recognized that “life happens.” You will be excused from class for documented legitimate reasons such as ill-health, personal/family emergency, recognized religious holiday, death in the family, etc. Accordingly, please contact me as soon as you become aware of the anticipated absence or soon afterwards and we can discuss how best to accommodate the missed course work. My overarching concern is for your well-being; we can then figure out how to ensure that you don't fall behind on your course work.

10. Chain of Inquiry

If you have any *course-related* questions during the semester (e.g., general questions about assignments, grading policies, exams, due dates): **First**, check the syllabus. **Second**, send an email to our TA, then me. Be sure to include the topic of your question in the subject line of the email.

NOTE: You, as a member of the class and community, are welcome to answer your fellow students' questions on discussion boards or the like. In fact, you are encouraged to do so! You can all benefit from each other's knowledge and support. I will check others' responses for accuracy.

11. University Guidelines and Resources

Academic Honesty

The University's policy on cheating and use of copyrighted materials is enforced in this class. Students are expected to pursue knowledge with integrity. Please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy for more detail regarding these policies: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers>

All students registered for this course are asked to sign an Academic Integrity Contract (refer to the last two pages of this syllabus). You must return a signed copy to me or the course TA and keep a copy for yourself. This contract includes detailed explanations of behavior that constitutes plagiarism and cheating. Examples of a breach of this contract with regard to this specific course include, but are not limited to: sharing your answers or copying another student's answers on examinations; sending a fellow student who did not attend class the answers to a poll to falsely indicate their presence; copying material that is not your own without providing proper documentation. In the event that this contract is breached, the punishment can range from receiving a failing grade on the assignment, to being placed on disciplinary probation or permanent expulsion from Rutgers.

Please recognize that I have zero tolerance for any violations of academic integrity (ask prior students), and I will pursue disciplinary matters to their fullest.

Students with Disabilities

Students requesting accommodations for disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services to determine his/her Coordinator. The Coordinator will then provide documentation to the student. Upon review and approval, the student must then provide this documentation to the instructor. Please refer to the Office of Disability Services for Students for more detail regarding this policy: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>. Students may make requests for accommodations: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

Counseling

CAPS is a comprehensive mental health resource center for the campus community. They offer a variety of high-quality counseling services to Rutgers students in order to enhance both academic and personal achievement and progress. Please click on the following link to learn more about their services: <http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/services/counseling>

Masks

Masks are optional at this point in time.

If the university mandates the wearing of masks by all people on campus (i.e., in class, common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, etc.), I will enforce the policy. Any student not wearing a mask in class will be asked to leave.

Media Policy

The recording and transmission of classroom lectures and discussions by students is prohibited without written permission from the class instructor. If permission is granted, all students in the class - as well as guest speakers – must be informed that audio/video recording may occur. Recording of lectures or class presentations is solely authorized for the purposes of individual or group study with other students enrolled in the same class. Permission to allow the recording is not a transfer of any copyrights in the recording. The recording may not be reproduced or uploaded to publicly accessible web environments. You cannot share any part of any recording without express written permission by all parties potentially affected by the recording.

Recordings, course materials, and lecture notes may not be exchanged or distributed for commercial purposes, for compensation, or for any other purpose other than study by students enrolled in the class. Public distribution of such materials may constitute copyright infringement in violation of federal or state law, or University policy. Violation of this policy may subject a student to disciplinary action under the University's Standards of Conduct.

Exception

It is not a violation of this policy for a student determined by the Learning Needs and Evaluation Center ("LNEC") to be entitled to educational accommodations, to exercise any rights protected under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, including needed recording or adaptations of classroom lectures or materials for personal research and study. Such recordings of lectures or class presentations is solely authorized for the purposes of individual or group study with other students enrolled in the same class. Permission to allow the recording is not a transfer of any copyrights in the recording. The restrictions on third party web and commercial distribution apply in such cases.

Destruction of Approved Recordings

Students must destroy recordings at the end of the semester in which they are enrolled in the class unless they receive the instructor's written permission to retain them or are entitled to retain them as an LNEC-authorized accommodation.

12. RU Support Services Beyond the Classroom

As a reminder, students have access to information on how to receive extra support, For general information, access: <https://smlr.rutgers.edu/academic-programs/current-students>

Rutgers Student Health Services

Rutgers Student Affairs is dedicated to health for the whole student body, mind and spirit. It accomplishes this through a staff of qualified clinicians and support staff are available at several locations throughout Rutgers University.

Crisis Intervention - Student Health

- Crisis Situations
- In the Wake of Trauma

Academic Services

- For academic support including tutoring, visit the Rutgers - New Brunswick Learning Centers.
- For coaching help with writing skills and assignments visit the Rutgers - New Brunswick Writing Tutors in the Learning Center.
- Many library resources are available online. Assistance is available through phone, email, and chat. For information, check the Rutgers Libraries website.

Veteran Services

Rutgers is proud to support veterans. If you are a veteran of the armed forces, please visit the Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services website for more information.

HRM Course Schedule

The content of the course will be covered in the following sequence, consistent with the text. Please note that **dates are tentative and subject to change** (some topics may take more time and others less time, depending on students' interests). Weekly information (Objectives, readings, etc.) will be posted on Canvas. Canvas should be checked prior to every class for any pertinent updates.

Class (date)	Topic(s)	Suggested Readings and/or Deliverables
Week 1 (1/21)	Intro to HRM; Our Path Ahead; Research Project assignment	
Week 2 (1/28)	It's about You! (Kane)	Acad. Integrity Agreement due
Week 3 (2/4)	SWOT; Business & HR Strategy; Shaping Corporate Culture	Reading - Ch. 2
Week 4 (2/11)	Organizational Design; Regulatory Issues	Reading - Ch. 3
Week 5 (2/18)	Employee Engagement & Motivation; Job Design and Job Architecture	Quiz 1 (Ch. 2, 3) Reading - Ch. 4
Week 6 (2/25)	Workforce Forecasting & Planning	Reading - Ch. 5 Research Project due
Week 7 (3/4)	Talent Sourcing & Recruitment; The Role of the Recruiter	Quiz 2 (Ch. 4, 5); Reading - Ch. 6 Research Projects report-outs
Week 8 (3/11)	Talent Assessment & Selection	Reading - Ch. 7
3/17 – 3/21: Spring Break		
Week 9 (3/25)	Learning & Development	Quiz 3 (Ch. 6, 7); Reading - Ch. 8
Week 10 (4/1)	Performance Management	Reading - Ch. 9
Week 11 (4/8)	Compensating Employees; Incentives and Rewards	Reading - Ch. 10, 11
Week 12 (4/15)	Employee Relations (Kane)	Quiz 4 (Ch. 8, 9, 10, 11); Extra credit deadline
Week 13 (4/22)	Labor Relations	Reading - Ch. 13
Week 14 (4/29)	Last Class	Quiz 5 (Employee Relations, Ch. 13)
Week 15 (5/8)	Finals week	TBD

Academic Integrity Contract

(To be signed and submitted in Canvas by the second class session)

All members of the Rutgers University community are expected to behave in an ethical and moral fashion, respecting the human dignity of all members of the community and resisting behavior that may cause danger or harm to others through violence, theft, or bigotry. All members of the Rutgers University community are expected to adhere to the civil and criminal laws of the local community, state, and nation, and to regulations promulgated by the University. All members of the Rutgers University community are expected to observe established standards of scholarship and academic freedom by respecting the intellectual property of others and by honoring the right of all students to pursue their education in an environment free from harassment and intimidation. Please see <http://policies.rutgers.edu/PDF/Section10/10.2.11-current.pdf> for details regarding the Student Code of Conduct. Please see http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf for details regarding the Academic Integrity Policy.

Similarly, all students and faculty members of the academic community at the School of Management and Labor Relations should uphold high standards for personal conduct, ethical behavior, and professional integrity. In the area of academic integrity, students are expected to refrain from cheating, fabricating information, plagiarizing, inappropriately denying others access to material, and facilitating others in academic dishonesty. Please see <http://policies.rutgers.edu/PDF/Section10/10.2.11-current.pdf> (pp. 24-28) for detailed descriptions of each type of action.

Any of the following acts, when committed by a student, is an act of academic dishonesty and decreases the genuine achievements of other students and scholars. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

Plagiarism/False Representation of Work

- Quoting directly or paraphrasing portions of someone else's work without acknowledging the source.
- Submitting the same work, or major portions thereof, including presentations, to satisfy the requirements of more than one course without permission from the instructor.
- Using data or interpretative material for a report or presentation without acknowledging the sources or the collaborators.
- Failing to acknowledge assistance from others, such as help with research, statistical analysis, or field data collection, in a paper, quizination, or project report.
- Submitting purchased materials such as a term paper as your own work.
- Copying or presenting material verbatim from any source without using quotation marks.
- Copying from any source and altering a few words to avoid exact quotation, without the appropriate documentation or by using improper documentation of the source.
- Rewording the major concept found in a source but then omitting documentation or improperly citing the source.
- Submitting as one's own any work created by someone else (e.g., paper, project, speech, video, exercise, etc.) without crediting them. Large duplication of someone else's work should be avoided unless you obtain express permission from both the instructor and originator of the work.
- Fabricating or misrepresenting data or information
- Forging signatures

Cheating

- Copying work on quiz.
- Acting to facilitate copying during an quiz.
- Sharing answers through technology or in written or verbal form when such interactions are prohibited
- Using prohibited materials, such as books, notes, phones, or calculators during an quiz.
- Working with another student on an assignment when such collaboration is prohibited.
- Stealing or having in one’s possession without permission any materials, or property belonging to or having been generated by faculty, staff, or another student for the course.
- Willfully offering to do another student’s work so they may represent it as their own
- Assisting another student in cheating or plagiarizing
- Doing another student’s work, excluding collaborative learning assignments or joint assignments approved by the instructor.

Engaging in any of the above behaviors can result in an F on the quiz or project, an F in the course, denial of access to internships, suspension for one or more semesters, or permanent expulsion from the School of Management and Labor Relations at Rutgers University.

I, _____ understand the Policies on Academic Integrity and the Student Code of Conduct at Rutgers University and the School of Management and Labor Relations. Furthermore, I understand the consequences of unethical behavior.

We all share a responsibility in creating an ethical environment. I resolve to uphold and support high standards for ethics and integrity at Rutgers University. If I see, hear, or observe violations of ethics and integrity I will report them to my instructor, Department Chair, or Dean.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Rutgers University ID: _____