

**My Contact Information:**

Email: maria.kraimer@rutgers.edu

Office hours: Thursdays 3:30-4:00pm or by appointment, Room 215 JLB

**Weekly Class Meetings: Thursdays, 7:20-10:00pm, Room 004 JLB**

**Course Description:**

This course provides students with knowledge about compensation and reward systems for aspiring HR professionals. We examine the context of compensation practice, legal issues related to compensation and benefits, the various criteria used to compensate and reward employees, the various approaches to setting wages throughout the company, employee benefits, and contemporary challenges that compensation professionals will continue to face over the next decade. You will learn core compensation system's concepts and tools through lectures, assigned text readings, application assignments, class discussions, and a compensation project.

**Method of Instruction:**

This course is delivered primarily in-person, however, you will also be asked to watch lecture videos online and complete chapter quizzes through the Learning Management System, Canvas. You will be able to watch the weekly videos and take the on-line quiz at a time convenient for you, but before coming to class each week. During our weekly class meetings, you will work on application assignments and/or participate in case discussions. I will also provide opportunities for you to ask questions about the video lectures. You are expected to attend each weekly class meeting. Please bring your laptop to the class meetings.

You are expected to:

- Have a reliable computer, and access to the Internet
- Login to Canvas for your course *at the beginning of every week and then as needed.*
- Check for any announcements, update to the syllabus, assignments, and/or discussions and respond accordingly
- Actively participate in the class discussions and exercises
- Complete the assigned readings and quizzes
- Complete the assigned application assignments and compensation project
- Adhere to all due dates
- Refer to [Study Guides and Strategies](#) for effective learning practices.

**Required Materials:**

- (1) Martocchio, Joseph, J. (2020). *Strategic Compensation: A Human Resource Management Approach*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. Pearson publishing. ISBN: 13-9780135639672

The e-textbook can be purchased for \$39.96 through Pearson's website:

<https://www.pearson.com/en-us/subject-catalog/p/strategic-compensation-a-human-resource-management-approach/P200000005973/9780135639672>

You are also more than welcome to purchase a print copy through Pearson or any other distributor, but **it must be the 10<sup>th</sup> edition** of Martocchio's Strategic Compensation textbook.

- (2) All lecture slides, lecture videos, quizzes, and assignments are posted for each week in CANVAS as weekly Modules.

**Computer Requirements:**

- Windows Operating System Version 7 or above (32 bits or 64 bits)
- Mac OS X 10.7 or above
- Access to the internet
- Camera and microphone on computer/laptop

**In case of computer failure:** Make sure you have an alternative plan to access your Canvas class in case your computer crashes (it happens). An extra computer at home, your work computer, or computer at your local library are a few alternatives. *Always* backup your course documents on an external device, such as, a flash drive. It is also highly recommended that you **print and keep a paper copy of each week's activities**, in case you lose access to the Internet (due to weather or any other reasons).

**Goals and Objectives of Course:**

- (1) Understand and evaluate the advantages and disadvantages to the different approaches to setting employee pay, including seniority, merit, incentive, and skill-based.
- (2) Understand the different approaches to designing a compensation system that is internally consistent and externally competitive.
- (3) Understand and evaluate the different approaches to evaluating employee performance as part of merit pay systems.
- (4) Understand and apply the necessary elements in designing an effective incentive system.
- (5) Understand, apply, and analyze compensation issues to ensure equity and legal compliance.
- (6) Understand which benefits are legally required and which are discretionary.
- (7) Create a pay system for a set of HR positions.
- (8) Develop your decision-making, teamwork, and analytical skills through a project, discussion forums, and application assignments.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assessment	# of assessments	Percentage of Grade
Quizzes	8 of 10	25
Application Assignments (done in pairs or individually)	7	40
Class Participation	Weekly	10
Compensation Project	1	25
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

### (1) Quizzes (25% of grade)

Throughout the semester, there will be 10 quizzes, one for each chapter. I will drop the two lowest quiz grades so that only 8 will count towards your overall quiz grade. Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice questions worth 1 point each. **You will have 15 minutes to take the quiz.** I strongly recommend that you read the chapter and watch my lecture video before starting the quiz. Each quiz **will open at 8am on Monday and close at 7:00pm on Thursday (Eastern Time)**, during the assigned week. You must complete the quiz before coming to class that week.

### (2) Application Assignments (40% of grade)

Throughout the semester, there will be 7 application assignments. Some will be completed individually and others will be done in pairs, per my instructions. Each week in class, you will have time to start working on these assignments with your classmates. The specific assignment is listed in each week’s “Module” on Canvas. The assignments are designed to help you understand and apply the course concepts. Many simulate tasks that a compensation manager would typically do in such a job. All assignments should be submitted through CANVAS and will be graded based on the following criteria:

10	your answer was (a) thorough, (b) demonstrated understanding of the course material, (c) was informed by either your personal work experiences or additional research, (d) identified the correct conclusion (when relevant), and (e) had few, if any, grammatical errors
9	your answer was weak on only <b>one</b> of the above five criteria
8	your answer was weak on <b>two</b> of the above five criteria
7	your answer was weak on <b>three</b> of the above five criteria
6	your answer did not reflect an accurate understanding of the material, and it was not thorough or well-written; very little thought went into your answer
0	not submitted

**Application assignments are due on Sunday by 11:59pm ET each week.**

**(3) Class Participation (10% of grade)**

During the weekly class meetings, you are expected to participate in case discussions or other activities. *You are graded based on effort and contributions to the discussion.* A strong contribution means that your comments reflect the course content and build upon other student’s comments. I will post a grade for class participation in week 8 (up to 5 points) and then again at the end of the semester (up to an additional 5 points).

**Compensation Project (25% of grade).**

You will work in pairs on a project during weeks 6-8. Your primary task is to design a pay system for a set of positions in a human resources department. The materials and instructions for this project are provided on Canvas, titled “Designing a Pay Structure Exercise.” I will provide more detailed instructions through a lecture video in Week 6. You will have an opportunity to choose your partner in week 4; otherwise, I will assign you to a classmate. **This assignment is due by 11:59pm ET March 10 (end of Week 8).**

**Peer evaluations will be completed at the end of this project and are worth 3% of the project grade. That is, the project itself grade is 22% and peer evaluations is 3%.**

**GRADE ALLOCATIONS**

I will total your accumulated points at the end of the semester to determine your letter grade for the course as follows:

Percentage Points	Letter
90+	A
87-89.5	B+
80-86.5	B
77-79.5	C+
70-76.5	C
60-69.5	D
<60%	F

## SMLR LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to help students attain the following specific SMLR learning objectives:

**I) Written & Oral Communication** — Communicate effectively at a level and in modes appropriate to an entry level professional.

- Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights
- Make an argument using contemporary and/or historical evidence

**II) Quantitative, Qualitative and Analytical Skills – Apply appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods for research workplace issues.**

- Formulate, evaluate, and communicate conclusions and inferences from quantitative information
- Apply quantitative methods to analyze data for HR decision making including cost-benefit analyses, ROI, etc. (HRM)

**IV) Theoretical Perspectives - Demonstrate an understanding of relevant theories and apply them given the background context of a particular work situation.**

- Demonstrate an understanding of the practical perspectives, theories and concepts in their field of study
- Evaluate and apply theories from social science disciplines to workplace issues

**V) Understanding Context** — Evaluate the context of workplace issues, public policies, and management decisions

- Analyze the degree to which forms of human difference shape a person's experience of, and perspectives on work
- Analyze issues related to business strategies, organizational structures, and work systems
- Analyze issues related to the selection, motivation, and development of talent in a local and global context (HRM)

**VI) Application** — Demonstrate an understanding of how to apply knowledge necessary for effective work performance

- Understand the legal, regulatory and ethical issues related to their field
- Develop human resource management functional capabilities used to select, motivate, and develop workers (HRM)

**VII) Professional Development** — Demonstrate an ability to interact with and influence others in a professional manner, and to effectively present ideas and recommendations

- Develop effective written presentation skills appropriate for different settings and audiences
- Develop capabilities to work and lead in a multicultural and diverse environment
- Work productively in teams, in social networks, and on an individual basis

## POLICIES

**Expectations:** You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional, responsible, courteous, and respectful manner at all times during the course. Offensive language, harassment, posting videos or other media that is not related to the course, and/or any other inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated; and will result in dire consequences, including dismissal from the course. Your responses to discussion posts, or any other communication with your classmates and/or your instructor must be of the highest professional and respectable standard. **In short, be respectful, be professional!**

In return, you can expect me: to provide you with a virtual class that is conducive to learning; provide a well organized course with lectures that facilitate the assigned activities; provide an environment that is respectful of others' opinions; provide reasonable guidance on all assessments; and treat you fairly and courteously.

**Communication Maintenance:** Please be aware that any announcements that impact the class schedule or assessments will be sent to *your university email address (@rutgers.edu)*. Please be sure to check that email account on a regular (daily) basis during the semester and final exam period. I will also post important announcements on CANVAS. Please feel free to attend my virtual office hours or email me with questions or concerns about the course and/or any assignments. I will endeavor to reply to you within 48 hours. *Please always use your Rutgers email when communicating with me about the course.*

**Technical Support:** If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Canvas:

1. Visit the [Canvas Student Tutorial](https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides/video-guide) at (<https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides/video-guide>)
2. Contact [Rutgers IT Help Desk](https://rutgersonline.desk.com/) (<https://rutgersonline.desk.com/>), 877-361-1134 accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
3. Visit the [Rutgers Canvas Student orientation](https://onlinelearning.rutgers.edu/canvas) (<https://onlinelearning.rutgers.edu/canvas>)

**Academic Misconduct:** All students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the guidelines outlined in the University's Academic Integrity Policy. You can find the full policy at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>. In particular, the principles of academic integrity require that a student do the following:

- *Properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others.*
- *Properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work.*
- *Make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of impermissible materials or impermissible collaboration.*
- *Obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions.*
- *Treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress.*

- *Uphold the canons of the ethical or professional code of the profession for which he or she is preparing.*
- *Do not share quiz or exam questions with any other students in this class or future classes of this course.*

If you have any questions about what is expected of you generally or on any specific assignment, please do not hesitate to ask me.

All suspected violations to the academic integrity policy will be investigated per SMLR's academic integrity policy. For any confirmed violations, appropriate recommended discipline action will be taken and retained in student's records as allowed by the University Code of Student Conduct.

**Accommodating Disabilities:** "Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>". For additional information, please visit the website of the Office of Disability Services at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students>.

If you have a disability that may require some modification of testing or any other class requirement, please let me know as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Similarly if you need special arrangements to manage remote learning, please let me know. Please see me during my scheduled office hours or schedule an appointment to meet via Zoom.

**Student Wellness Services:** Rutgers provides several resources to assist student who may be experiencing distress or mental health concerns. The following are some of the resources that are available to you if you need them.

**Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

**Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and

stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

Scarlet Listeners: (732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

**Student resources:** This link directs students to the appropriate resources if they are in need of help in the areas of (a) mental health, (b) academic coaching, and (c) financial assistance:

<https://smlr.rutgers.edu/about-smlr/fall-2022-information-smlr-students>

**Scholarships available to SMLR students can be found here:**

<https://smlr.rutgers.edu/academic-programs/scholarships>

**Grade Appeals:** If you have a concern about a grade that you receive on any assignment in this class you are invited to submit a written appeal to me within one week of receiving the grade in question. This appeal should outline your specific concerns with the grade and the evidence you have to support why it should be changed. I will consider your written appeal and schedule time to talk to you regarding the grade. Please also see SMLR's formal grade appeal procedures available from the undergraduate programs office.

**Submitting Assignments and Make-up Exams:** All written assignments must be submitted by their respective due dates and times. Late submission of assignments will incur a penalty of 10% per day and applies to each team member for team-based assignments.

Assignment extensions and make-up quizzes are only available in extenuating circumstances (i.e., medical/health emergency for yourself or dependent, death in the immediate family, mandatory religious observations, or university-related mandatory travel) *and must be approved by me prior to the assignment or quiz due date*. Written proof of the extenuating circumstance, from a legitimate authority, is required at the time the request is made.

**Not Happy with this Course?** Any concerns you have regarding this course should first be discussed with me, Maria Krammer. If I can't resolve your concern to your satisfaction, you may contact the MHRM Program Director (Dave Ferio or Hadi El Farr). I truly hope you enjoy this course though 😊

**Other Course Policies:** All other course policies are governed by the School of Management and Labor Relations.

## Course Schedule and Due Dates

**Readings:** All chapters refer to the Martocchio Strategic Compensation text;

**Quizzes:** all quizzes open on Sundays at 8am and **close on Thursdays at 7:00pm with the exception of Chapter 1 (week 1) quiz;**

**Application Assignments (AA):** all assignments are due **by midnight on Sundays.**

*All times are Eastern Time (ET) (i.e., New Jersey time)*

Week/ Dates	Topic / Chapter TO READ and WATCH	ASSIGNMENTS TO DO
1 Jan 17-22	Introduction to Strategic Compensation / Read <b>Chapter 1</b>  Watch Week 1 lecture videos	Ch. 1 Quiz due <b>by midnight January 22</b>
2 Jan 23-29	Traditional Bases for Pay / Read <b>Chapter 3</b> (pp.58-65)  Watch Week 2 lecture videos	Ch. 3 Quiz
3 Jan 30-Feb 5	Performance Appraisal / Read Chapter 3 (pp. 65-79)  Watch Week 3 lecture videos	AA – Performance Appraisal for Supervisors at Columbus Custom
4 Feb 6-12	Contextual Influences on Compensation and FLSA Read <b>Chapter 2</b> (pp.28-42)  Watch Week 4 lecture videos	Ch. 2 Quiz  AA - Is Mabel Jones’ position exempt?
5 Feb 13-19	Employment Laws and Compensation / Read Chapter 2 (pp. 43-49)  Watch Week 5 lecture videos	AA - Conducting a Gender Pay Equity Audit at Columbus Custom
6 Feb 20-26	Building Internally Consistent Pay / Read <b>Chapter 6</b>  Watch Week 6 lecture videos	Ch. 6 Quiz  Work on Project – Tasks A & B
7 Feb 27-Mar 5	Building Market-competitive Pay / Read <b>Chapter 7</b>  Watch Week 7 lecture videos	Ch. 7 Quiz  Work on Project – Tasks C-G
8 March 6-10	Recognizing Employee Contributions / Read <b>Chapter 8</b>  Watch Week 8 lecture videos	Ch. 8 Quiz  Work on Project – Tasks H-J  <b>Compensation Project due by midnight, March 10 (Friday)</b>

<b>Week/ Dates</b>	<b>Topic / Chapter TO READ and WATCH</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS TO DO</b>
9 March 11-19	Spring Break	REST & REJUVENATE
10 March 20-26	Incentive Pay Read <b>Chapter 4</b>  Watch Week 10 lecture video	Ch. 4 Quiz  AA – Incentives at Mega Manufacturing
11 Mar 27-Apr 2	Incentive Pay continued  Watch Week 11 lecture videos	AA –Incentives at Mega Group Analysis
12 April 3-9	Discretionary Benefits / Read <b>Chapter 9</b>  Watch Week 12 lecture videos	Ch. 9 Quiz
13 April 10-16	Legally Required (Chapter 10)  Watch Week 13 lecture video	Ch. 10 Quiz
14 April 17-23	Legally Required Benefits / Read <b>Chapter 10</b> (Insurance Programs)  Watch Week 14 lecture videos	NO CLASS MEETING  AA – Benefits at Aflac and LL Bean
15 April 24-30	Compensation Challenges Read <b>Epilogue (at end of text)</b>  Watch Week 15 lecture videos	Epilogue Quiz  AA – Pay Transparency case