### Course Syllabus

**Alma Mintu-Wimsatt**
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Office: Via teleconferencing M-Th 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or by appointment  
Office Hours: BA 327  
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### MKT 521  
**Fall Semester, 2015**

Dr. Alma Mintu-Wimsatt, Professor of Marketing, received her Ph.D. in Marketing from the University of Kentucky in 1990. Dr. Mintu joined TAMU-Commerce in 1992. Since joining TAMU-C, Dr. Mintu-Wimsatt has been recognized both in research and teaching. Of her accomplishments, Dr. Mintu is most proud of her Texas A & M Spring (2012, 2011) and Fall Teaching Excellence Awards (2011, 2010, 2009), Paul W. Barrus Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching and H.M. Lafferty Distinguished Faculty Award for Scholarship and Creative Activity. Dr. Mintu was also named in the 2004 Texas Monthly’s Guide to Texas Colleges & Universities as one of the best instructors to take at TAMU-C.

PICTURE: Dr. Mintu with her family at Grace Bay in Turks & Caicos, Summer, 2015.

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**Note on the Time Zone Used - Central Time**  
The platform of eCollege uses Central Time. We will be using CT as the default for opening and closing times/dates/deadlines. Please make the necessary adjustments if you are in a different time zone. All deadlines are absolute.

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**Academic Honesty Policy**  
All students are required to read, sign (electronically - meaning that you type out your name) and date TAMU-C’s Academic Honesty Policy. Be sure to upload the signed copy to your “dropbox.” Please do NOT e-mail it back to Dr. Mintu. The AHP will be e-mailed to you as an attachment by Dr. Mintu during the first day of class. It can also be found under the "Doc Sharing” tab. AHP has to be returned immediately during the first week of class.

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**General Policies for Dr. Mintu's Web-Based MKT 574**

Dr. Mintu reserves the right to administratively drop any student who does not log into the class web site for **seven consecutive days** after the course officially starts (8/31/2015).

Dr. Mintu urges registered online students to familiarize themselves with eCollege by going through the student tutorial process (i.e., see your Homepage). This will ensure that each student will have sufficient knowledge on how to accomplish the requirements of the course. It is **NOT** Dr. Mintu’s responsibility to teach students on how eCollege works. **Dr. Mintu assumes that each student has a working knowledge of eCollege and has access to their e-mail address.**

Students who encounter technical problems should contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24/7. The HelpDesk can be reached by calling 866-656-5511. Additionally, you can click on the “Help” button located at the top of each page for more information.
Please read and review this syllabus carefully. *If you think that the set-up of this specific course will not work with your own schedule/style, please reconsider your enrollment and look for another option.* If you intend to drop this course, please make sure that all administrative requirements for dropping are completed. Otherwise, if your name appears in the class roster at the time grades are to be submitted - you will receive an "F."

**Course Description & Objectives:**

This course hopes to keep our MBA students in the cutting edge of today's marketing practices. This class will explore the opportunities and challenges presented by a popular business practice - Customer Relationship Management (CRM). CRM is considered the new "mantra" of marketing. It focuses on maximizing customer value. This is accomplished by the development and management of cooperative and collaborative relationships.

For the purposes of this course, emphasis will be placed on the development of an understanding of Relationship Marketing, CRM theory and CRM applications through a series of discussions, cases, and exams.

The course has the following primary objectives:

1. To understand the premise of Relationship Marketing, the foundation for CRM, and the meaning of "creating value" for customers.

2. To identify the key elements of implementing a CRM strategy consistent with the changing legal and ethical parameters in business.

3. To understand the business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-customer (B2C) contexts of CRM.

4. To familiarize students with data mining and strategic uses of information.

5. To expose students to important companies with innovative CRM strategies.

This class will primarily rely on CURRENT popular press publications. Students will need to use several search engines for discussion/case/exercise purposes.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

There seems to be a STRONG belief among many students that web-based classes are easier than traditional face-to-face classes. This is not true at all – especially in Dr. Mintu’s class!!!

For this MKT 574 course, you will find that the schedule we will follow is quite rigorous - a degree of structure has been established. Students are expected to keep up with the course’s requirements and the exams are very challenging.

All deadlines are absolute and no extra credit is awarded. A detailed syllabus is provided
for your direction. Students are strongly advised to keep a hard copy of this syllabus handy at all times. E-mail Dr. Mintu (preferred) or use the Virtual Office for additional questions you may have.

Textbook and Other Resource Materials

There is NO required textbook for MKT 574. Instead, we will use a variety of external sources. This will mean that students would have to conduct extensive research - particularly in the mainstream business literature. A Reading List has been provided in the next section (under Reading Materials). All these articles are available using TAMU-C library's electronic databases. It is the student's responsibility to conduct the necessary search for the citations provided. If you are unfamiliar with how to use the library's databases to search for articles, review the "Looking for journal articles" guide uploaded in Doc Sharing.

Business magazines such as Forbes, Marketing News and Bloomberg Businessweek will also prove to be very beneficial. The library will have these magazines as well. Specifically for Bloomberg Businessweek (formerly known as Business Week) and Forbes articles, if you are searching using their website - Businessweek.com & Forbes.com, note that dates/title may vary from the hard copy reference provided in your syllabus. However, if you use the library's electronic database - then the provided citation should be accurate.

Marketing News and Marketing Management, published by the American Marketing Association, are journals that you can access using the library's database. If you do not access these journals using the library, membership will be required by AMA. By utilizing the library's databases, you will NOT have to pay to get a copy of articles referenced in your syllabus.

Dr. Mintu has included the library link in your eCollege tab for easy access. If you encounter library-related issues (especially for students residing abroad or will be accessing the library database from abroad), please contact:

Sarah H. Northam
Research & Instruction
TAMU-Commerce Libraries
Sarah.Northam@tamuc.edu
(903) 886-5714

Course Schedule

The following schedule has been provided for your convenience. Please follow carefully.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics/Chapters/Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week #1*</td>
<td>Aug. 31 - Sept. 5</td>
<td><strong>LECTURE TOPIC: Introduction - Relationship Marketing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Overview and definition of CRM</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Impact of CRM on marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Discussion:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Topic (1) Introduce yourself, and</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Topic (2) Questions on course requirements</td>
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</table>
| Week #2* | Sept. 6 - Sept. 10 | LECTURE TOPIC: Foundation of CRM  
- Key components of CRM  
- Technology & organizational issues  
| Week #3** | Sept. 13 - Sept. 16 | Case Study #1: The Experienced Relationship (Marketing Management, Summer, 2010, p. 10-eoa [end-of-article])  
Submission due: Sept. 16th by NOON CT  
Discussion: Case #1 |
| Week #4 | Sept. 20 - Sept. 23 | LECTURE TOPIC: CRM contexts  
- B2B (business-to-business)  
- B2C (business-to-customer)  
- Consumer lifetime value (LTV)  
Discussion: Getting Engaged (Marketing Management, Fall, 2012, p. 4-eoa) |
Submission due: Sept. 30th by NOON CT  
Discussion: Case #2 |
| Week #6 | Oct. 4 - Oct. 7 | LECTURE TOPIC: Creating value  
- Customer-centric culture  
- Customer acquisition  
- Customer retention  
Discussion: Customer Service is the 'Sine Qua Non' of Relationship Marketing (Marketing Management, November, 2013, p. 22-eoa) |
Submission due: Oct. 14th by NOON CT  
Discussion: Case #3 |
<p>| Mid-Term | Oct. 18 - Oct. 21 | Mid-Term |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #8</th>
<th>Oct. 25 - Oct. 28</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exam</strong></td>
<td><strong>Due Date: October 21th by NOON p.m. CT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LECTURE TOPIC: Customer loyalty</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Brand equity</td>
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<td>• Satisfaction</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Supply chain management</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Discussion:</strong> Your Employees Are Your Brand (Marketing News, Oct. 30, 2010, p. 22-eoa)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week #9</th>
<th>Nov. 1 - Nov. 4</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Case Study #4: The Experience of Loyalty (Marketing Management, Winter, 2012, p. 17-eoa)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Submission due: Nov. 4th by NOON CT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Discussion:</strong> Case #4</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week #10</th>
<th>Nov. 8 - Nov. 11</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LECTURE TOPIC: Database marketing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Data mining</td>
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<td>• Privacy and legal issues</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Case Study #5: The Data Knows (Bloomberg Businessweek, Sept. 12-16, 2011, p. 70-eoa)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Submission due: Nov. 11th by NOON CT</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Discussion:</strong> Case #5</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week #11</th>
<th>Nov. 15 - Nov. 18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discussion: Database Marketing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Personalized Pricing (Bloomberg Businessweek, Nov. 18, 2013, p. 88-eoa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Minutes with Scott Howe (Marketing News, November, 2013, p. 50-eoa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>What's a Friend Worth? (Bloomberg Businessweek, June 1, 2009, p. 32-eoa)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week #12</th>
<th>Nov. 29 - Dec. 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LECTURE TOPIC: Evaluation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Establishing CRM measures</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Evaluating success</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #12</th>
<th>Nov. 29 - Dec. 2</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving - No discussions</strong></td>
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</table>
Discussion: Future of CRM


Go to Forbes.com to 'search' for the following articles:

The CRM of the Future Will Recommend New Customers Automatically by Darian Shirazi (9/3/2013)

How Cloud Integration is Defining the Future of CRM by Louis Columbus (5/21/2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Exam</th>
<th>Dec. 6 - Dec. 9</th>
<th>Final exam</th>
<th>Due Date: December 9th by NOON CT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Footnote:

* Irregular schedule because it is the first week of class and Labor Day holiday. Please note that I'll be out-of-the country and in-transit back to the US Aug. 31st-Sept. 2nd. Therefore, I will have limited Internet access.

** First week of the 4-day Sunday (12:01 a.m.) to Wednesday (11:59 p.m.) discussion cycle.

Reading Materials

The following articles are available in TAMU-C library's database.

Overview of CRM:


Foundation of CRM:


Schieffer & Leninger (2008), "Customers at the Core," Marketing Management, Jan./Feb., p. 31-eoa.


**CRM Contexts:**

Wyner (2012), "Getting Engaged," Marketing Management, Fall, p. 4-eoa.


**Creating Value & Loyalty:**


Database Marketing:


Evaluation:


Schedule Details - When to Access

Please note that access to eCollege for Fall, 2015 will start August 31st. This is a default setting beyond the control of Dr. Mintu.

LECTURE NOTES:

Since there is no textbook for this course, students are expected to conduct their own research. To guide you in your research, ALL lecture notes for MKT 574 (Fall, 2015) will be open for access and review during the first day of class – August 31st. This will give you ample time to look at the case and discussion questions, conduct the necessary research, and raise questions for clarification purposes. Please do not email Dr. Mintu days before the midterm that you cannot find an article!

DISCUSSION:
Discussions will be open for review and posting for four days as indicated in your syllabus, except for Weeks #1 and #2 (see your course schedule). **The weekly cycle runs from 12:01 a.m. Sunday to 11:59 p.m. Wednesday CT.** After the deadline, discussion postings will be available on a "READ ONLY" basis.

It is the responsibility of each student to keep track of the course schedule. Any student who will not be able to log into the class web site for more than seven days (i.e., because of an extended business trip or other extenuating situation) should contact Dr. Mintu **in advance** to avoid an inadvertent drop from the course.

**Lectures**

Lecture notes can be found under the "Lecture" tab for each week. You will note that each LECTURE TOPIC will be discussed for a 2-week time period with a corresponding case study.

Each "Lecture" tab will contain the following:

1. Relevant notes and references for the designated week's topic. You can cross check notes and references with the Reading Materials noted above.

2. Case study analysis and weekly discussion questions for the given week. For example, Week #2's lecture tab will include the discussion questions for Week #2. Under Week #3's lecture tab, you will find Case Study #1's analysis and discussion questions.

**Case Study**

Just like in traditional face-to-face classes, MKT 574 students are expected to be able to effectively communicate their ideas and opinions in class using case studies. Students will analyze 5 current CRM trends and/or cutting edge topical areas.

For each assigned case, questions will be provided for students to analyze and submit. **Case analysis questions will be different from the discussion questions.** These case questions can be found under the 'Lecture' tab for the designated Week. For example, Case Analysis Questions for Case Study #1 can found in Week #3’s lecture tab.

Each student will be required to submit a 1-page (page restriction will be strictly observed) single-spaced type-written case analysis (TEXT only, not including references or title page). Text written after the 1st page will not be read nor graded. References should be included in a separate page, if utilized. To guide you in your case analysis, be sure to read the appropriate lecture notes and/or readings (see Reading Materials). The discussion questions (for posting purposes) will also help you frame your analysis. Each case study is worth 10 points.

Cases will be evaluated base on the following:

1. Use of research facts to validate your recommendations/suggestions - 5 points
2. Integration of previous and/or current lectures' concepts into the analysis. - 5 points

To submit your analysis, be sure to upload your work in the designated “Drop Box.” Check the schedule for deadlines - all cases are due by noon CT of the due date. Each case is worth
10 points. **Cases are due by NOON Central Time on the 4th day (Wednesday). No late submissions!** Dr. Mintu will typically have your cases graded and comments available within 24-48 hours after the deadline.

Grading Rubric: 10 points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Needs improvement</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of existing case facts</td>
<td>Student did not effectively use case information in the analysis.</td>
<td>Student identified &amp; utilized some case information in the analysis.</td>
<td>Student identified &amp; effectively utilized relevant case information in the analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration of relevant concepts</td>
<td>Student did not demonstrate the ability to integrate current/previous concepts in the analysis.</td>
<td>Student identified &amp; related some concepts currently/previous concepts discussed in the class.</td>
<td>Student identified &amp; effectively integrated concepts currently/previousy discussed in class.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT CASE SUBMISSION RULES:**

1) Be sure to type and save your case submissions in Word document form (using Office 2010 or earlier) – page limit of 1 page is to be strictly followed. You will be penalized (at least 5 points worth of deduction) if the page limit is not followed.

2) To submit your case, go to “Dropbox” and upload the case by using the appropriate case title. Proper case submission process is critical to ensure timely grading. Failure to assign proper “Dropbox” association will result in significant delays OR your case submission may NOT be graded!

3) Format - The Question and Answer (Q & A) format is preferred by Dr. Mintu. This will ensure that she does not overlook any of your responses. If using references, make sure it is properly cited APA style.

4) All case submissions have to be in Word 2010 format or earlier. Any work submitted that cannot be opened/read by Dr. Mintu will NOT be graded and awarded a zero.

**Participation - Discussion Postings**
The discussion forum will comprise your participation grade. It is intended to help students interact with each other and learn from each other’s opinions/insights including Dr. Mintu's. The objective of the forum is to create critical and sophisticated discussion on relevant and interesting topics. Discussion questions will be provided by Dr. Mintu and can be found at the
end of the lecture notes.

A total of 50 pts. is available as your discussion grade to be determined by Dr. Mintu at the end of the semester. You are welcomed to periodically check with Dr. Mintu the status of participation grade (especially around the mid-term). An e-mail will be sent to the class regarding your participation grade prior to taking the midterm. Please note that your discussion grade is "weighted" like your exams. There is NO MAKE-UP for missed discussion postings. Participation grade will be posted on or before you take your final exam.

Each week, Dr. Mintu will outline 3-5 questions found at the end of your Lecture notes. You are expected to answer at least 3 of these discussion questions and post your answers during the discussion as one thread (do not post answers to each question separately). You are also expected to interact at least twice with your colleagues and/or Dr. Mintu throughout the discussion cycle. Dr. Mintu will interact/add other queries throughout the duration of the weekly discussion as well.

The discussion board will be open on Sundays by 12:01 a.m. and terminate by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday (or around midnight) – all on Central Time except for Weeks #1 & 2. Once the discussion threads are closed - your only access to the discussion will be on a "Read Only" basis.

**REQUIREMENT:** The MINIMUM weekly requirement is as follows:

Posting #1 - Answer at least 3 topic questions found at the end of your lecture notes (post as one thread);
Posting #2 - Interact during the 4-day discussion cycle either by responding to your colleagues' and/or Dr. Mintu's postings;
Posting #3 - Interact during the 4-day discussion cycle either by responding to your colleagues' and/or Dr. Mintu's postings.

Grading rubric: 50 points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disengaged</th>
<th>Acceptable</th>
<th>Commendable</th>
<th>Completely engaged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student doesn't fulfill the minimum requirement</td>
<td>Student fulfills the minimum requirement</td>
<td>Student answers more than 3 discussion questions &amp; interacts more than twice per discussion cycle</td>
<td>Student provides substantive contributions &amp; actively engaged throughout each 4 day discussion cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 35 points</td>
<td>35 points</td>
<td>36-44 points</td>
<td>45-50 points</td>
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</table>

The quality of your postings, the number of answered questions, and sub-thread responses posted per week throughout the semester will determine how close to 50 points a student can obtain. Note that for Week #1, the minimum will not apply.
It is critical that students read ALL the postings for each topic. This will ensure that you not only respond to Dr. Mintu’s weekly topic questions as well as her additional comments during the discussion, but to your colleagues’ comments as well. Also, it will help in ensuring against anyone plagiarizing your work.

**IMPORTANT POSTING RULES:**

1) Postings may be a few sentences or a couple of paragraphs in length. The key to a quality post is that it provides clear analysis and insight into the topic or questions. Dr. Mintu carefully reads each of your postings and may respond directly to you regarding your comments.

2) Note that long-winded postings are not necessary. Shoot for quality rather than quantity.

3) In the past, Dr. Mintu has encountered plagiarism among students (copying each others’ postings). Please note that TAMU-C has explicit rules regarding plagiarism and will be subject to penalties. Students are advised to carefully read everyone’s postings to ensure that no one has plagiarized your answer.

4) Students with very FEW or NO SUBSTANTIVE postings will not receive full credit.

5) Proof read your postings - eliminate any offensive references, poor sentence syntax, misspelled words, etc. Keep errors to a minimum.

6) No make up is provided for missed discussion postings. Students who fail to comply with the minimum requirement will receive an email from Dr. Mintu.

7) Be sure to cite references when utilized.

8) Discussions are on a 4-day cycle - Sunday 12:01 a.m. to Wednesday 11:59 p.m. When discussions are closed - students are allowed to "READ ONLY."

9) Have a sense of humor.

10) Dr. Mintu will be very much engaged in all weekly discussions. She expects the same from her students. At the end of each cycle, you will receive a feedback e-mail summarizing the week's discussion.

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**Exams**

There will be two exams in this class: Mid-term and Final. Please note that the Final exam is NOT a comprehensive exam! Each exam is worth 50 points. **The time limit for each exam is TWO HOURS. Exams are due by NOON Central Time on the 4th day (Wednesday).**

The exams will cover all lecture notes, discussion threads and cases. Since your lecture notes are based on the Reading Materials provided, I strongly advise that you read these articles carefully. Discussion threads will not be included. Sample questions and exam guidelines will be provided the week before the exam.
The exam will be comprised of two parts:

10 items - True/False (but you need to justify your "false" answers) (20 points)
4 essay questions (30 points)

**Grading Scheme**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade Components:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two exams 100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 cases 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion/participation 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL 200 points</td>
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The assignment of letter grades will be as follows unless a 'curve' is deemed necessary: 90% is the cut-off for an A, 80% for a B; 70% for a C, etc. As mentioned, no extra credit is available (see Note under Course Objectives/Description).

**Class Communication**

E-mails will be sent out weekly regarding feedback, reminders and other important information. Be sure to check your e-mail account regularly. Also, always check the "Course Announcements" posted by Dr. Mintu. These announcements will be dated, so you will be aware of changes.

All questions and/or comments regarding the class should be directed to Dr. Mintu as soon as possible via e-mail (preferred) or at her virtual office. In case of an emergency, call her on the number indicated in your syllabus. Dr. Mintu REGULARLY checks her e-mail – so you can expect a prompt response. **Dr. Mintu will attempt to respond to your e-mails within 24 hours, EXCEPT during the weekends.**

**What to Expect From Dr. Mintu**

I am sure most of you have asked/checked around about Dr. Mintu. Some of you will enjoy the class (specially if you like a more practical approach) and some of you won't. Regardless, be cognizant of the fact that I am stickler for schedules and deadlines. Like most of you, I have a life outside TAMU-C and the only way I can balance everything is to follow a regimented schedule.

1) All questions and/or comments regarding the class should be directed to Dr. Mintu as soon as possible via e-mail (preferred) or at her virtual office. In case of emergency, call her on the number indicated. Dr. Mintu REGULARLY checks her e-mail – so you can expect a prompt response. Therefore, each student should always check his/her e-mail account regularly. **Dr. Mintu will attempt to respond to your e-mails within 24 hours, EXCEPT during the weekends.**

2) Occasionally, current events may occur that have great relevance to marketing. E-mails may be sent to the class with additional questions for discussion.

3) Dr. Mintu grades ALL your submissions herself. Typically, your submissions will receive
her feedback (i.e., grades/comments) within 24-48 hours after the deadline.

4) Dr. Mintu will also send (constant) reminders regarding the upcoming class schedule – particularly deadlines. Always check your MyLeo account.

5) Always check the “Course Announcement” section (main student screen) for other announcements. Dr. Mintu updates this page on a regular basis.

6) Dr. Mintu is very engaged in all her courses. She expects the same from her students.

7) Have a sense of humor - try to enjoy and absorb the practical applications of marketing & CRM.

Netiquette - Student Guidelines

Netiquette is the new way of defining professionalism through network communication. Here are some Student Guidelines for the class:

- Do not dominate any discussion.
- Do not use offensive language.
- Keep writing style formal. Avoid slang.
- Never make fun of someone’s ability to read or write.
- Use simple English.
- Use correct spelling and grammar.
- Share tips with other students.
- Keep an “open-mind” and be willing to express your minority opinion.
- Be aware of the University’s Academic Honesty Policy.
- Think before you push the “Send” button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**
**Gee Library- Room 132**
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**
**Fax (903) 468-8148**
**StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu**