Course Objective

This course is an introduction to the concepts and problems underlying the design and operation of contemporary production systems. Emphasis is placed on the design and operation of manufacturing facilities, but many of the presented results apply also to the design, planning and control of operations taking place in the service sector.

More specifically, the course seeks to offer a balanced development of the following issues:

- A systematic exposition of the design, planning and control problems that arise in the context of the aforementioned facilities.
- A systematic introduction to inventory control theory and its application in the contemporary production and distribution networks.
- A formal analysis of the dynamics of production processes, based on queueing theoretic concepts and models.
- The integration of the results developed in Step 3 to the prevailing production planning and control framework(s).

Tentative Course Outline

1. Introduction: Course Objectives, Context, and Outline
   - Contemporary organizations and the role of Operations Management (OM)
   - The basic organizational structure and the scope of the OM issues addressed in this course
   - Corporate strategy and its connection to operations
   - The basic course structure

2. Inventory Control Theory
   - The basic EOQ model and some of its variants
   - Replenishment coordinating approaches
   - Dynamic Lot Sizing
   - Statistical Inventory Control Models
     - The News Vendor Model
     - The Base Stock Model
     - The (Q,r) Model
   - An introduction to multi-echelon models (time permitting)

3. Factory Physics: A queueing-theoretic analysis of serial production systems
   - Flow lines as the preferred layout for discrete-part, repetitive manufacturing
   - Flow line classification: Push vs. Pull, Synchronous vs. Asynchronous production lines, KANBAN and CONWIP-based production systems
   - Characterizing a flow line as a queueing system
   - Understanding the fundamental relationships between the line attributes and its performance indices
Analyzing the impact of the various operational detractors and the resulting operational variability

4. Integrating the Factory Physics insights to the OM practice
   - Process Design, Capacity Planning and Line Balancing
   - Hierarchical Production Planning
     - The classical Hierarchical Planning framework
     - Forecasting
     - Aggregate Planning
     - Master Production Scheduling (MPS) and Material Requirement Planning (MRP), and their limitations
     - Shop floor scheduling
   - Just-in-Time (JIT) and Lean Manufacturing
     - The JIT philosophy
     - JIT practices and the KANBAN production authorization system
     - Shop-floor control based on the CONWIP production authorization model
     - Production Planning and Scheduling for CONWIP-controlled production systems
     - The JIT limitations

Course Prerequisites: ISYE 6650 (Probabilistic Models) and ISYE 6669 (Deterministic Optimization)

Course Policies

Homework: Homework will be assigned upon the completion of each course unit, and it will consist of conceptual, theoretical and computationally oriented problems. Collaboration towards its solution is allowed, but each student must turn in his/her own work; photocopies will not be accepted. Homework must be turned in on the specified due date.

Project: Two projects that will be based on the well-known game of Littlefield technologies will be carried out at certain stages of the course. These projects aim to provide a more integrating perspective for the material covered in class, and to expose the student to some of the intricacies of the "real-world".

Exams: There will be two midterms and a final exam. Midterm I will take place upon the completion of the first major part of the course, and Midterm II upon the completion of the second; the detailed exam dates will be specified during the course development.

Exams will be closed-book, with 2 pages of notes allowed for each midterm and 6 pages for the final. The final exam will be comprehensive, while the covered material for the midterms will be specified during the course development. Naturally, it is expected that the Academic Honor Code will be respected.

Grading:
   - Homework: 10% (Provided that we shall have a grader – otherwise, homework will be posted for practice, together with its solutions, and the corresponding part of the grade will be split over the two midterms)
   - Projects based on Littlefield Technologies Simulation Platform: 5%
   - Two Midterms: 25% each
   - Final: 35%
Course Reading Material

- Course slides and any other material posted at my homepage and/or the library electronic reserves.

Notice that the textbook will have a complementary role to the material presented in class.

**Other useful references:**

1. Any other introductory book on Operations Management; e.g.,
   - Jay Heizer and Barry Render, *Operations Management, 6th ed.*, Prentice Hall
8. E. Silver, D. Pyke and R. Peterson, *Inventory Management and Production Planning and Scheduling*, Wiley: Maybe the most standard textbook on Inventory Control theory.
10. Journals and Magazines:
    - IIE Solutions
    - Interfaces
    - International Journal of Production Research
    - Journal of Production and Operations Management
    - Journal of Manufacturing Systems
    - International Journal of Flexible Manufacturing Systems
    - IIE Transactions
    - Operations Research
    - Management Science