

## **COURSE SYLLABUS – Fall 2020**

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Lecture Day: Online  
Lecture Time: Course Links will be posted onto CII Portal and CANVAS every Friday

### **INSTRUCTOR**

Instructor: Dr. Mohamed ElZomor  
Office: EC 2955  
Email: melzomor@fiu.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment (email to schedule appointments)

T/A: Piyush Pradhananga  
Email: pprad013@fiu.edu

### **PROFESSOR'S BACKGROUND**

Dr. ElZomor is an Assistant Professor at Florida International University. His work focuses on integrating energy efficiency measures into building design, construction, and operational processes. Specifically, he is interested in novel design activities that financially and technically define projects' scope and any associated risks.

Dr. ElZomor, was an Assistant professor at State University of New York (SUNY); where he introduced innovative models of education and paved for student's successes. During his time at SUNY, he led student teams in various international competitions and steered them to winning awards. Dr. ElZomor not only focuses on developing his students' technical skills, but also their professional skills. He strongly believes that these are the tools that help students strive in their careers.

Before embarking on his academic career, he spent approximately a decade gaining valuable local and international construction management experience while working in the construction industry for different capacities, both in the office and the field. Mohamed held different positions as a project manager, planner, estimator, and control's engineer with contract, procurement and costing responsibilities in varied types of projects and with consultants, contractors and owners. ElZomor worked as a Project Manager for several years and delivered several complex projects one of which was an iconic multi-million office park.

Dr. Mohamed has taught a variety of topics, ranging from construction management, sustainability, architecture, design and energy conservation, construction material, methods and equipment and urban infrastructure anatomy. He holds a Bachelors of Science in Construction Engineering, Masters of Engineering in Construction, Masters of Science in Design and Energy Conservation and a Ph.D. in Construction Management from Arizona State University. He is a licensed engineer, member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), and is Arizona's United States Green Building Council Ambassador.

### **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

Intensive study for small group of students in a particular topic, or a limited number of topics not otherwise offered in the curriculum.

Current issues in the construction industry, including best practices developed by the Construction Industry Institute (CII) and critical issues facing the construction industry. Guest lecturers will be represented by visiting industry leaders and subject matter experts.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

More buildings will have to be built during your career than have been built in the whole history of humanity. How will we achieve this goal? By advancing the knowledge of construction engineering and management! Domain experts from various large international companies will present in this course the most advanced thinking in construction management and the best ways to implement that thinking in the daily operations of your company. A national level graduate class shared with a dozen other universities, this is a unique opportunity to learn from and interact with practitioners who are charting the future of construction.

This course will discuss the issues in construction, and introduce the best practices defined and developed by Construction Industry Institute (CII) over the last 30 years. To address these subjects, the course covers a substantial amount of material. Preparatory readings will be available via CANVAS if needed. Students are expected to have read this material ahead of the class. Post-class readings and online quizzes will be arranged via CII's website.

**By taking this class you will be able to:**

1. Understand the critical issues in the construction industry;
2. Gain the knowledge of Construction Industry Best Practices;
3. Apply the CII Best Practices to improve project performance.

## INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This is a three lecture hours per week online class that requires active student participation. Students are encouraged and expected to read required materials ahead of class and engage in online discussions, ask questions, and share relevant experiences with others. The discussion board on CANVAS will be the medium to communicate with each other. Throughout this course students may be required to develop and prepare presentations, guide class discussions and assigned online activities to practice the covered materials. The instructor will use multiple means of communication and evaluations throughout the semester. As an example for communication means are CANVAS, emails and online social media platforms (*Twitter*); some examples of course evaluations are peer reviews, student's self-grading, Group members' grading their team and external guests grading. Students will be notified by the mean of grading for each deliverable.

**COMPUTER USAGE:** Students are expected to be proficient on a personal computer and to be able to use word processing and spreadsheet programs. The CII website will be used to coordinate class assignments and to disseminate course information.

## TEXTBOOKS AND REFERENCE MATERIAL:

**WEB PAGE:** The Construction Industry Institute (CII) online portal will be used to distribute the course related materials:

1. Online education courses web page: <https://ciibpc.learnupon.com>
2. Pre-reading materials web page: [https://ciibpc.learnupon.com/learner\\_resource\\_list](https://ciibpc.learnupon.com/learner_resource_list)
3. Recordings: <https://utengr.mediasite.com/Mediasite/Catalog/catalogs/-cii-best-practices-fall-2020>

There are no textbooks required for this course. Any required reading materials will be available on CANVAS and Material provided electronically through CII's web site.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class attendance, as watching lectures every week is mandatory. Absence or delays in watching the lectures may result in the loss of attendance points. Learning of concepts that occur during this course happens through watching the lectures. Punctuality, online participation, and preparation are explicit reflections of your interest in the course. It is important that you are familiar with the course materials as the course evolves. Your ability to answer questions and discuss the material will be a part of the overall participation evaluation. Therefore, you should review class materials ahead of time. Regular

attendance is expected. Each student is responsible for all materials and administrative instructions given during the lecture period.

## POLICIES, EXAMINATION AND GRADING POLICY

The following criteria, weights, and grading scale will be used to calculate the Final Grade (the Instructor may modify/adjust as necessary). The final grade for the course will be based on the student's understanding of the course material as evidenced by his/her performance on Participation/attendance, Quizzes, and online Discussion Term Paper and assignments in consonance with the following:

Deliverables	Qty.	Weight	Grade	Scale
• Attendance	14	5%	A	93 – 100%
• Participation, Discussions by posting on Twitter &/or CANVAS	12	25%	A-	90 – 92.9%
• Online Quizzes (CII online Quiz and CANVAS Quiz)	12	50%	B+	87 – 89.9%
• Final Project   Term Paper	1	20%	B	83 – 86.9%
			B-	80 – 82.9%
			C+	77 – 79.9%
			C	70 – 76.9%
			D	60 – 69.9%
			F	

- Attendance, Participation and HM will be required during the semester. Every student will be to use CANVAS Discussion Board and if required social media (twitter) as a medium for communication where students' participation and HM will be monitored. Every week students will initiate or answer questions about the topic and this will be discussed through either social media and/or CANVAS. This will count towards your attendance and participation grades.
- Online (asynchronous education) students will work individually. Course participation is measured through the keeping of deadlines for each submission throughout the coursework.
- There will be NO Midterms or Final exam.
- The CII Best Practices course will include 12 Modules. The assessment of each module will differ.
- Students will be given access to CII portal/online education modules to access previous lectures and videos as well as to prepare for the topic of the following week. Access to CII online portal/course lectures will be given to students until December 13, 2019.
- Create your username and password onto CII portal/website (<https://ciibpc.learnupon.com>). Please remember that you MUST create your user name using **FIU's email**. Find detailed information below
- **Online Quiz Assessments:**  
For the module sessions that have an assessment on CII portal, the module has a final exam with a passing score of 70. For the sessions without online courses (assessment on CANVAS), there will be a quiz on CANVAS. To know which sessions has an assessment on CII portal or CANVAS please refer to the table of course schedule below. Details to the assessment modes:
  - 1. Assessment on CII portal Quizzes:** There are pre and post-tests for almost half CII online modules, which will be assessed onto through CII portal quiz. A test score will be provided after completing each online course (Pass $\geq$ 70, or Fail $<$ 70). Students must complete the online courses no later than 7 days, a week, after the session is posted (usually Friday of the following week); students are required to take screen shots and submit the test scores onto CANVAS if the module is assessed on CII portal.
    - Note that each CII quiz assessment module could be taken multiple times (2 Times).
  - 2. Assessment on CANVAS Quizzes:** There are Quiz tests for the other half of CII online modules, those quizzes will have deadlines to finish them with a time limit to answer them and you will not be able to attempt multiple trials.
- **Late submissions will not be accepted.**
- Assessment dates are associated with the CII weekly presentations listed on the course schedule.
- **Term Paper:** There will be ONE term paper. The student will be required to submit a term paper on implementing the CII Best Practices discussed in this course. More information concerning the term paper will be given at a later date.

- No extra credit will be assigned in this class but extra credit might be earned if the term paper is submitted and accepted into a conference.
- The instructor reserves the right to adjust the course letter grade based on individual attendance and class participation per the “GRADING” section as warranted.
- These weights may be changed at the discretion of the instructor to reflect the emphasis placed on the material presented during the course. All examinations, homework, and other student work are the intellectual property of the student, but the instructor reserves the right to retain any and all student work for the purposes of record, exhibition, and instruction. Examination and homework assignment dates indicated in this syllabus are tentative and subject to change at the instructor’s discretion according to class progress. It is the responsibility of the student to keep abreast of the online class schedule. Tardiness and Absence is not accepted as a valid reason for missing any scheduled deliverable including Examination, Discussions, Quiz, Homework, etc.

## **CLASS ENVIRONMENT**

The instructor expects and insists that the class environment remain professional, businesslike, and conducive to learning. Behavior or actions that disrupt this environment particularly on CANVAS and any communications platform are not acceptable and will subject the student to removal from the class by the University Public Safety Department. Repeated disruption of the course environment will subject a student to expulsion from the course, solely at the instructor’s discretion.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY**

All students are expected to conform to the University Code of Conduct, and to adhere to the principles of academic integrity as defined by the University Division of Student Affairs and the Division of Academic Affairs. Violations of the University Code of Conduct will be prosecuted to the fullest extent available.

## **STUDENT CODE OF STANDARDS**

By attending this class, the student is required to comply with the Florida International University Student Code of Standards, including, but not limited to, references concerning classroom behavior, discrimination, sexual harassment and academic misconduct. A copy of the Code may be found in the University Student Handbook.

## **DISABLED STUDENTS**

Students with disabilities who may need special accommodations should register with the Disability Resource Center for Students, telephone (305) 348-3532. In addition, they are encouraged to contact the instructor so that arrangements can be made to accommodate their needs.

## **INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE STATEMENT**

As an institution, we embrace inclusive excellence and the strengths of a diverse and inclusive community. During classroom discussions, we may be challenged by ideas different from our lived experiences and cultures. Understanding individual differences and broader social differences will deepen our understanding of each other and the world around us. In this course, all people (including but not limited to, people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, students undergoing transition, religions, ages, abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, veteran status, regions and nationalities, intellectual perspectives and political persuasion) are strongly encouraged to respectfully share their unique perspectives and experiences. This statement is intended to help cultivate a respectful environment, and it should not be used in a way that limits expression or restricts academic freedom at FIU.