

# RC4: Manufacturing Management

**Leader:** Dr Chander Velu

**Organiser:** Maggie Harriss ([ifm-admin@eng.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ifm-admin@eng.cam.ac.uk))

**Timing:** Lent Term

**Structure:** 7 two-hour sessions

**Mode of Assessment:** Coursework

## AIMS

1. To introduce a range of leading edge manufacturing management topics.
2. To introduce key literature in those topics.
3. To encourage critical review and reflection about the literature
4. To provide experience of synthesising arguments based on the literature.

## APPROACH

Approximately one week before each session you will be presented with a pack of key readings and questions to be prepared for the following week. During the session you may be asked to open the discussion on any of the questions posed and will be expected to contribute to the discussion on all questions.

Your contributions should demonstrate:

- Identification of the key issues and arguments in each paper and the ability to express them succinctly.
- Understanding of the real world implication of the arguments.
- Ability to position the arguments within a recognised body of knowledge.
- Recognition of adjacent bodies of knowledge in different disciplines.
- Critical review – particularly the limitations of the arguments and the research which would be necessary to explore the limitations.

**Attendance at all sessions is expected. If it is impossible for you to join a session (with a legitimate reason, you will be expected to deliver written responses (approximately one page per question) to the session supervisor within one week of the session taking place).**

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be by means of a single piece of coursework to be submitted to Maggie Harriss by [date to be confirmed] entitled

‘A research proposal to.....’

Imagine you are applying for a small research grant in an area currently outside of your domain. The piece should be a maximum of 2000 words and set out clearly the research question to be addressed, the context and rationale based on the literature and a proposed research methodology and expected outcomes.

### Please note:

- *The piece may NOT be based on your own research area and the supervisor should be from a different research group or centre at the IfM.*
- *You MUST contact the supervisor of the subject on which you wish to write the coursework and agree the title in advance with him/her.*

Chander Velu – October 2014