Hello Future Student of MAE 434W: Project Management

For me, the best way to describe this class to you is by breaking its own name into components and defining them.

MAE, well we all know what that means, but I listed it as a reminder that this class only has MAE students in it. Many of the projects, despite being mainly mechanical based, require some electrical knowledge, so be sure to have an EE friend on standby, or at least just brace yourself for the amount research you will need to study in order to understand your project thoroughly.

434 is pretty self-explanatory, this is a 400 level class, so treat it as one. Take due dates seriously and spend as much time in this class as you would in any other 400 level class.

The W is the most important part of the title. This class is heavily writing intensive. You only have one really long paper; however you have a writing assignment due almost every week. Usually you have about three things due every Tuesday, but sometimes assignments are due on Thursdays. I recommend buying a planner and writing everything Project Management related in pencil because many due dates are subject to change.

Project is also pretty self-explanatory, but my hint for this is to take the Project decision very seriously. This is what you will be spending about seven months of your life on so don’t just choose a project because it was what your friends did or what has the most amount of people. Choose a project that really entices you.

Management is probably 2/3 of Project Management 1. I was in a group of 11 people and managing that was not easy. Putting a paper together with 11 different people’s ideas and making it actually cohesive is very difficult. I can’t stress enough how important a planner is for this class.