Welcome to Quantitative Analysis! I look forward to working with you throughout the summer. This course is designed to expand your knowledge, ability, and sophistication with respect to management science tools. These tools can be used in all business disciplines for enhancing the speed and quality of business decision-making.

As with any course the responsibility for learning lies with you. I will attempt to provide all of the materials that you will need to be successful in the course. The last page of the syllabus provides a weekly schedule for the course. Materials will be posted to Desire2Learn (D2L) at the beginning of each week so that all students are progressing through the course at a reasonable pace. There are regular graded assignments (in addition to exams) to allow you to assess/improve your mastery of the material.

The South Dakota Board of Regents system is currently delivering courses using D2L as the course management software, and BADM 720 will be delivered dominantly in D2L. You will need a laptop computer (preferably a PC – MAC’s will have issues) for class with an up-to-date browser as well as a recent version of Microsoft Excel (the 2007 version or newer is preferable). You will also need a fairly fast dial-up or broadband Internet connection in order to minimize frustration downloading materials! If you have not used D2L before, there is a tutorial available on USD’s Continuing Education website. The tutorial can be found at D2L Tutorial.

You will have access to the D2L course site on the first day of the semester at D2L Website. After that time registered students will just type in a log-on name and password. Each week there will be homework to complete and discussion forums to let you help each other or pose questions to me. The syllabus outlines the course specifics. There will be the opportunity for office hours with me on a weekly basis as posted in the syllabus or by arranged appointment. Success in this course requires that you maintain a weekly schedule of course completion, and the course is designed around that philosophy. Learning this type of material requires discipline. You must devote sufficient time to the course, and that time must be scheduled wisely. In order to be successful I would estimate that you should expect to spend 8-10 hours per week on this course: time spent in class, reviewing the posted lecture notes, working lecture/homework problems, and participating in discussion forums.

You can always get in touch with me at my USD e-mail address (dan.tracy@usd.edu). My USD telephone number is 605-658-6574, but I check e-mail much more frequently than voice mail. Additional materials/files will be announced as available on the D2L course site. I look forward to the interactions that will become a regular feature of this course. I look forward to embarking on this class adventure with you!

Here is a list of a few items that you might want to take care of as soon as possible, preferably before class begins. These items are also highlighted in the syllabus.

1. **USD E-mail Account** - You need a D2L account and password to access this course, and you need to check your D2L e-mail daily throughout the course as I will send course information
to your USD account. If you do not have such an account, or if you have forgotten your password, please contact Continuing Education 1-800-233-7937 as soon as possible so they can assist you. The USD Information Technology Services Help Desk is also available to assist you with any problems that you have in accessing D2L. You can contact the Help Desk at 605-677-5028 or at Help Desk.

2. **D2L** – This course is presented in D2L, an effective pedagogical tool utilized by many educational institutions worldwide and provided to you by USD. Students access the course web site using the URL: D2L Website. Once you log on to D2L and the BADM 720 course page, please explore it to familiarize yourself with the layout of the course site.

3. **Textbook** – There is no required textbook for this course.

4. **PC** – It is much preferred that you have a laptop PC for this course. Apple (MAC) does not support the software we will use for the course. While we can make adjustments to accommodate those owning laptops other than a PC, all of those options will cause additional expense or inconvenience. Please try to find a PC to use for this class if you do not own one.