Managers are under pressure to assemble the best talent they can find from wherever they can find it. For instance to launch a new product for the Chinese market a manager needs the engineer from Germany, the product designer from Silicon Valley, and the sales professional from China. But once these teams are in place, managers must also find ways to help the team work smoothly together. They form so called “Virtual Teams”. Challenge of these virtual teams is very often that the team members sit in different locations, in different time zones and have different cultural backgrounds. No matter where they are, today’s virtual teams are complex entities that rely on technology to make up for the lack of face-to-face meetings.

Students will understand different configurations of virtual teams. They will learn what impact culture can have on the teamwork. They will be capable to start a virtual team and manage it effectively.

Lecture, discussions, cases, teamwork, presentations, virtual team building games

International Management, Cross-Cultural Management, Leadership