

Trouble in Toyland

Since opening its doors in 1948, Toys ‘R’ Us has become synonymous with family fun and happy childhoods. Once a leader in youth-oriented retail, Toys ‘R’ Us has, as of September 18, 2017, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy (“Toys”, 2017). How could the toy giant fall from the top of its industry to where it is now? Toys ‘R’ Us’ problems boil down to two things: increased competition and heavy debt.

The 90s saw a boom in “big box retailers” that offered busy parents a one-stop-shopping alternative to making a separate trip to the toy store. Then, the internet dealt the blow of offering in-home shopping convenience. Though Toys ‘R’ Us has established an online presence, it has struggled to compete with retailers like Amazon.com (“Toys”, 2017). To make matters worse, the company holds about \$5 billion in long-term debt leftover from a 2005 buyout that will fully mature in 2018 (Chan, 2017).

Hope for the holidays is not lost, however. Toys ‘R’ Us’ CEO, Dave Brandon, has released a statement to reassure holiday shoppers. All of the 1,600 stores worldwide will continue to operate as usual. Holiday hiring will continue, while warranties, gift registries, loyalty programs, return policies, and gift cards will continue to be honored (Chan, 2017).

Sources: Chan, M. (2017). Toys ‘R’ Us Just Filed for Bankruptcy. Here’s What Happens to Your Gift Cards. *Money.Com*, Retrieved from Business Source Ultimate Database.

Toys “R” Us Files for Bankruptcy. (2017, Sep 20). *The Economist (Online)*, Retrieved from ABI/INFORM Complete Database.

Finally Time for Finals

Finals begin on December 8th but it’s never too early to start studying. If you need a little *extra* study time leading up to finals, though, we have you covered.

Our extended hours for this semester are:

December 1st & 8th Open – 12am

December 2nd & 9th 9am – 12am

December 3rd & 10th Open at 9am

Remember to get your scantrons early—you’ve made it this far and you don’t want to show up to your final exam empty-handed! You can buy scantrons from the West Side Exchange.

Study Smarter, Not Harder

Feeling overwhelmed with everything you need to review for exam time? Here are some study tips that might help:

- Organize a list of chapters, subjects, notes, supplements etc. as a guide.
- Schedule a set block of time to study, preferably with a specific study-only location so you can focus better.
- Draw diagrams, write summaries, & make study sheets—think about the material as you create them.
- Take breaks, remember to relax, and get a good night’s rest before your exam!

For more on test prep, study tips, notetaking & more, visit the Academic Success Center at

<http://successcenter.tamu.edu>.

GIG ‘EM, AGGIES!



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