Project-Based Information Systems (PBIS) Syllabus, INFO.4800

Ver. 15.0

6 Credit Hours

Course Overview

The topics covered in the class include the following:

- Information Systems Overview
- Business Processes and Functions
- Competitive Advantage with IS
- Ethical and Social Issues
- IT Infrastructure
- Business Intelligence
- Telecom and Networks
- Security
- Enterprise Applications
- E-commerce
- Decision and Knowledge Management
- Project Management

For a complete course schedule and calendar, including all assignments and due dates, please refer to the Schedule.

Email

My campus email is "Jon Forsyth" <jon_forsyth@uml.edu>. However, for most class communication, you should use the Blackboard class website email system.

Textbook and Other Resources

Essentials of MIS, 12th edition, Laudon/Laudon, Pearson Publishing

Note that the "MyMISLab" that accompanies the textbook is also required for the course, and instant access to both the e-textbook and the Lab can be purchased via a link directly in Blackboard (under Assignments). This is the recommended way to use the text.

However, if you would like to use a hard-copy version of the book, you will still need to purchase access to MyMISLab for the class.
The textbook reading schedule is found on the Course Schedule.

**Course Description**

This course may be used to replace the sequence INFO.4770 and INFO.4780.

The key aspects of the course are as follows:

- It focuses on management information systems, or MIS. It approaches information systems from a management perspective, and as such deals with the business implications of IS in addition to the technological aspects.
- It is a six-credit-hour course, so the amount of time you should expect to devote to it is twice as much as for a three-hour course. In theory, that means 10 to 15 hours per week. Most weeks should be less than that, but some could be more.
- The term project is essentially a course in itself (3 of the 6 credit hours), so it is expected to be a major accomplishment. The final output of the term project will be a written report and an executive-style presentation. Interim reports, presentations, etc. will also be required. The subject of the term project will be of your choosing, with instructor approval. Guidelines for choosing the subject are specified in the "Term Project" section.

**Course Objectives**

- Learn about the major areas of management information systems
- Understand information systems from a business management perspective
- See how information systems can be used to support business strategy and decision support
- Experience preparing a strategic presentation about information systems that presents arguments from a business management perspective
- Get involved in the world of IT, if you're not already -- read the IT press, learn how to learn about this ever-changing field, since specifics are quickly outdated
- Learn or reinforce good practices for business in general, including the importance of good grammar (parallel bullet lists), spelling and punctuation, honesty (avoiding plagiarism), and other things that contribute to the impressions you make to employers, customers and clients
- Provide practical skills that will help you in advancing your career and personal goals as they relate to IT

**Course Requirements**

- Reliable Internet access
• Access to and use of the UML Blackboard and Pearson MyMISLab websites on a regular basis
• Access to a word processor (MS Word or equivalent) and Microsoft PowerPoint or something equivalent (OpenOffice, LibreOffice, etc.)
• Regular, weekly class preparation and participation, including class discussion assignments
• Completion and timely submission of all assigned exercises, exams and project assignments

Points and Grading

Since this course is the equivalent of two courses, a total of 200 points are possible. The points come from the following assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points for Each</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Discussion Board posts (DB)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Project assignments:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP 1: Subject</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP 2: Outline</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP 3: Draft</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP 4: Review</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP 5: Final Delivery</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>MyMISLab assignments (based on textbook chapters):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Dynamic Study Modules (DSM)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Simulations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Video exercises</td>
<td>5</td>
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I suggest you check the Schedule regularly to see when each assignment is available and due.

Grades for the course will be based on the following standard scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 to 100</td>
<td>186 to 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 to 93</td>
<td>180 to 186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 to 90</td>
<td>174 to 180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 to 87</td>
<td>166 to 174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 to 83</td>
<td>160 to 166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 to 80</td>
<td>154 to 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 to 77</td>
<td>146 to 154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 to 73</td>
<td>140 to 146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 to 70</td>
<td>134 to 140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 to 67</td>
<td>126 to 134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 63</td>
<td>&lt; 126</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion Board

There is a new discussion board assignment approximately every two weeks. Your discussion board entries should include an original post as described on the board, and two substantive comments on the posts of other students. Posting at least these three posts completes the assignment.

These entries must be made before the due date for that discussion board. Please see the Class Schedule for details.

Term Project

The Term Project is a major focus of the class. Details about the Term Project can be found in the Assignments section. Please read the "Term Project Overview and Instructions" to familiarize yourself with the assignment, and let me know if you have any questions.

Each of the Term Project assignments are submitted as documents in the Assignment section on Blackboard. You will need Word and PowerPoint (or a compatible equivalent) for these assignments. Do not send the assignments via email.

Each term project assignment builds on the previous one. That is, in the first assignment (TP 1), you research a few topics and choose a preferred topic. In the second one (TP 2), you do more in-depth research on your preferred topic. Your work continues until the final assignment, TP 5, which includes a management presentation document and an executive summary document. TP 5 is the culmination of all of the Term Project assignments.

MyMISLab Assignments

The first link under Assignments on Blackboard connects you to the Pearson MyMISLab, which is a separate website where you will complete the appropriate assignments: Dynamic Study Modules, Simulations, and Videos. These assignments relate to specific chapters in the textbook.

Dynamic Study Modules (DSM): For the DSM questions, you can click a single time on two different answers if you aren't sure which is correct, or you can double-click on a single answer if you are sure. This should become clearer the first time you go through it. This provides more individualized flexibility for learning and reviewing the material.

Simulations: The simulations take you through a series of business situations where you decide which path to take.
Video assignments: The video assignments include enactments of real-life scenarios, about which you will be asked a series of questions.

General Class Details

- **The Week:** The class "week" follows the dates on the Schedule. All assignments are due on the date indicated at 11:59 pm Eastern Time, regardless of what time zone you are in. I recommend you determine now how your time zone relates to Eastern US time so you will be clear about assignment deadlines.

- **Schedule:** The Course Schedule has all of the dates for assignments. If you want to know when something is due, you will find the answer in the Course Schedule.

- **Online Class Notes:** Class notes for the coming week will be made available on the class website by the evening of the date on the Class Schedule. The class notes include material that should be a useful supplement to the material in the textbook.

- **Discussions:** The class discussion board is accessible through the class website. Discussion questions are assigned throughout the semester, with specific due dates for each question, as shown on the Schedule.

- **Chats:** There will be chats each week. The schedule may vary, but I will let you know the schedule each week (and in advance if possible). They are not required, however, so you don't need to tell me if you can or can't attend. They are an opportunity for you to ask questions or get clarification on any topic.

- **Emails and Other Communications:** Please be courteous and professional in all of your class communications, and consider whether your comments are most appropriate for the discussion board (for the entire class) or individual email (for individual comments that would not benefit or interest the class generally).

- **Extra Credit (Proofreader Alert):** In general, there is no extra credit for the class. (Your ability to turn in some assignments late is a type of extra credit.) However, if you find a mistake in the course material on Blackboard AND you are the first one to let me know about it, you can earn an extra 0.5 points for each verified mistake. A mistake could be a typo, a dead link, or an explanation that clearly doesn't fit the current class materials. I update the materials on a regular basis, but sometimes something gets left behind or left out. Please note that 200 is the maximum you can earn in the class, regardless of any extra credit. :)

**Deadlines**
A key to success in this class is keeping up with assignments, which are due nearly every week. Some assignments may be turned in late for partial credit; others may not. The details for each type of assignment are given on the Schedule.