
Management Information Systems

Course syllabus, Spring 2006

CRN: 33719 Tuesday and Thursday 10:10am – 11:30am (Lillis 162)
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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday: 1:30pm – 3:30pm or by appointment

1. Overview

Management information systems (MIS) are an integral component of all organizations. Well-designed information systems today have the potential to improve a business's competitive advantage. In this course, we will gain an understanding of the most fundamental and vital aspects of MIS, both as an academic area of interest and as a profession. The subject of MIS deals with how corporations structure, store, retrieve, and process data and information to support business operations. Specific topics include information-systems analysis and design, database design and implementation, managing information technology infrastructure, eBusiness, and information-systems security.

The course is an exciting combination of business concepts and practical applications. We start by looking at how organizations plan and design information systems at a conceptual level. The history of information systems (including very recent history!) is replete with stories of companies spending millions of dollars on new hardware and software only to find that it didn't meet their requirements. The objective of systems analysis and design is to avoid these pitfalls by carefully planning and documenting the costs, requirements, and estimated benefits of the new system.

We then look at database design and development. Databases form the basis of almost every information system. If we can not easily enter, store, and retrieve information in a useful format, then the information system is virtually worthless. We will first look at how to design a database before proceeding to implement a database-based solution.

The next section looks at the topic of eBusiness – business conducted over networks such as the Internet. Most eBusiness applications rely on databases. We look at the different eBusiness business models before developing an eBusiness application, including web site development.

The final topic delves into the important topic of information security. Now that we have developed a database-driven eBusiness application, how do we protect the personal and business data we control from threats such as viruses, hacking, phishing, and employee fraud?

For information on weekly topics, please consult the BA614 MIS website.

2. Objectives

On completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Recognize potential opportunities of information systems for organizations;
- Demonstrate knowledge of issues and theories in information systems;
- Model business processes using appropriate methodologies;
- Select appropriate technologies and systems to support organizational objectives; and
- Apply their knowledge of information systems to implement database and eBusiness solutions.

3. Assessment and grading

| Description | Weighting | Details |
|---------------|-------------------|---|
| Mid-term exam | 40 points | Tuesday Week 5 (May 2, in class) |
| Final exam | 40 points | Tuesday Exam Week (June 13) |
| Project | 100 points | Phase 1: Monday Week 4 (April 24) at 5pm (25 points, online) Phase 2: Monday Week 7 (May 15) at 5pm (40 points, online) Phase 3: Friday Week 9 (June 2) at 5pm (30 points, online) Presentation: Tuesday and Thursday Week 10 (5 points) |
| Participation | 20 points | Online posting due every Friday at 5pm |
| TOTAL: | 200 points | |

3.1 Attendance and Participation

Participation is primarily assessed by through weekly postings to the BA614 MIS online discussion list. Each week you need to submit one posting that relates to the topics from that week's classes. You average posting length should be 150 words. The posting could be:

- A summary of a relevant article; or
- An opinion about a topic in class that you were not able to discuss or elaborate on due to time constraints; or
- A reply to another student's posting (3 posts maximum); or
- A copy of your in-class database or web site files (3 posts maximum).

Participation requires that you also contribute to class discussions and small group activities. Useful participation requires completing the required readings before class. Attendance at all classes is important and failure to attend class will negatively affect your participation grades.

Attendance each week will be pass/fail, that is, 2 points or 0 points.

3.2 Project

The project consists of three phases and assesses the practical components of the course. Phase 1 involves using process modeling techniques to analyze an information system. Phase 2 involves designing a database and appropriate queries related to the process that you modeled in the first phase. Phase 3 involves developing an eBusiness solution related to the business issue from the first two phases. Projects are completed in groups of three to take advantage of the variety of IT, writing, and analysis skills in the class. See the BA614 MIS website for project requirements.

3.3 Exams

Both exams consist of 20 multiple choice questions and a number of short answer questions. Exam questions are based on the conceptual material from the slides and class discussion.

4. Readings

All readings are available on the BA614 website. There is no textbook for this course.

5. Lecture schedule

See the BA614 MIS website.

6. Administrative policies

6.1 Review of results

Students have one week after the release of results for a particular assessment item to query their grade. This time limit does not apply to receiving further feedback on an item of assessment. Students must see me during office hours if they have any questions about their results. Students should have specific questions and not simply ask for a re-grade. Please note that any request to re-examine a result may lead to an increase *or decrease* in grade.

6.2 Late work

All assessment items must be submitted on time. Late work will be assessed a 10 percent per day penalty.

6.3 Plagiarism

Please note the University policy on plagiarism below. Further information is available from <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/>. It will be strictly enforced in this course.

All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. The computer-based nature of this course means that you have to be especially careful



in citing sources for your material, especially material taken from websites. If you are in doubt regarding the requirements, please consult with the instructor before you complete any requirement of the course.

6.4 Examination Policy

Exam times are listed in the course requirements above. These times cannot be rescheduled and therefore it is your responsibility that you are present at all exams. There will be no make-up exams and you will receive a grade of zero for any missed exam.

7. University of Oregon ADA Policy

The University of Oregon is committed to making available to all its students the opportunity for an excellent and rewarding education. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 provide federal guidelines which help the University ensure that students with documented disabilities have equal access to this opportunity.

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.