

Information Systems Concepts

IS 130

COURSE SYLLABUS

When and Where Spring 2006 – Monday and Thursday afternoons at 2:00PM – 3:15PM in LT 004

Instructor Alan G. Labouseur

Office LT015

Office Hours Mondays 12:00PM-2:00 PM / Tuesdays 1:30PM-3:30PM /
Thursdays 12:00PM-2:00 PM / and by appointment

Phone 845-575-3000 x2831 at Marist 845-440-1102 alternate

Email alan.labouseur@marist.edu alan@3NFconsulting.com alternate

Web <http://www.3nfconsulting.com>

Text *Principles of Information Systems, 7th edition*, by Ralph Stair and George Reynolds
Published by Thomson Course Technology / ISBN 0-619-21561-5

<i>Grade Criteria</i>	A	>= 93%	C+	>= 77%
	A-	>= 90%	C	>= 73%
	B+	>= 87%	C-	>= 70%
	B	>= 83%	F	< 70%
	B-	>= 80%		

<i>Scoring Opportunities</i>	Homework	30%	6 at 50 points each = 300 possible points
	Mid-term Exam	20%	1 for 200 possible points
	Final Exam	20%	1 for 200 possible points
	Projects	20%	2 at 100 points each = 200 possible points
	Class Participation	10%	100 possible points for attendance, sharing in and contributing to class discussions, and blogging

- Course Objectives and Assessment Methods*
- To understand the major role of information systems in providing solutions to business problems and opportunities for the organization through new technology (hardware, software, telecommunications, and enterprise-wide networking).
 - Assessed with in-class and blogged discussion of questions and cases, exams, homework and projects using Ms-Office and database software.
 - To provide a basic introduction to the information system's building processes; including, analysis and design, and the success/failure of information systems.
 - Assessed by exams and case discussions in class and blogged.
 - To understand how to manage information resources, new technology, and communication networks for the survival of the organization.
 - Assessed by preparation and presentation of projects and discussion of cases.
 - To examine the growth of the Internet and globalization of trade (E-Commerce).
 - Assessed by reading, exams, projects, and class (and blog) discussion.
 - To provide the opportunity to utilize specific software in the solving of information management and system development problems.
 - Assessed with in-class and blogged discussion of questions and cases, exams, homework and projects using Ms-Office and database software.
 - To examine the management challenges and opportunities created by the pervasiveness of information systems and ways to cope with the control, security, ethical and social impact of information systems on organizations and individuals.
 - Assessed by in-class and blogged discussions

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SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Date	Ch	Topic	What's Due
1/19	-	Welcome / Administrivia / IT, IS, and CS / Debate: which is best?	-
1/23	1	Introduction to Information Systems	-
1/26	1	Introduction to Information Systems	-
1/30	2	Information Systems in Organizations	Homework 1
2/2	2	Information Systems in Organizations	-
2/6	3	Hardware: I/O and Processing	Homework 2
2/9	4	Software overview and classification	-
2/13	4	Evolution of Programming Languages	-
2/16	5	Organizing data into information	Homework 3
2/20	5	Introduction to data modeling	-
2/23	5	Database Systems and job of DBA	-
2/27	5	The Internet and databases: Gaining insight from the data pile	-
3/2	-	Review for the mid-term exam	-
3/6	-	Mid-term Exam in class	-
3/9	-	Database presentations	Database presentations
3/13	-	<i>Spring Break</i>	-
3/16	-	<i>Spring Break</i>	-
3/20	6	Networks and Data Communications	-
3/23	6	Networks and Data Communications	-
3/27	7	The Internet: history and architecture	Homework 4
3/30	7	The Internet: under the covers	-
4/3	8	E-Commerce overview	Homework 5
4/6	8	E-Commerce programming and technology	-
4/10	8	E-Commerce security and trust	-
4/13	-	Website presentations	Website presentations
4/17	-	<i>Easter Break</i>	-
4/20	9	Transaction Processing / BCP / Accounting	-
4/24	10	Decision Support Systems	-
4/27	11	AI and Expert Systems	-
5/1	12	Introduction to Systems Analysis	Homework 6
5/4	-	Review for the final exam	-
5/8	-	Final Exam in class (1pm)	-

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CLASS RULES AND MY EXPECTATIONS

Information Technology and Systems is a professional discipline. In addition to learning the conceptual material, ITS students must develop professional work habits. Here's a little bit of what I expect . . .

E-Mail – Professionals in the “real world” are expected to check their e-mail daily if not more often. (See Crackberry) You must also check your e-mail at least daily, but never during class.

Course Web Site - In addition to monitoring your e-mail, you must also stay current with our class web site. Homework assignments and time-sensitive announcements will be posted there.

Work Quality - Professionals are expected to do quality work. You'll be doing homework and project work and I expect the same quality from you. Anything that you hand in or present that is not done in a professional manner will receive no credit.

Attendance – You will be expected to show up on time each day and to attend all meetings promptly if you want to stay employed in your eventual careers. In the same way attendance in this class is mandatory. Missing three classes may result in expulsion from class with a grade of F. Students with problems in this area must discuss them with me at the beginning of the semester. You are expected to attend the first class, just as employees are expected to show up for work on their first day on the job. Students are permitted to register for a class after a few days. This does not excuse you from attending the first few classes.

Commitment - In business, if you try to do everything, you end up achieving very little. If you are working outside school, please limit your work time to be consistent with your class requirements. This course requires two hours of work outside class for every hour in class. It is impossible to work at a job 40 hours a week and take 12 to 18 credit hours under standard outside-class time requirements. Don't even try.

Promptness – Professionals are expected to come to meetings on time. The class begins at 2 pm. Students who are chronically late will be barred from class if they arrive more than five minutes after the class begins. We cannot have students dribbling in throughout the first five to ten minutes of class. Students who have what they consider to be a legitimate reason for being late more than occasionally should discuss this with me at the start of the semester.

Deadlines - In business it is important to meet deadlines. Homework must be handed in on the date assigned. Projects are due when they're due. Homework must be handed in when called for at the start of class.

Ethical Behavior - ITS professionals must be trusted because they may have access to a wide variety of confidential and personal information. I don't think this will be a problem, and I assume a priori (look it up) that you are all honorable and trustworthy. But it's worth saying, just in case: Cheating will not be tolerated. At all. I mean really. On exams, cheating consists of looking, just once, at another paper. People who cheat on an exam will be failed for the course. No hats may be worn during exams. If someone is looking around too much during an exam but if I have not caught them cheating, I may ask them to stop looking around, and I may ask them or someone else to move. If two or more homework assignments are the same or nearly the same, this will be taken as evidence of cheating. See the attached Academic Honesty policy for more details on this matter and a veiled threat.

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PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- Chapter Readings** You are expected to keep up with the chapters outlined in the syllabus.
- Homework** Homework assignments are multipart essays or programs or problems that I will assign. All assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Since all homework assignments are outlined in this syllabus or on the web site, arrange to submit homework on schedule, even when a class will be missed.
- Completeness* You are expected to complete the homework assigned. If you do only the easy questions and skip the difficult ones, or if your homework is only partially complete, **you will get no credit at all**. It pays to do your homework well. Exam questions are largely taken from the assigned homework questions. Doing your homework well is pre-studying for the exam. Doing homework poorly will hurt you when the exam comes. If you study from bad homework, then most of what you study will be wrong.
- Formatting* You must use the appropriate software to prepare your answers. If diagrams are required, they must be done in available software and integrated into the text document. Give complete answers. Get good at formatting in Word. I'm OCD, so indulge me for better grades.
- On Hand-In Day* Bring two copies. Keep one to go over in class. Hand in the other before class or within a few minutes of the start of class.
- Late Submissions* Late assignment submissions will not be taken. Period. This is not to be a jerk about things. Rather, it is to enable us to go over the homework the day that it's due. I can't accept any assignments once we go over it, as that would not be fair to those who worked it out on their own and did it in advance.
- Do the homework** Learning is an iterative process, which requires time and effort. It cannot be sped up. Homework plays a significant role in this respect. Spending the time to put your best efforts into the homework assignments over the course of the semester will guarantee that you get the most out of this class. I cannot make you do that, only you can.
- Tests** Tests cover material presented up to the class in which the test is administered. No makeup tests will be given. If you anticipate missing a test deadline, make arrangements with me to hand in the exam on or **prior** to its due date.

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Projects

Projects assigned will be submitted and presented by you individually. These are an individual projects, and all work must be your own. No teams. The use of Ms-Office software, database tools, and Web authoring systems will be required for the projects and presentations. You will make a presentation to the class to demonstrate your project and speak briefly about your experience developing it. You will also write-up documentation for your project to be handed in.

<i>Grading</i>	Correctness	30%
	Completeness	30%
	Quality of documentation	20%
	Presentation of project	20%

Neatness and style count. If you submit a project that “works” but that does not adhere to reasonable style standards, is inadequately documented, or is poorly designed, you will be penalized. Good habits are important and I insist you to develop some.

Class Participation

Questions and class discussion are encouraged as we learn as much from each other as we do from the text and assignments. Besides, I get sick of hearing myself talk, so your participation is very important and appreciated. (And required.) **You must also participate in the course blog.** Failure to blog will cost you the entire class participation portion of your grade.

Attendance

The attendance policy for this class is simple: attend. “Class participation” accounts for 10% of your final grade, and this presumes your full attendance. Any planned or anticipated absences should be approved by me in advance. **I reserve the right to give a failing grade if you miss more than two or three classes without my prior approval.** This 10% of your grade must be earned.

Contacting Me

Before or after class is not the best time to tell me important things. My short-term memory is too crowded with Sci-fi trivia and geek minutiae to facilitate remembering what you’re telling me. It is much better to e-mail me. That way I cannot forget, and there’s a record.

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ACADEMIC HONESTY

As a part this class, I will uphold and enforce the general policies of this institution on academic honesty and plagiarism. All examinations, papers, projects, and homework assignments are subject to the usual standards of academic honesty as described in the Student Handbook and/or other related publications. Furthermore, I expect my students to behave in a manner appropriate to Computer Science and Information Technology professionals. Professional ethics demand that students embrace traditional “thou shall not cheat” behaviors, and also that they reject additional forms of dishonesty and abuse which are uniquely possible working with computers.

Every one of you is expected to submit your own original work for assignments. On many occasions when working on assignments (but never exams) it is useful to ask others – the instructors, your fellow students, strangers – for hints or to talk generally about aspects of the assignment. Collaboration in solving the problems is encouraged; you have a lot to learn from your fellow students, this is an important part of learning, and this is generally a positive and acceptable activity. However, in order to make grading the assignments a meaningful way to measure your effort and your understanding of the material, I must place some restrictions:

- You may work together in small groups on finding solutions, but each of you must then develop your favorite solution independently. You are responsible for understanding, presenting, and being able to explain on your own, all the work that you submit.
- You must indicate on all submitted work any assistance (human or otherwise) that you received. This means the names of your collaborators, the URLs of resources you used, etc. Any assistance that is not given proper citation will be considered a violation of this Academic Honesty policy.
- Any and **all** essay-type **answers must be completely and entirely in your own words.** You may use references (obviously) so long as they are cited. **You may not, under any circumstances, copy and paste another’s material and hand it in as your own.** Any violation of this will be considered a breach of this Academic Honesty policy and will result in academic smack-down the likes of which you have never even considered.

The honesty of a student's behavior can usually be explored with the help of the following guidelines:

- Plagiarism is suspected if an assignment calling for independent design and implementation results in two or more solutions that differ only by simple mechanical transformations.
- Cheating is suspected if an assignment calling for independent design and implementation results in a solution that can not be explained to the instructor, in terms of either general method or specific techniques. If you are suspected of cheating, you will be asked to explain the work. If you cannot you will be considered in violation of this Academic Honesty policy.

Any violation of this Academic Honesty policy will result in one or more of the following in addition to any other forms of recourse available to the instructor as specified by the Student Handbook:

- you will be ejected from the [course, college, planet] with a failing grade
- a letter will be sent to your department chair, your Dean, and the president of the college
- and more (and worse)

The bottom line is that you are expected to conduct yourself as a person of integrity—you are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. This means that **plagiarism in any form is completely unacceptable.** You are soon to be a computing professional; I encourage you to consult the ACM code of ethics. See www.acm.org/constitution/code.html.