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Required Text:

Valacich and Schneider, Information Systems Today: Managing in the Digital World, fourth edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc., 2010, 598 pages, ISBN: 978-0-13-607840-1.

Additional Required Materials:

SIUE e-ID

IT Fundamentals Tutorial: We will utilize an online tutorial published by Harvard Business School Press. The cost is USD \$19.00. Specific instructions for creating an account and accessing the tutorial will be published on Blackboard.

Downloaded Materials: Additional materials (e.g., lecture slides, supplemental articles, case studies, etc.) will be distributed in class or made available through Blackboard. You should consider this material as required reading and subject to classroom discussion and examination.

Course Description: An overview of information systems and state-of-the-art information technology with a middle-level, managerial focus.

Course Prerequisite: Admission to the MBA Program.

Course Philosophy & Approach: This course is about information systems (IS) as a business issue. Information systems are combinations of technology, business processes, and people. Effectively managed, IS can be instrumental in creating business value. The key is developing an understanding of what it takes to identify, create, implement, and use information systems, balancing the demands of technology, process, and people to support specific strategic objectives and operational performance demands.

This course is structured as a combination lecture and seminar. It will combine theoretical information with a variety of group and individual activities to expose students to a wide range of managerial challenges for using IS effectively. Students will be assigned to groups the first day of class. These groups will work together on major elements of the course. One of these elements includes the "IS @ Work" Project through which students will identify a real world business challenge, conduct a problem analysis, and develop a recommendation for an IS solution.



Typically, class sessions will be divided into three components. First, we will have an interactive lecture on the topic(s) of the day based on text and supplemental readings. Second, we will have student groups lead interactive discussion sessions to extend the lecture with a variety of materials from outside sources to highlight specific companies, technologies, trends or related issues dealing with the topics covered in the lecture. Third, student groups will work on group projects assigned dealing with a specific business challenge requiring an information system solution.

Course Objectives:

- Achieve an understanding of managerial issues surrounding the development and use of information systems and technology in a modern business organization.
- Understand and demonstrate the ability to apply systems theory to the development of alternative solutions for situations faced by organizations.
- Be familiar with the state-of-the-art with respect to computer hardware, software, database systems, data communications, disaster recovery, and data security.
- Understand potential uses of information systems for a competitive advantage.
- Achieve an understanding of the ethical issues surrounding the use of information systems.
- Conduct a real-world problem analysis of a current business challenge and develop a recommendation report for an information systems-based solution.

Policies:

CONDUCT AND PROFESSIONALISM: All class participants are expected to conduct themselves with *civility* and in a *professional* manner. The School of Business Code of Professionalism is the guiding framework for *what we expect of each other* (<http://www.siu.edu/business/about/code.shtml>):

Faculty, staff, and students in the School of Business at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville are expected to contribute to a culture of integrity and professionalism. Our School's culture encourages behaviors associated with educated and self-disciplined individuals. Those behaviors include:

- being honest
- being reliable and prepared
- being responsible for one's own actions and decisions, and
- being respectful of all individuals

PLAGIARISM /ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY: Students are expected to do their own work. The University policy on plagiarism and academic misconduct will be enforced to the fullest extent. A copy of this policy is available at the office of the Dean for Academic Affairs in Rendleman Hall or at <http://www.siu.edu/policies/1i6.shtml>. I reserve the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism. Any type of academic misconduct on any assignment or exam will result in a minimum of zero points issued on the assignment/exam in question and may result in other consequences, *including course failure*, depending on the gravity of the offense (as determined by the instructor).

INCOMPLETE POLICY: Grades of Incomplete will not be given unless some act beyond your control takes place that materially affects your ability to complete the course (e.g., severe illness, emotional trauma due to a death in the family, accident).

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Attendance is mandatory for this class. Notify me in advance by email if you will be missing class.



ELECTRONIC DEVICE USAGE POLICY: Use of cell phones, PDA's, iPods, Blackberrys and other electronic devices during class lectures or examinations is not authorized. Please turn off/silence your devices and put them away during class. Use of laptop computers for note taking is authorized, but activities other than note taking are not authorized. Check with the instructor if you wish to record lectures.

LATE SUBMISSIONS: Late work is not acceptable in the professional, business world and will not be accepted in this class unless you give prior notification and present evidence of an excused absence as recognized by the University.

MAKE-UP EXAMS: Make-up exams **will not be given**. If a student misses an exam due to an excused absence recognized by the University, alternative arrangements must be made with the instructor prior to the scheduled exam.

BLACKBOARD: Blackboard will be used extensively in this class. It will be the primary means by which I communicate with students outside of class. You should check Blackboard often for announcements and other updates.

CLASSROOM COMPUTERS: Student use of the classroom computers is subject to being monitored and/or controlled by the instructor during class sessions and exams using software and network tools.

SCORE/GRADING APPEAL: If you notice computational errors, please bring this to my attention for correction. Grading is an inherently subjective process. If you want me to re-evaluate your work, submit a written request with reasons to justify the re-evaluation. The request must be submitted within 5 days after the assignment is returned or grade is posted, whichever is earlier. Score changes are at the discretion of the instructor, the entire assignment is subject to review (not just the portion in question), and your overall grade is subject to going up or down based on the review.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Please notify me no later than the end of the first class meeting concerning any academic accommodations you will need. You must have a documented disability and an ID CARD from [Disability Support Services](#). If you need accommodations not indicated on the Disability Support Services ID CARD, please contact me or the Disability Support Services office as soon as possible so arrangements can be made for any additional equipment or accommodations.

Course Requirements:

Participation/Professionalism (25 points): This is a subjective element in the grading and is assigned at the discretion of the instructor. In order for the design of this class to work, we all must be actively involved in the class and conduct ourselves in a professional manner. This means three things:

- You must attend.
- You must have read and thought about the material before class. You should come to class prepared to discuss the material to be covered, raise any questions you may have, and bring pertinent examples from your own professional experience.
- We must respect each others' opinions in class, question/challenge respectfully, and be willing to share our thoughts and ideas to enhance our own and others' learning.

"IS @ Work" Team Project Presentation (145 points): The "IS @ Work" is a semester long group project. The objective of the assignment is to identify a real-world business need at one of the team member's employer organizations that involves an



information system solution. The project team will identify the business need/objective, document key elements of the business process(es) involved, define the performance criteria used to assess the initiative, identify/profile existing information systems and technologies that support the business process, identify appropriate IS alternatives for addressing the business need, develop and economic evaluation and justification for the various alternatives, and make a final recommendation for the "best" solution to the identified problem. The specific structure, content and format for the "IS @ Work" project will be discussed in greater detail during class.

The group will make a formal presentation to the class on their "IS @ Work" project and recommendation (75 points) and present an Executive Summary document (70 points). Please see Blackboard for the oral and written evaluation rubrics.

Issues of confidentiality such as public disclosure of an employer's name, use of company data, etc. can make it difficult for a group to identify a "real" business issue for the project. In such situations, the instructor will work with the group to develop a strategy to insure anonymity while permitting the group to leverage the "real" business issue. If a group cannot identify a viable business issue at a team member's place of work or chooses not pursue the project based on a "real" business issue, then an alternative topic will be assigned to the group. In this case, "Olympic-style" grading will be used with a degree of difficulty factor reducing the high-score potential for the assignment.

"Student Take" Presentation (50 points): Each group will be randomly assigned a lecture topic. The group selection will take place the week before the group presents. The group will be responsible for leading a 30 minute *interactive* session for the assigned topic that extends the material covered in the text and instructor's lecture. The interactive session should incorporate material from outside sources (e.g., business periodicals, academic journals, interviews) that brings greater clarity to the topic, incorporates "real life" examples either from case studies or from team members' professional experience, and high-lights current trends/issues that organizations are dealing with. This is not simply "more lecture" as the groups are not required to formally present for 30 minutes. The groups should *be creative* to identify interesting ways to convey new information. This could take the form of facilitated discussions, analysis of current article(s) from business periodicals, identifying a case study to be addressed in class, mock debates on key issues, etc. Sources of information should be properly documented. The groups will be evaluated on the overall presentation, the quality of the information and their peers' engagement. The topics and other information about the presentations will be discussed in greater detail during class.

Group Peer Evaluation (30 points): Part of working on teams involves peer evaluation. You will be requested to provide feedback on yourself and your team member's performance on the "IS @ Work" and "Student Take" projects. The rubric for peer-evaluation will be posted on Blackboard.

Theory Exams (200 points): There will be two exams (100 pts each) in this course covering materials from the text, supplemental readings, lectures and the group lecture topic presentations. The exams will include a combination of objective and short-essay questions. Composition of each exam will be covered in class prior to the exam.

IS/IT Fundamentals Tutorial (50 points): As a business professional and manager, knowledge of certain fundamentals is necessary to be able to work with information

systems and IS professionals. Students will be responsible for completing an online tutorial published by Harvard Business Press covering foundational topics (IS hardware, software, databases, networking, etc.). The online tutorial consists of seven (7) modules. Five (5) modules will be completed for this assignment (10 points each), including: Hardware, Software, Networks, Internet, and Enterprise Architecture. Each module has an evaluation quiz. Students are required to pass each evaluation quiz with a score of 70% or better. If the minimum is not reached, zero (0) points will be earned on that quiz. Total points will be assigned based on the number of modules "passed" and the average percentage score achieved. Students may re-take any quiz until a passing score, or the desired overall score, is achieved.

IMPORTANT: The online tutorial considers a score of 60% or higher a passing score. A passing score for this class will be 70% or higher. If a student receives a score of less than 70%, or any score less than desired, the student must notify the instructor (via email only) to have the quiz "reset".

Grading:

Grading Scale is a strict 90% (A), 80% (B), 70% (C), 60% (D), below 60% (F) - there will be *no extra credit and no rounding*.

<u>Points</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
200	Theory Exams (40%)
25	Class Participation/Professionalism (5%)
50	Group Project 1 - "Student Take" Presentation (10%)
75	Group Project 2 - "IS @ Work" Presentation (15%)
70	"IS @ Work" Project Summary (14%)
30	Group Peer Evaluation (6%)
<u>50</u>	<u>IS/IT Fundamentals (Online Tutorial) (10%)</u>
500	Total (100%)

NOTE: The sequence of topics may change based on how the class sessions progress. Also, refinements to class preparation will be made (articles and other supplementary reading) as additional resources are identified. As mentioned above, IS @ Work assignments (items in red below) are VERY tentative and subject to change!

Class	Date	Topics	Class Activities	Class Preparation
1	5/21	Course Introduction What are information systems? Project Management Fundamentals Using Information Systems/Technology for a Competitive Advantage	Group Assignments Interactive discussions Group planning	Chapter 1 PM Supplemental Materials (Blackboard) Chapter 2 (pp. 43-44, 57-75)
	5/22			<i>IS@Work -Summary of Problem Due by 11:00 p.m.</i>
2 & 3	6/11 & 6/12	E-Business and E-Commerce Enterprise Systems - Integration within and across Organizations Information Systems Development Business Requirements Exam #1	Interactive discussions Student Take #1, 2, 3, 4 "IS @ Work" project	Chapter 5: pp.188-193, pp.196-197, pp.196-203 B2B (quick), pp.206-213 B2C, pp.216-217 C2C, pp.221-224 Chapter 6: pp.234-242, pp.243-246 (skim), pp.247-253 (skim), pp.254-261. Chapter 9 (pp.367-396) Chapter 10 (pp.428-443) & Chapter 9 (pp.396-398) Additional readings posted on Blackboard IT Fundamentals Tutorial - Impact of IT Module (quiz not required) IT Fundamentals Tutorial - Implementation Module (quiz not required)
	6/12			<i>"IS@Work" Section 1 Draft due by 6:00 p.m.</i>
	6/24			<i>Five IT Tutorial Modules due by 6:00 p.m.</i>
4 & 5	6/25 & 6/26	Decision Support Systems (Business Intelligence - Using Data to Improve Decision-Making) Information Systems Security High Availability (Business Continuity) and Disaster Recovery Planning Ethical Issues "Green" IS/IT Exam #2 "IS @ Work" Presentations	Interactive discussions Student Take #5, 6, 7 "IS @ Work" project	Chapter 8 Chapter 4 (pp.166-176) Chapter 7 Chapter 11 Peer Evaluations <i>"IS@Work" Paper due by end of class</i>