IS 601-01
Foundations of Information Systems
Summer Session II 2015

Meets: TuTh 1:00PM – 4:10PM, ITE 227
Instructor: Dr. Carlton Crabtree
Office: ITE 407 (part-time faculty office)
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00 – 11:30 & by appointment
E-mail: cac1@umbc.edu (best way to reach me)
Website: http://blackboard.umbc.edu/
Text: Corporate Information Strategy and Management: Text and Cases (8th edition), Applegate, L.M., R.D. Austin and D.L. Soule, McGraw-Hill, 2009

Overview

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course provides an introduction to the role of information and information systems in organizations. Characteristics of organizations such as structure, culture, and decision-making are examined as to how they affect and are effected by information systems development and use. Strategic planning, information architecture design, competitive value, career paths, ethical issues, legal issues and trends in information technology development and in information management practices are examined for both public and private organizations. Emerging technologies are assessed for potential strategic value to an organization.

COURSE GOALS
The primary emphasis of this course is on how organizations manage information resources and systems to meet strategic and tactical goals. Students are expected to accomplish the following goals: (1) have a fundamental understanding of how to use IT as a strategic tool in competitive environments; (2) familiarize themselves with best practices and business models that leverage internet and networking technologies; (3) develop necessary analytical skills to identify and assess the strategic challenges for IT related business issues.

COURSE FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION
This course is structured for a mixed lecture and seminar format. Topics are balanced between fundamental business concepts and experience from industrial practice. Lectures are organized in a similar sequence as the textbook and will cover additional material. Readings may be provided to achieve different in-class learning objectives, individual and/or team work. All materials will be posted to the blackboard in advance of class. Students are also encouraged to review the UMBC Office of Summer & Winter Programs website for important term deadlines.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT
By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct will result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, failure of the course, suspension, or dismissal. (Please consult the UMBC Student Handbook for the full policy.

Course Policies

GRADING STANDARDS

UMBC's Graduate Catalog states that, "A, indicates superior achievement; B, good performance; C, adequate performance; D, minimal performance; F, failure." There is specifically no mention of numerical boundaries that determine these final letter grades. These can only be defined at the end of the semester after all scores have been earned (usually using a "curve"). This means that it is not appropriate to assume that a given numerical score corresponds to a particular letter grade. It is also important to understand that final letter grades reflect actual academic achievement and not effort. All assignment grades will be posted on Blackboard and feedback regarding assignments will be provided throughout the semester to assist students in measuring their performance. I will always correct mistakes in grade computation; however, in all other circumstances grades are not negotiable.

OFFICE HOURS & COMMUNICATIONS

Students are encouraged to take advantage of my office hours. I am also available by appointment. When emailing me please ensure your correspondence is written in a clear and concise manner. If your email is about a team deliverable all members must be copied (cc'd).

ASSESSMENTS

Student performance in IS 601 is evaluated individually and through group deliverables. Teams will be determined the first week of class and those students will coordinate together for the semester. As indicated below, all scores are weighted to determine your final grade.

Assessment	Type	Percentage
Case Study Review	Group	15%
• Précis & Presentation		
Social Impact Debate	Group	15%
• Presentation		
Emerging Technology Project	Group	20%
• Adherence to Project Milestones		
• Final Research Report		
Pop Quizzes	Individual	15%
Participation	Individual	10%
Final Exam	Individual	25%
		100%

Late submissions will NOT be accepted. If you are unable to complete any of the above assessments due to an emergency situation (e.g. hospitalization), you must acquire sufficient written proof in the form of a letter from a physician specifically stating that you were unable to submit the deliverable by the deadline. No sensitive or personally identifiable information need be included. Emergencies are taken seriously and authenticity of information will be verified. Make-up assignments and exams are delivered at the Instructor's discretion and in accordance with university policy.

Assessments

BLACKBOARD & READINGS

This course will rely on Blackboard (Bb) for posting announcements, lecture notes, and distributing assignments. UMBC has an extensive [Blackboard FAQ](#) which students may find useful for finding answers to frequently asked questions. Contemporary news stories and/or articles covering important events in business and information technology will be sent via email to serve as warm-up discussions for class. Students are encouraged to suggest news stories.

POP QUIZZES

There will be four pop quizzes covering important material from lecture and the textbook. Quizzes serve two important functions. First, they necessitate a disciplined self-directed approach to study. Second, they encourage advance preparation so that we can raise important questions and think critically about theoretical and applied concepts in information systems.

CASE STUDY REVIEW

Case studies yield important historical evidence which may be interpreted to the current business environment.

1. Read and understand the case using outside resources if helpful.
2. Submit a one page précis to the Blackboard distilling the main attributes of the case study.
3. Introduce the case study in class through an integrated 25 minute team presentation and lead in-class discussions. Reference the assignment rubric on blackboard.
4. Each case from the textbook begins with a synopsis and poses a series of questions. Teams are encouraged to answer those questions during the course of their presentation.
5. Additionally, what was the business problem faced by the company? How effective was the approach taken by the company to resolve this problem?
6. What are your team's technical recommendations? What are the lessons learned? Where is the company today? Did they make the right decision(s)?

SOCIAL IMPACT DEBATE

Some weeks we will end class with a structured 25 minute team presentation about a contemporary social or ethical issue. A listing of predetermined debate topics will be made available for selection. For the presentation, each member(s) of the team should adopt one of the following roles.

1. Moderator(s): Introduce the topic in class with a contemporary news article, direct class Q&A, and moderate the debate.
2. Proponent(s): Present supporting arguments for the debate topic and defend your ideas using literature and/or other online sources.
3. Opponent(s): Present opposing arguments for the debate topic and defend your ideas using literature and/or other online sources.
4. Discuss the implications for society, conclusions, and/or potential solutions which can be brought to bear to reconcile differences between proponent and opponent viewpoints.
5. Coordination will be required between all team members to present a debate that is well scoped and divided into segments that realistically portray the issues of interest.
6. Presentations should emphasize an introduction to the topic, a clear statement of proponent and opponent viewpoints, counter arguments, and rebuttals.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

The emerging technologies project explains a technology, its evolving business model, and evaluates its potential trajectory using concepts covered throughout the course. Students will work in small teams to research an emerging technology that has important business implications. Each team should appoint an administrator. The administrator should submit all deliverables and where necessary communicate with the instructor regarding any questions or concerns. It is strongly suggested that teams openly negotiate responsibilities and roles at the beginning of the semester to balance workload.

1. Project Milestones: Formal checkpoints. Refer to course schedule.
2. Each milestone is a one page document which should be submitted through Blackboard.
3. Adherence to milestones and timely submission is taken into consideration for final grading. Milestones provide the Instructor the opportunity to provide guidance (as necessary).
4. Final Report: A 13-15 page final position paper that builds clear arguments using well-referenced evidence (including references).

FINAL EXAM

There will be one comprehensive final exam. The exam may include true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Further details and instructions for the final will be provided towards the end of the summer session. In terms of studying and preparing please keep the following in mind: all course content is considered eligible material for the final exam.

PARTICIPATION & STUDENT PRESENTATION EVALUATIONS

This course is designed for an accelerated summer format. Attendance is absolutely critical for participation and concept mastery. Class will begin on-time. Please plan on arriving at least 10 minutes prior to the start of class. If arriving late, please be courteous to your fellow students and the Instructor. Note: Excessive tardiness will impact our participation grade. Participation is relevant to our time in-class. If you do not attend, you will be unable to participate.

Student Support Services:

UMBC is committed to eliminating discriminatory obstacles that disadvantage students based on disability. Student Support Services (SSS) is the UMBC department designated to receive and maintain confidential files of disability-related documentation, certify eligibility for services, determine reasonable accommodations, develop with each student plans for the provision of such accommodations, and serve as a liaison between faculty members and students regarding disability-related issues. If you have a disability and want to request accommodations, contact SSS at 410-455-2459. If you require accommodations for this class, make an appointment to meet with me to discuss your SSS-approved accommodations.

INCLEMENT WEATHER & CAMPUS CLOSURE

In case of inclement weather, check the main UMBC Webpage (http://www.umbc.edu) to see whether UMBC is closed and classes are cancelled. Any work due on a class date that has been cancelled due to inclement weather will be due the next class meeting.

Course Schedule

The following is the schedule of lecture topics, readings and assignment due dates. The Instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule, given fair advanced notice both in class and on the Blackboard announcements page. All assignments must be submitted to the Blackboard by 11 a.m on the date they are due. Tuesdays are devoted to lecture while Thursdays are planned for student presentations. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize any remaining portion of class time to coordinate within their team. Please review the schedule below carefully. The best way to succeed in this course is to attend, take detailed lecture notes, keep up with readings, and contribute to in-class discussions. It is strongly recommended that students incorporate important dates below into their personal calendars.

Meeting Date(s)	Topics	Reading(s)	Case(s)	Debate	Milestones & Assignments Due
7/7	Introduction & Corporate Strategy				*Team Formation
7/9	Albin O. Kuhn Workshop & Organizational Design	*Mintzberg*			*Milestone #1:* *ET project topic selection due
7/14	Business Models	Chapter 1 & 2	*1-2 & 1-3*		
7/16	Towards Sustainable Competitive Advantage	Chapter 4 & Case 1-1	*1-4 & 1-5*		
7/21	Networked Business & IT Infrastructure	*Nicholas Carr* & Chapter 5			Emerging Technologies Workshop
7/23	Reliability & IT Security	Chapter 6		*1*	*Milestone #2* *Preliminary references
7/28	Project & Service Delivery	*Royce &* Chapter 7, 8		*2*	
7/30	IT Governance	Chapter 9		*3*	*Milestone #3* *Report table of contents due
8/4	Knowledge Management	*TBA*		*4*	
8/6	Managing Risk	DelTek Whitepaper			*ET Project Due
8/11	Leadership	Chapter 10			*Peer Evaluation
8/13	Final Exam				