

MARYLAND IN EUROPE -- BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

INSS 530 INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN ORGANIZATIONS

TERM III, 2002-2003

COURSE OUTLINE

Class Times:	Saturday	Sunday	9 am to 4 pm
	Feb 1, 2003	Feb 2, 2003	
	Feb 15, 2003	Feb 16, 2003	
	Mar 1, 2003	Mar 2, 2003	
	Mar 15, 2003	Mar 16, 2003	

Location: Education Center, Aviano, Italy

Lecturer: Edward Jacob

e-mail: e.jacob@virgilio.it

Office Hours: After each class session and by appointment.

Pre-requisite: All undergraduate prerequisite courses or permission of the lecturer.

Course Credit: 3 semester hours.

TEXTBOOKS: O'Brien, James A., *Management Information Systems: Managing Information Technology in the E-Business Enterprise* (5th edition), New York: McGraw-Hill, 2002. (MIS)

Bruner, Robert F. *et al*, *The Portable MBA* (3rd edition), New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (MBA)

COURSE PURPOSE: This course establishes a foundation for understanding and analyzing information in organizations. The contents of this course are covered on the Comprehensive Examination.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces basic management information systems concepts and examines the fundamental types of information systems. Personal, work groups, and enterprise information systems are discussed. The challenge and use of information to gain competitive advantage are also examined. Other topics to be discussed include: the economics of information, use of value added concepts to evaluate information system effectiveness, and the application of

systems theory to information systems architecture. Through supplemental readings, students will also be introduced to pertinent business concepts that will be useful in making IS/IT decisions.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Case Analysis & Presentation	10 points
3 Chapter Problems and Write-ups	20 points
Group Case Analysis & Presentation	10 points
Midterm (including comprehensive-type question)	25 points
Final (including comprehensive-type question)	<u>35 points</u>
Total	100 points

GRADING SCALE:

90-100 points = A

80- 89 points = B

70 -79 points = C

Below 70 points = FA

ASSIGNMENTS

Case Analysis & Presentation: Each student will be expected to analyze, document, and present a short case from one of the chapters in the MIS text book.

Chapter Problems and Write-ups: Three problems from the text will be required as homework and turned in for grading. Details on these problems and how they should be presented for grading will be distributed for each assigned problem prior to its due date. These assignments will involve the use of a spreadsheet, a data base program, and other high-level programming software.

Group Case Analysis & Presentation: In small groups, each student will participate in the analysis, write-up, and presentation to the class of an extended case that presents a systems problem for a real company. These cases will be selected from Appendix A in the MIS book.

Midterm/Final--The midterm and final will consist of short answer essay questions related to the goals listed at the beginning of each chapter and the objectives listed below. The midterm and final will each also have a comprehensive-type question to be analyzed and answered on the test.

COURSE POLICIES/EXPECTATIONS

The following policies apply to this class. These policies are generally reflected in the graduate catalog.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Regular class attendance is expected. If you should miss a meeting, it is your responsibility to obtain information concerning the material covered and upcoming assignments. If there is a quiz or other assignment due on that class period, previous arrangements should be made with the instructor whenever possible.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Students are expected to do their own work. Cheating on tests, plagiarism on written assignments, or any other form of academic dishonesty will result in a "0" for the assignment. See the European Division *Catalog* for the UMUC policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism.

ASSIGNMENT/TEST SCHEDULES: Students are expected to hand in all assignments and complete all tests on the days they are due. Any assignments may be marked down half a letter grade for each day the assignment is late. Quizzes and major tests cannot be made-up unless the student had an excused absence.

CLASS PREPARATION: Students are expected to come to class prepared. This means they should have read the materials assigned for class for that session and have prepared any pertinent assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives for this course are listed as "Learning Objectives" at the beginning of every chapter. The questions on the midterm and final will be directly related to these objectives and to those that follow, even though the topic may not be covered in class. At the end of the class the students should be able to:

- Compare and contrast the various roles information systems plays in organizations and how these roles are reflected in the organization's structure
- Identify the basic concepts that will be the foundation for subsequent courses regarding user requirements, information flows, and the nature of information systems

- Demonstrate knowledge of basic techniques and elementary skills in representing information systems structure and general purpose applications
- Analyze different organizational situations involving the use of information systems and/or the application of information technology and make recommendations for improvement
- Analyze and demonstrate the impact of advancement of information technology on organizational variables
- Demonstrate greater familiarity with the literature in information systems or a field of their own interest (e.g., medicine) with a focus on the use of information technology in that field
- Demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the other functional areas of a business so that analysis of any organization can be performed in a more comprehensive fashion

In addition to the academic objectives, students are expected to improve their skills in the following areas:

1. **Critical Thinking:** Students should improve their ability to analyze computer user situations through: 1) the major project that involves analyzing a company/organization, 2) group case assignments, and 3) assigned practical problems from the text. The midterm and final also have in-depth case analyses that encourage students to think critically about real-world situations.
2. **Writing Skills:** Students should improve their writing skills through formal reporting on various assignment problems, and the major project, and on the mid-term and final.
3. **Oral Presentation Skills:** Students should improve their presentation skills through their oral reports on their major project, case presentations, class discussions, and group presentations.
4. **Team-Building Skills:** Students should improve their group work skills through group resolution of mini-cases and group development of a response to a major case.
5. **Computer Skills:** Students are expected to improve their computer skills by using word processing, spreadsheets, data bases, and the Internet for the completion of the assignments in this class. The use of e-mail is also encouraged.

LECTURER INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR: Edward Jacob received a BS in Computer Studies from the University of Maryland in computer studies and a MIS from Bowie State University. He worked for over 15 years for DOD as a systems engineer/analyst and CIO for logistics systems. He has worked independently as a consultant in the private sector as a systems analyst and currently manages his own company .