

SYLLABUS

MCIS 6307 – Strategic IS and IT Management

Class and faculty information

Class requirements / expectations

- Prerequisite: At least concurrent with ISMG 6306, Database Systems

Description

This course examines the role of the CIO and helps students develop a top management strategic perspective including developing and aligning competitive strategies, core competencies and information systems to achieve organizational goals and then define the resources and units needed for successful implementation. New ways of operating will also be covered such as outsourcing, ASPs, inter-organizational systems and the creation of virtual organizations.

Objectives

Students develop an understanding of the strategic use of information technology from a business perspective at the enterprise level. They are expected to understand the internal management of information systems services from the point of view of the CIO and to examine alternative strategies and tactics available to management to achieve goals. Working students and students with post-baccalaureate experience will be able to examine the current and potential impact of information and information technology on all aspects of their position, firm, and industry. Students without experience will be able to understand the strategic information thrust of potential employers. The course is an integrative one, designed to provide students the opportunity to develop skills in identifying, analyzing, and solving problems in situations that represent real world software development. Problems to be examined will involve a wide range of substantive ones in business.

- Relationship between IS and the business
- Impact of IS on competitive position
- Aligning IT goals and strategy
- Translate strategic and IT objectives into operating principles for IS planning
- IS planning including infrastructure planning and budgeting
- IS implementation
- Outsourcing vs. in-sourcing
- Inter-organizational systems and electronic commerce
- IS personnel, structure, and leadership
- Risk management
- The virtual organization
- Implications of globalization

Current syllabus for this course may be obtained from professor. This is a sample syllabus and should not be used by students enrolled in this course.

Textbooks

Primary book: Software Project Management – A unified framework

Secondary book: Information Technology and the Future Enterprise

Course Organization / Structure / Rules / Policies

Class periods will be designed around a class project. All students will be assigned to a group that will be part of this project. Students will research and analyze their areas, prepare formal written reports, and present their section to the class.

The class project

The written report must be turned in during the class period defined in the syllabus. For the 1st half, the paper will be an individual one, while for the 2nd half it will be a group one. The format we will use for project is adapted from the staff communications used in federal government agencies and other large organizations. The package will begin with an executive summary that is at least half a page long, but no longer than one page. It will have two basic components:

1. Mission Statement – 3 Points
2. Overview of the process flow – 7 Points

The purpose of the executive summary is to brief a busy upper-level decision-maker. It must stand alone, so that it could be used independently of the main paper that follows in the package. It must give a clear picture of the mission in a nutshell. Waffling will not be acceptable.

Next in the package will be a five-page main paper that builds on the executive summary with a more thorough discussion. This portion is aimed at the decision-maker's aides. It should explain the logic of your plan, and fill in the background on the points made in the executive summary. Since the audience of executive aides would not all be familiar with the plan avoid using business jargon and technical business terms unless you give a plain language explanation along with them. In other words, you must convince the decision maker and his/her aides in plain English that you have gotten to the root of a problem that requires their attention and that your recommendation is the best alternative for solving it.

The main paper will be examined and presented based on the following format:

1. External factors – 5 Points
2. Industry trends – 5 Points
3. Mission statement – 5 Points
4. Assumptions – 5 Points
5. Analysis of the Process flow – 30 Points
6. Financial breakdown – 10 Points
7. Human Resource allocation – 10 Points
8. Implementation of your process flow – 20 Points

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As you write the executive summary and main paper, remember that the intended audiences are the executives assigned to take on this task. They will already be familiar with the basic facts. Therefore, you should carefully avoid rehashing; instead give them new insights into the situation. Make it a point to get to the point. Those found guilty of rehashing will get low grades.

You will be graded on accuracy in identifying the mission statement in your situation, the efficacy of your recommendations, the soundness of your logic, and the quality of your expression. Needless to say, your analysis must reflect not only a sound grasp of business theory, but also a well-conceived application.

Research paper

The written report must be turned in on the day of the presentation. Based on the chapter that is assigned, the students will prepare an overview of the chapter and present it to the class. Though the presentation is a combined one for the group, the paper that is handed in is an individual one.

Description of project

The whole class has been given the task of developing software. This software is _____. The class will be subdivided into sections: marketing, architecture, coding, testing, & software support. Each group will have to work on their own section as well as interact with the other groups. This is needed, as each group is dependant on the other. At the time of the presentation, I would like to see one continuous presentation from start to finish. All the slides should look the same. It is recommended that each section elect 1 member to be their leader who will take the task of making sure any or all communication takes place. A group or person should be assigned to make sure the common elements in the presentation have a smooth flow. Another person or group should be assigned to make sure that communication exists as well as they can collect all the material and make it into a presentation. Remember this is a class and group effort.

Grading and Grades

The formal written assignments determine 75% if each case. The primary basis for grading the written assignments will be the content.

Good presentations generally follow from sound thinking, backed up by a reasonable complete set of basic language skills. In our classes, we will concentrate on developing sound critical thinking. This action is similar to the evaluation process required in Peer Evaluation.

Note: Paper will be turned in to the instructor at the beginning of the class on the due date. Any late papers will be penalized 10 points.

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In this and the following descriptions of written assignments, it to be understood that one page contains about 250 words. Assignments are to be typed legibly on letter-size paper, double-spaced, 66-80 characters per line, with margins of at least 1 inch on all sides. Improper format (anything over 29 lines per page, anything over 80 characters per line, or any margin less than 1 inch) will be penalized 5 points.

Extra length is not a virtue (anything over 5 pages), but can actually detract from the usefulness of your work. Excessive length or improper format will be penalized 5 points.

Each student will be required to evaluate all members of the group on a scale of 1 to 10. This action is intended to expose students to the evaluation process that is typically required in large organizations. This evaluation will be part numerical and part essay in content and will be considered as a privileged document between each evaluator and the professor. While no one student will determine the grade of another student, the evaluations will provide the instructor with insight into the quantity and quality of effort expended by each student in the various projects assigned. If you do not hand in a typed evaluation of each member you will be penalized 5 points in peer evaluations.

Details of Grade Elements

The course will be calculated using the following weights

Project 2 nd half	40%
Project 1 st half	35%
Research Paper and presentation	20%
Class Participation and Peer Evaluations	5%

Special Circumstances

If you need accommodation for a disability, provide the instructor with documentation from Student Disability Services, www.stedwards.edu/aps/sds.htm, 448-8557, and 448-8660.

Weekly class activity

To be supplied by instructor.

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