

**MGSC 390**  
**Business Information Systems**  
Course Syllabus for Fall 2007

Mon & Wed 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.  
Room 364, College of Business Administration  
<http://dmsweb.moore.sc.edu/mgsc390/>

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and by an appointment

### **Course Overview**

Information systems (IS) play a key role in the operations, marketing, decision making, and learning of modern organizations. Increasingly, more and more firms are finding that IS have tremendous implications for their organizational effectiveness and strategic competitiveness. Studies have cited failure to invest in IS or failure to use IS as leading causes for many company failures. As organizations seek to improve their products and services and sustain competitive edges through effective use of IS, it is becoming imperative that knowledge workers in an organization recognize the potential leverage that IS can provide in improving individual productivity and organizational effectiveness. Thus, understanding how IS can be used to achieve competitive advantage, efficient operations, and effective decision making is an important aspect of any knowledge worker's job. Your understanding of IS will make you a more valuable asset to your organization. Therefore, the overall goal of this course is to provide an overview of contemporary IS from a business perspective. Toward achieving this goal, the course uses a combination of lectures, discussions, business cases, and assignments.

### **Course Objectives**

Learning objectives for this course include:

- To understand the opportunities and threats posed by IS in contemporary competitive environments;
- To identify ways that IS can create business value and facilitate solutions to business problems;
- To explore some of the newer, state-of-the-art information technology tools to determine how to use them to contribute to business solutions.

## Course Material

- Business Driven Information Systems, Baltzan/Phillips, McGraw-Hill 2008 (ISBN: 978-0-07-319558-2)

## Grading

The grading components are as follows:

- Exams 60% (E1: 15%, E2: 15%, Final: 30%)
- Problem Sets 15%
- Technology Report (2 Person Team) 15%
- Class Participation 10%

### Exams

There will be three closed book and closed note exams. The final exam will be cumulative. *Absence from an exam will result in a grade of zero unless the exam is missed due to a verifiable illness or family emergency on the exam day and permission from the instructor has been obtained prior to the exam.* In the event of an excused absence from an exam, either a make-up will be given, or another exam or assignment will be weighted more heavily.

### Problem Sets

There will be three problem sets (PSs). **These problem sets are individual assignments. Hence, all your printouts and other outcomes submitted for these assignments must be out of your own work.** Any student who violates this rule or who knowingly assists another to violate this rule shall be subject to grade penalty (zero for the assignment in question) and/or academic disciplines. These PSs will be directly related to the topics discussed in the classroom. Each PS may consist of several questions. Due dates of these PSs are specified in the class schedule. *All the PSs should be submitted at the beginning of class. Late PSs will not be accepted. No hand-written PSs will be graded.*

### Technology Report

This is a team effort requiring 2 people and is worth 15 percent of your final grade. Team members will receive the same grade. The topic may be either technical or managerial. The report should be a well-written, highly-focused briefing that informs readers of the recent development in the IS area. The report should not exceed 12 double-spaced pages exclusive of exhibits. Detailed guidelines of the report will be posted on the class home page later.

### Class Participation

Students are expected to study the assigned course readings for a given day before coming to class and actively participate in the class activities. During class, students may be asked to solve problems related to the assigned readings or called upon to discuss issues covered in the assigned readings. The quality of solving problems, answering questions, and discussing readings will significantly determine class participation credit. In addition, criteria for the credit include attendance, punctuality, and attitude toward learning. Tardiness disrupts the flow of class activities and often leads to having to repeat

announcements or instructions. **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE CLASSROOM 15 MINUTES AFTER THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.** Entering and leaving the room during class similarly distracts both students and instructor and conveys a disregard for the material being discussed. Those students who are not paying attention to the class material may be asked to leave the classroom. During class, I encourage you to engage in critical thinking, to challenge ideas without showing disrespect for others' ideas. Please use judgment when raising issues in class - do not waste the class's time on a personal matter - instead see the instructor one-on-one. Effective participation has much more to do with the quality than with the quantity of your interaction. In other words, those who attempt to dominate air time for its own sake without contributing to the advancement of the discussion will not be rewarded for it. Those students who severely interrupt with or disrupt normal course activity will be awarded no participation points. Please note that you are required to turn off your mobile phone before the class starts.

Attendance will be taken regularly. The instructor can take attendance by calling out student names or by requesting students to sign the attendance sheet. It is the student's responsibility to respond to the roll call or sign the attendance sheet. A student who arrives after the attendance call should see the instructor after the class period to change the attendance record. **STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT IN THE CLASSROOM FOR THE ENTIRE CLASS PERIOD WILL BE MARKED ABSENT.** The university policy states that absence from more than 10 percent of the scheduled class sessions, *whether excused or unexcused*, is excessive and the instructor may choose to exact a grade penalty for such absences. Note that the policy applies to both excused and unexcused absences. In this course, a student who misses more than 20 percent of attendance checks, *whether excused or unexcused*, will be awarded no participation points. If you anticipate excessive absences, you must submit a written request and receive prior approval from the instructor before the last day to change the schedule.

### Final Grade

Final letter grades are *not* determined according to a "curve" that specifies in advance the proportion of people to receive each grade. Instead, letter grades are determined according to the percentage of possible credit achieved by each student, computed by adding together the individual grading component scores. The cutoff points to assign letter grades are typically as follows:

A:	90 or higher
B+:	87 or higher but lower than 90
B:	80 or higher but lower than 87
C+:	77 or higher but lower than 80
C:	70 or higher but lower than 77
D+:	67 or higher but lower than 70
D:	60 or higher but lower than 67
F:	lower than 60

## **Class Policies**

### Lecture Notes

PowerPoint slides will be prepared for each topic and will become available from the class homepage before the topic is covered. A hard copy of the slides will be also distributed at the beginning of class on the day when the topic is covered.

### Computer Use

The student use of a computer in the classroom is discouraged in this course. Over the years, I have found that computer use in the classroom is rather a distraction to others as well as to the student. If you are in a special circumstance that require the use of a computer, please obtain my permission during the first week of class

### Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of every student at the University of South Carolina to adhere steadfastly to truthfulness and to avoid dishonesty, fraud, or deceit of any type in connection with any academic program. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, which means misrepresenting as one's own work any part of work done by another; submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval of all instructors concerned; depriving another student of necessary course materials; offering any favor for the purpose of influencing improperly a grade of a student; or interfering with an instructor's ability to evaluate a student's competency or performance.

Whenever a student is uncertain as to whether conduct would violate academic responsibility rules, the student should seek clarification from the instructor prior to engaging in such conduct. Any academic misconduct will be treated consistent with the University of South Carolina policies.

### Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Any student in this class who has a documented visual impairment, hearing disability, or any other disability should contact the instructor during the first week of class to discuss and arrange any instructional accommodation that may be necessary. Student who would like to serve as volunteer tutors, readers, or note takers for students needing special assistance are also encouraged to contact the instructor.

## **Final Note**

On a final note, if you have any concerns or problems during the course, feel free to contact me. I will attempt to resolve them to the best of my ability. You can see me during my office hours or call me (office: 777-4351; cell: 730-5009) to set up an appointment. You can also get a response to a quick question or concern via e-mail ([myi@moore.sc.edu](mailto:myi@moore.sc.edu)).

## Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Note
1	Aug. 27 Aug. 29	Course Orientation Information Systems in Business	Ch. 1	
2	Sep. 3 Sep. 5	Labor Day Holiday – No Class Information Systems in Business	Ch. 1	
3	Sep. 10 Sep. 12	Strategic Decision Making Strategic Decision Making	Ch. 2 Ch. 2	Team Sign-up Form due (Mon)
4	Sep. 17 Sep. 19	IT Architectures IT Architectures	Ch. 5 Ch. 5	
5	Sep. 24 Sep. 26	Networks and Telecommunications Networks and Telecommunications	Ch. 7 Ch. 7	PS #1 due (Wed)
6	Oct. 1 Oct. 3	E-Business E-Business	Ch. 3 Ch. 3	
7	Oct. 8 Oct. 10	Exam 1 Exam 1 Review		
8	Oct. 15 Oct. 17	System Development System Development	Ch. 11 Ch. 11	Technology Report Proposal due (Mon)
9	Oct. 22 Oct. 24	Project Management and Outsourcing Project Management and Outsourcing	Ch. 12 Ch. 12	PS #2 due (Mon)
10	Oct. 29 Oct. 31	Databases and Data Warehouses Databases and Data Warehouses	Ch. 6 Ch. 6	
11	Nov. 5 Nov. 7	Exam 2 Exam 2 Review		
12	Nov. 12 Nov. 14	Supply Chain Management Supply Chain Management	Ch. 8 Ch. 8	
13	Nov. 19 Nov. 21	Customer Relationship Management Thanksgiving Recess – No Class	Ch. 9	PS #3 due (Mon)
14	Nov. 26 Nov. 28	Customer Relationship Management Ethics and Information Security	Ch. 9 Ch. 4	
15	Dec. 3 Dec. 5	Ethics and Information Security Review for the Final Exam	Ch. 4	Technology Report due (Wed)
16	Dec. 12	Final Exam (2:00 p.m.)		

*Note.* This schedule is tentative. It provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary depending on the class progress.

## Team Sign-up Form

As specified in the syllabus, students are required to work together to complete the technology report project. Each team consists of two members. Each team must submit this sign-up form by Sep. 10, 2007 (Mon). Only one copy per team needs to be submitted. Each team is required to submit a written proposal of the project by Oct. 15 (Mon).

Student Name	Email Address	Signature