INFO 600-4S Information Technology Management

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Information Technology Management
INFO 600 Summer 2012

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Course Description
The Course is an examination of systems and technology involved in the production of goods and the delivery of services. The predominant focus is on the manager's use of information and technology to influence the design, operation and control of systems in order to enhance competitive advantage. Topics covered include analysis of current information systems, identification and assessment of an organization's strategic use of information systems and trends of information technology development. This course explores business processes and information systems; it is highly integrative and will draw heavily from other functional areas in business.

Course Materials
We have no text book for the course but we will be using Harvard case studies available for purchase Study.net (http://www.study.net/r_mat.asp?crs_id=30025604) all other readings are available free online through our Blackboard “Course Information” site.

Course Objectives:
1. Recognize opportunities for using technology for innovative support of day-to-day operations, generation of information to support management decision-making, and strategic applications in a global business environment.
2. Student presentations and discussions of current information system technology and how it supports business now and in the future.
3. Develop an awareness of the possible limitations of technology.
4. Focus on technology and how it relates to the strategy of a business.
5. Apply different IT concepts to the workplace.
6. Communicate in a virtual environment
7. Build a sense of community using virtual tools and projects

Technology Principles to Live By:
- Principle 1 – Just because you have more IT, doesn't mean you have better information.
- Principle 2 – InfoTech’s value is determined in the way you use and manage it.
- Principle 3 – If InfoTech is the solution, what is the problem?
- Principle 4 – If you identify a problem, then who will be your problem solver?

Williams College of Business Mission
"We educate students of business, enabling them to improve organizations and society, consistent with the Jesuit tradition"
How this course relates to this mission:

Technology has had a major impact on nearly every organization and on society at large. The course will critically examine these impacts via case analyses, readings on current topics, and in-depth discussions about the social issues of technology and the Internet. Ethical issues will be examined in all situations and a reflection on the topics along with future implications will be part of the course. Reflection is important because you can have an experience but miss the meaning without a reflection.

Deliverables at a Glance:

1. Online Participation (synchronous chat sessions)
2. Current IT issue presentation
3. Discussion of topics (asynchronous participation during the week)
4. Journal - Reflections of course
5. Group Online Presentation to Class

Deliverables in Detail:

Online Participation (synchronous): Class participation is critical in an online course. There will be required synchronous sessions during the term and you want to be prepared for these sessions by reading and listening to the assigned materials and participating in the Asynchronous Discussions during the week in the Discussion Forums in Bb. The purpose of our synchronous meetings is to briefly discuss the topic and to allow students to present their Current IS Event topics.

Current IS Event/Issues Sharing: In order to become more involved with events in the area of technology and information systems, you are to locate one current information technology issue dealing with the strategic use of technology and/or information systems (when possible focus or relate your discussion to topic of the week such as data warehousing; e-Business, outsourcing, strategy, security, etc.) and present it to the class using PowerPoint. You are to do a 10-12 minute presentation of your issue during a synchronous meeting. Feedback from past students has indicated that is a very valuable assignment in this course. The current issues are interesting plus this online exercise will help prepare you for future virtual presentations that most assuredly you will be making in the near future. Our sessions are archived so you can return to your presentation for some self-critiquing. Post your slides to the Discussion Board Forum for Presentations for the group to further discuss if they would like. (See the Grade Rubric for Presentations for further guidance. More instructions will follow during our first class.)

Discussion Questions (asynchronous participation): Another important element of participation in this online course is the class threaded discussion forums on Blackboard. There will be required weekly discussions around the assigned cases and readings for each weekly topic. We will engage in guided discussions about the topics surrounding the readings via Blackboard. Discussions will be prompted by questions/statements inviting you to approach the cases and readings from a specific perspective. You may also want to compare the situation in the case to your own industry or work environment plus when appropriate add links to sites to help better understand the case and the issues in the case (if you add links you must provide a brief summary of the site so we understand how it supports your posting. Posting a link without a brief explanation will not earn you any extra points.) The initial discussion forum questions serve as advance organizers to encourage critical thinking and informed participation. These are just to help get you started on your discussion. Each student posts their own initial thread. In addition to your original post, you should reply to at least two of your colleagues (two responses - average score.) The purpose of this part of the assignment is to raise pertinent issues, expand the discussion, and to stimulate critical thinking regarding your colleagues' issues. You will want to respectfully challenge your colleagues' assumptions and predictions. You should visit the Discussion board every two days to keep up with the Discussions. You must not post everything at once but rather across the entire week to promote discussion as one would in a F2F classroom. See the deliverable list for posting deadlines.

You are welcome to start your own topics in the Discussion Board area within the “Water Cooler “forum. You can post interesting sites that add value to some of our discussions. You can also post questions and concerns
about the course so I can answer it for everyone. The other forum you want to visit is Interesting Apps and Web sites. Here you will post apps and web sites that you find interesting and think other students would as well.

The Discussion Board takes the place of F2F in class discussions and is vital for a successful experience. This is a collaborative experience which adds value to the course. A grading rubric is provided in the Course Information Tab in Bb for the Discussion board activity and you will also see examples of exemplary postings. (Note: Work in the Discussion Board can ‘make or break’ an “A” grade in the course…so BE ATTENTIVE.)

**Reflection Blog Activity:** Reflection blogs will be submitted during the term for the purpose of discussing past weeks’ topics and experiences. You are to submit three to four paragraphs of what you believe were the key points you learned over that time and how it relates to you or your work environment. (These will be due by Sunday evenings---see Deliverable list for the exact due dates and Rubric Grading guide.)

Reflections should include, but not be limited to:

- How will the information from the past few weeks influence you?
- What’s your greatest “take away” from these past few weeks?
- What readings/activities were most/least beneficial?
- What unanswered questions remain?

**Group IT Presentation:** The presentation project is to be done in teams and will be during one of our final synchronous chat sessions at the end of the term. Teams will be randomly created and posted in the “Course Information” section of Bb and in the Teams section. This will be similar to your individual presentation but it will go into more depth on a business information technology topic such as: Business Intelligence, Future of Health Care and Electronic records, Security issues for an organization, a Supply chain model for a business, Entertainment industry and information technology, Outsourcing advantages/disadvantages, Social networking in Business, Online Gambling, RFID, Videoconferencing Benefits and Challenges, Mobile Technology, Cloud Computing, Social Networking, and so on. The presentation is to discuss how information technology influences and is used in business, not just a discussion of the technology, rather information technology in a business sector.

**Step One—Meet Your Team**

- Meet with your team. Please send me the list of members along with your contact person via email (crable@xavier.edu). (Contact person is the facilitator but is not responsible for doing the whole project. He/she will post the final set of slides and Reference page to the Discussion Board and I will contact this person when I need to contact your team.)

- Arrange virtual meetings in Wimba (text and voice capability), Skype, Google + or you can do this asynchronously as well. Do at least one virtual F2F meeting using the most recent version of Skype (you will need a video capable machine). You might want to set up your own Blog or Wiki. Make use of technology and in your final reflection assignment discuss your reaction to being part of a virtual team. Select your topic and send it to me for approval, divide up the responsibilities, and begin your research. Practice Rooms within Wimba will be available for meetings at any time.

- Be sure to send your topic to me for approval as soon as your group decides on one to “lock in” the topic for your team.
Step Two—Prepare a Detailed Outline

- A detailed outline of the research project is due from each group later in the term. You can send me a high level outline any time before the due date if you would like some guidance. Check the deliverable list for due dates.

Step Three—Class Presentation

- The class online presentation should be approximately 25-30 minutes long (plan carefully and do not run over your time since you will lose points if you go over 30 minutes…aim for 25.) Use PowerPoint to guide your presentation and all members should participate in the presentation. You can include polling and videos (if you do this, please send the presentation to me earlier so I can post it for your group and have everything ready by class time.) You can practice in the Practice Room within Wimba which is set up for that purpose. In this room you will always have Presenter Status. Have the leader of the team post your PowerPoint slides and a sheet with your references (7 to 9) to the Discussion Board area for presentations.

Exam

The final class week you will take a take home essay exam. More details will follow.

Grading:

Point totals will be distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Synchronous participation</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Event</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Forum Participation</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog Reflections</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Research Project and Presentation</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A     94 to 100  
A-    90 to 93  
B+    87 to 89  
B     84 to 86  
B-    80 to 83  
C+    77 to 79  
C     73 to 76  
C     70 to 72  
D     below 70

Note--Attendance at the synchronous sessions are expected. If you have a business or personal issue and will miss a meeting please inform me as soon as possible. All meetings will be archived and available for review at a later date and if you do need to miss a session you will need to write a summary of that session using the archive.

Academic Integrity:

Cheating (using or attempting to use unauthorized materials in an academic exercise), fabrication (falsifying or inventing information), facilitating academic dishonesty (helping or attempting to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty), and plagiarism (representing the words or ideas of another as your own and not
citing the source) will result in a grade of F for the course. If you have any doubt about whether you're plagiarizing, ASK. Students have been dismissed from Xavier for plagiarism. Be sure to cite all sources used in any work you turn in for credit.