MIS 201 – Fundamentals of Information Systems

General Information
Course Number: MIS 201
Program: Business & Technology
Course Coordinator: Tal Ben-Zvi
Terms Offered: Fall

Course Description
This course presents the technical and the managerial perspectives of information systems. Information technologies, including computing and telecommunications systems, are described. The organizational role of information systems is introduced.

Scope
This course provides an introduction to systems and development concepts, information technologies and application software. It explains how information is used in organizations and the effects IT has on the organization’s structure, processes, employees, customers, and suppliers. In addition, the course describes how IT enables improvement in quality, timeliness, and competitive advantage. Structure and functions of computers and telecommunications systems are also examined.

Major Topics
- Systems concepts, components and relationships
- Hardware
- System software (including application vs. system software and package software solutions)
- Networks and telecommunication systems
- Databases
- Managing IS Projects
- System development
- Cost/value and quality of information
- Characteristics of IS professionals and IS career paths
- Information systems and the organization
- Excel Lab
Learning Goals

- To introduce the technical and the managerial perspectives of information systems.
- To present hardware, software, and related information technology concepts.
- To provide concepts and skills for the specification and design or the re-engineering of organizationally related systems using information technology.
- To show how information technology can be used to design, facilitate, and communicate organizational goals and objectives.

Pedagogy

The course will employ lectures, lab work, class discussions, and individual and team work.

Required Text

ISBN-10: 0073052337

Assignments

Week-to-week Assignments
(Weighting: 20%)

Nearly every week you will be given an assignment which deals with particular aspects of the topics dealt with in class that week. The purpose of these assignments is to explore some key aspects taught in this class and to apply them in a “real” situation. Late assignments will be downgraded by 5 points per day.

Midterm: Emergent Information Technology
(Weighting: 20%)

The purpose of the midterm is to explore emergent information technology that is currently making headlines. Working in teams, you will be asked to present and lead a class discussion on the implications of current news articles related to an emergent information technology. This will require the composition of a presentation that consists of a few slides and leading a class discussion.
**Final Project**  
(Weighting: 20%)

The final project will be your opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned in the course. It will consist of a written report and a class presentation. Working in teams, each team will prepare and present a project report on a business case for leveraging an emerging technology or new type of information system applied to a certain company or an industry.

**Final Exam**  
(Weighting: 30%)

At the end of the semester your progress in Excel will be assessed through an exam.

**Complementary Evaluation of Learner Progress: Class Work**  
(Weighting: 10%)

Active participation in class is an important aspect of this course. You are expected to have done the readings and participate in class by expressing your understandings and viewpoints on the material. In class discussion, content of your discussion is most important. Silence in class will result in a low grade. Moreover, unannounced, short, in-class quizzes (~10 minutes) will be held during the course of the semester. The quizzes will evaluate your understanding of the material. Students not in class for the quizzes will not receive credit (there are no make-up quizzes).
**Grading**

Each deliverable will be typically graded on a scale from 0-100, with the following resolution:

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<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>95-100</td>
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<td>0-49</td>
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**Ethical Conduct**

Enrollment into the undergraduate class of Stevens signifies a student’s commitment to the Honor System. It is the responsibility of each student to become acquainted with and to uphold the ideals set forth in the Honor System Constitution. All students are reminded that, as a condition of being admitted to Stevens, they will uphold and adhere to the standards of the Stevens Honor System. Specific Student responsibilities include:

1. Maintaining honesty and fair play in all aspects of academic life at Stevens
2. Writing and signing the pledge, in full, on all submitted academic work
3. Reporting any suspected violations to an Honor Board member or to the Dean of Undergraduate Academics
4. Cooperating with the Honor Board during investigations and hearings
Consistent with the above statement, all homework exercises, tests and exams that are designated as individual assignments MUST contain the following signed statement before they can be accepted for grading:

I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination. I further pledge that I have not copied any material from a book, article, the Internet or any other source except where I have expressly cited the source.

Signature _________________________ Date: _____________

Please note that assignments in this class may be submitted to www.turnitin.com, a web-based anti-plagiarism system, for an evaluation of their originality.

**Course/Teacher Evaluation**

Continuous improvement can only occur with feedback based on comprehensive and appropriate surveys. Your feedback is an important contributor to decisions to modify course content/pedagogy which is why we strive for 100% class participation in the survey.

All course teacher evaluations are conducted on-line. You will receive an e-mail one week prior to the end of the course informing you that the survey site (https://www.stevens.edu/assess) is open along with instructions for accessing the site. Log in using your Campus Pipeline (email) 'CPIPE' username and password. Simply click on the course that you wish to evaluate and enter the information.

**All responses are strictly anonymous.** We especially encourage you to clarify your position on any of the questions and give explicit feedbacks on your overall evaluations in the section at the end of the formal survey which allows for written comments. We ask that you submit your survey **prior to the last class**.