MIS 306-1: Information Systems Analysis

Spring 2015

Administration
- Class: Tuesdays, 4:00-6:40pm, AH-3110
- Professor: Dr. Robert K. Plice
  - SSE-3139
  - 619.800.6857 voice/text
  - rplice@mail.sdsu.edu (Please put MIS 306 in subject line of email)
- Office hours:
  - Tuesdays, 7-8pm
  - Thursdays, 4-5pm
  - Other times by appointment (e-mail for appointment)
  - I will also usually be available to meet with you immediately after class
- Blackboard
  - This course is administered through Blackboard. Every student is responsible for checking the Blackboard site to obtain detailed assignments, announcements and updates to course requirements. Once something is posted on Blackboard, it is assumed that the student has read it. There might be no other announcement, and the professor will not necessarily use class time to call attention to items posted on Blackboard.

Course content
- Catalog description:
  - System development life cycle concept, with emphasis on analysis of requirements using structured methodology. Feasibility study, needs assessment, prototyping, application design alternatives.
- Student learning outcomes (SLOs)
  - After succeeding in this course, students will be able to:
    - work in a project-team setting
    - perform all aspects of the SDLC planning phase
    - perform all aspects of the SDLC analysis phase
    - explain the benefits and limitations of the steps and deliverables used in information systems projects
    - analyze the competitive advantage that IS projects can bring to an organization
- Textbook
- Other readings
  - Additional readings may be assigned during the course of the semester. These will normally be accessible online or through the library reserve system.
Tentative class schedule

- Important: Students are responsible for checking the ASSIGNMENTS tab on Blackboard to get updates to this schedule and detailed preparation requirements for each class session.

- **January 27**
  - Course overview
  - Data, information, knowledge

- **February 3**
  - Value disciplines, coordination costs, organizational structure
  - Intro to SAD, planning phase
  - Reading:
    - Chapter 1
    - Assigned paper from Blackboard

- **February 10, 17**
  - Project initiation and feasibility analysis
  - Reading:
    - Chapter 2

- **February 24, March 3**
  - Project management

- **March 10**
  - MIDTERM EXAM

- **March 17, 24**
  - Analysis phase, requirements determination
  - Reading:
    - Chapter 3

- **March 24, April 7**
  - Use-case analysis and workshop
  - Reading: Chapter 4

- **April 14, 21**
  - Process modeling and workshop

- **April 28, May 5**
  - CUMULATIVE PROJECT REVIEW PRESENTATIONS

- **May 12**
  - FINAL EXAM 4:00pm

Semester project

- Description
  - The focus of the course is on developing skills needed to perform the planning and analysis phases of a simulated information-system development project. Each member of the class will be assigned to a group, and the semester project will be performed as a group activity. There will be a number of specific deliverable items that will be created by each group and presented to the rest of the class. The group project will consist of a feasibility analysis, project workplan, use-case model, and process model for a simulated information-system project.
Expectations
  - All members of the class are expected to participate in the group project. This will entail a significant amount of coordination and meetings outside of class. Students should plan on allocating time in their weekly schedule for this purpose.

Deliverables
  - Each group will collect its deliverable products into an electronic notebook. Because of the iterative nature of SAD, it will be necessary to continually revise and update the various items in the notebook as the project proceeds through its several steps and reviews. The electronic notebooks will be turned in for grading at the end of the semester.
  - Each group will present portions of its work when called upon throughout the semester. Random selection will be used to decide which groups present during various class meetings.
  - Each group will present a formal summary of its work at the end of the semester, in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.

Prerequisite
  - To perform successfully on the semester project, you must be familiar with Microsoft Excel. If you are not comfortable with your ability to use Excel, you should seek remedial assistance and, possibly, take the course later when you are better prepared. There are free Microsoft self-paced tutorials available online at http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/training/default.aspx.

Individual assignments and participation
  - Requirement
    - Individual class participation and completion of assignments is required.
  - Individual assignments
    - Detailed reading assignments will be posted on Blackboard in advance of each class meeting. Some number of graded individual homework assignments may be given during the course of the semester. Students are expected to do the reading, ask questions during class, and volunteer to discuss their work.
  - Photo
    - To get full credit for participation, students must provide a photograph of themselves. The sooner the student’s photo is provided, the easier it will be for the professor to learn the name and keep track of participation. Delay in getting your photograph submitted may adversely affect your participation grade.
    - Submit your photo by mailing it as an email attachment to rplce@mail.sdsu.edu. Put “MIS 306 Photo” in the subject line of the email.
  - Attendance
    - Attendance will be taken during some, but not all, class meetings. There is no need to contact the professor to give reasons for an absence unless the circumstances fall into a category covered by university policy (see Policies topic below).
  - Punctuality
    - Please do not habitually come to class late or leave early. Be considerate of the other students in the class.
Exams

- **General**
  - Two exams will be given. Exams are naturally cumulative, but the final will emphasize material from the second half of the course.

- **Dates**
  - Midterm: March 10
  - Final: May 12
  - These dates are fixed, regardless of any other changes to the course schedule. There will be no special accommodations or makeup exams unless the circumstances are covered by university policy (see Policies topic below). Students will receive a score of zero for any missed exam not excused for policy reasons. If you know that you will be absent on one of these dates, you should drop the course.

- **Format**
  - Most of each exam will be short-answer, fill-in-the-blank or analytical questions. There may be a few longer problems that require drawing diagrams or creating tables similar to those done for the semester project.

Evaluation

- **Project evaluation**
  - Each student will receive an individual grade representing work on the semester project. The individual grade will be determined by:
    - overall quality of the deliverable notebook
    - quality and clarity of presentations
    - peer-review results

- **Weighting**
  - Midterm: 25%
  - Final: 35%
  - Group semester project: 30%
  - Individual assignments (if any) and class participation: 10%

- **Grades**
  - The final grade is determined by the percentage of available points that has been earned:
    - 90% or better: A-, A
    - 80% or better: B-, B, B+
    - 70% or better: C-, C, C+
    - 60% or better: D-, D, D+
    - less than 60%: F
  - A decision to use a curve to raise the average grade may occur, depending on the class average. It is not anticipated that the use of a curve will lower anyone’s grade.

- **Status**
  - Students will be able to track their current point percentage on Blackboard throughout the course as points are earned. Participation points and the group-project grade will not be assigned until after the final class session.
Policies

 Qualifications
  ▪ You must be an approved upper-division business major, business minor or another major approved by the College of Business Administration. No work will be accepted from students who do not meet the qualifications as of the time the deficiency is discovered. Students who are registered for the course but are not qualified risk being administratively dropped or receiving an F for the course if the deficiency is discovered after the drop deadline. The professor may grant exceptions in rare cases.

 Excused absences
  ▪ University policy defines circumstances under which examinations may be rescheduled due to absence. Students who fall into these categories have a responsibility to notify the professor of the circumstances and request accommodation. The notification must be given before the end of the second week of classes for the semester. Major documented illnesses or death in the family may also result in accommodation if the professor is notified in a timely fashion. Any event that is—or should be—foreseeable at the start of the semester will not be an excused absence unless specifically covered by University policy.

 Cheating
  ▪ Cheating is defined as attempting to take credit for misrepresented work. This includes giving or receiving help on any graded work in this course without permission from the professor, cheating during exams (including obtaining advance knowledge of test questions), submitting alterations to graded work for regrading, and plagiarism (i.e., taking credit for someone else’s words as if they were your own). Any student caught cheating will receive an F for the course, will be reported to Judicial Procedures, and will be recommended for expulsion from the College of Business.

 Grade changes
  ▪ Students may request a regrading of an assignment or exam if they believe the original grade was unjust. However, the regrading will be “zero based.” That is, the student risks receiving a lower rather than a higher grade as a result of the review.
  ▪ Final grades are assigned based on a student’s performance in this course, not on the basis of what grade the student needs in order to maintain a GPA. No changes to final course grades will be entered unless the original grade was given by mistake.

Changes

 This syllabus is preliminary, and may be changed as needed at the discretion of the professor. Blackboard is the designated communications channel for notifying students of any changes or updates to course content or requirements.