

# **MIS 501 Information Management**

## **Course Goals**

This course will give students, “new” to the Information Technology (IT) field, the opportunity to develop their knowledge to the level where they can be competitive in the Master of Science in Information Systems (MSIS) Program. Students taking MIS 501 have not had extensive coursework in IS and/or not had three years of IT experience. Its topics introduce each of the courses that students will be taking as part of their MSIS. In other words, each of these areas will be greatly expanded in the different courses that students take. This course includes learning about:

1. Computer Hardware
2. Computer Software
3. Data Storage and Management
4. Computer Networks and the World Wide Web
5. Management Considerations relevant to the use of IT within and between organizations

The last item may be the most important and is emphasized throughout the MSIS Program. The introduction and extensive use of IT within an organization has profound effects on its structure, processes, employees, customers, and suppliers (and all other people and institutions with which it has relationships). It can determine which organizations will survive, prosper, and how the industry will change. The last category above will examine some of these topics.

## **Required Reading**

Information Systems: The Foundation of E-Business, Steven Alter, Prentice Hall, Fourth Edition, 2002, ISBN: 0-13-061773-3

## **Course Description**

MIS501, Information Management, is a non-credit, web-based introductory course for the MSIS Program. It is a ramp course intended for students without extensive background in information technology (IT). These are often students from non-IT divisions of an organization who need to interact with IT personnel, or students who wish to change careers (move to an IT career).

Students will log on to WebCT remotely and participate in Bulletin Board discussions and electronic consultation with the professor, in addition to reading the textbook material and responding to the assignments. The course will be self-paced but with time devoted to the assignments, so that all students participate somewhat at the same time.

This course is required for all students entering the MS/IS Program without IT experience. Its credits and grade do not count toward those required for the degree. At times students will be permitted to take this course in place of MGT771.

Students required to take this course typically do not have programming experience. This important skill is necessary for a successful career in IT. Students can elect to take a Computer Science class (e.g., Java Programming) or can take a programming class at their company location or via a vendor.

**The following describes your class assignments:**

**3 Technology Papers (60% of grade, 20% each):**

One paper on each of three topics: HARDWARE SYSTEMS (e.g., server, mainframe), DATA (e.g., database or data warehouse used by the business), and NETWORKS (3 separate papers). The three papers should follow the outline below. Each paper should be submitted after completing the respective module (Hardware & Systems Software, Data, and Networks). The content of your paper should be supported by specific references to the text and class notes.

Within each topic, choose a technology that your organization is using or considering implementing, and is a technology that you are interested in and want to know more about. If you are not employed, pick a technology that you are interested in learning more about. Do the research and submit a paper after completing the respective module. The paper will be 5+ pages of content in the following format using the respective sub headings covering the respective information:

Cover sheet with: Your Name, Social Security Number, Phone number, Email, Company and Organization and Title

1. Overview and objectives of the technology (include a brief description of the technical characteristics. For example, in the H/W & N/W papers provide the technical characteristics such as capacity and environment considerations; For the Data paper, describe what types of structure it supports).
2. Who makes the technology (vendor and competitors; provide a brief description of the vendor)?
3. What is needed to make the technology run (For your organization and others?)
  - Hardware?
  - Software?
  - Network?
  - Information?
5. What type of maintenance is required/supported?
6. Key Stakeholders (who are the stakeholders involved with this technology?)
7. Business processes (what are the business processes that are enabled/facilitated/involved with this technology?)

8. Value/Benefits (Value to the business, and why was this vendor selected)

9. Opportunities for improvement

- Business
- Technical

**One Application Paper (40% of grade):**

Choose an application that plays or will play a major role in your organization (if you are not employed pick an application area that you are interested in) and submit a paper about it in the following format:

Cover sheet with your name and title (similar to the technology papers)

1. Brief description of

- Industry and Organization
- Application Overview
- Objectives of Application/System (efficiency, effectiveness, transformation at individual, function, organizational levels)

2. Level of System (e.g., EIS, TPS, Enterprise System from Chapter 5)

3. System's/Application's purpose, boundary, environment, inputs, outputs

4. Key Stakeholders & Roles (see Ch 2) and Business processes (see Ch 1 & 2)

5. Infrastructure & Technology (not for your entire organization, but for this application/system ONLY)

- Hardware
- Software
- Network (would it make sense to run locally, LAN, WAN?)
- Information

6. Value/Benefits

7. Opportunities for improvement

- Business
- Technical

If you are not sure about the respective assignment communicate/document your ideas to your instructor early via email for comments and approval. Your instructor will help you formulate your approach.

**One Distance Learning Paper (extra credit):**

Write a 4 page paper, using a format of your choice, which covers two areas:

1. What you liked most about taking a distance learning class
2. What you liked least about taking a distance learning class. Include specific recommendations for improving the course.

Do not forget to include a cover sheet with your name and title.

**MIS 501 COURSE GRADING**

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 3 Technology Papers (20% each) | 60% |
| Application Paper              | 40% |