

Strategic Applications of IT

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1 Course Description

A capstone seminar which will vary every term in accordance with the current issues of the time. Students are to work with the instructor as they explore today's issues and trends in preparation of a thesis or project. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, research and evaluation of current issues. A comprehensive computer exam is included in this course. Each student will be required to prepare a paper outlining ethical standards based on the student's life experiences. Prerequisites: IS302, or permission of the instructor. 3 lecture hours)

2 Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to discuss the following issues at a management level:

- How do executives use IT to create business advantages and manage risk?
- How are organizations managing to apply IT successfully to reach their strategic goals?
- How does the explosive rise in interconnectivity affect organizational interrelations?
- How do IT managers successfully make the case for integrating IT into upper-management thinking and planning?
- How is the pace of technological change in networking infrastructure affecting business decisions?
- What is the value of information assurance in strategic planning?
- How are IT managers coping with heterogeneous computing environments?
- What are the key issues IT managers face in supporting their user communities?
- How are IT shops coping with outsourcing?
- What are the factors that differentiate successful IT project management from catastrophes?

3 Course Schedule & Location

- Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 16:00:03 to 16:49:57 in Dewey 209 and using NUoodle.

4 Text: Links for assigned readings and videos are provided on the NUoodle teaching platform

5 Methods of Assessment

All assignments and exams are submitted using NUoodle. Deadlines for each assignment are posted in NUoodle and on the class syllabus.

*Responding punctually to professional responsibilities is part of the maturation of students. To encourage promptness, late submissions for any of the essay exams and assignments will result in **zero grades**.*

5.1 Term Project: 50% of final grade

Students will write a 5,000 ± 1,000 word research paper on a suitable topic to be selected in conjunction with the instructor.

- Post your topic suggestion in the public discussion group on NUoodle. Instructor approval helps to avoid the problem of discovering that you have picked a topic worthy of a textbook and also prevents duplicate topics.
- Don't hesitate to work with your instructor to review draft versions before you prepare your final version.
- Strict deadlines are listed in the syllabus for submission of the topic, preliminary references, one-page outline with references, first draft, and final draft.
- Failure to comply with these deadlines will result in a 1% penalty per day late imposed on the *final grade* for the term project; the instructor will not evaluate submissions of the final project after the final deadline, resulting in a guaranteed F grade in the course.
- Submit your files via NUoodle no later than the deadlines listed there; use DOCX, DOC, RTF, or ODT but not PDF or TXT files for your submission.
- Read the detailed explanation of requirements for the project in the appropriate document supplied via NUoodle.

5.2 Mid-term Memo Question Exam: 20% of final grade

At mid-term, students will complete an open-book take-home assignment with five management-level 500 ± 100 word memoranda responding to realistic questions raised by managers querying a chief information officer (CIO) about specific IT issues discussed in Weeks 1 through 5 of the course.

5.3 Final Memo Question Exam: 25% of final grade

At the end of the course, students will complete an open-book take-home assignment with five management-level 500 ± 100 word memoranda responding to realistic questions raised by managers querying a chief information officer (CIO) about IT issues Exam coverage is Weeks 6 through 13 of the course.

5.4 Term-Paper Presentation: 5% of final grade

Students will present their term-paper topic and lead a class discussion of their research (with or without slides). A professional-quality presentation normally receives the full 5% grade. An incompetent mess clearly without preparation results in a zero grade for the presentation.

5.5 Extra Work for Extra Points:

Students may submit extra work for extra points on their final grade with permission of the instructor. For example, the instructor will agree to accept suitable short essays such as summaries of interesting incidents, articles or books relevant to the course materials.

- The rate granted for extra work is 1 point added to the *final grade* for 500 words of professional-grade writing. Thus a 1,000 word essay could improve the final grade by 2 points.
- Particularly good articles may be considered for publication in collaboration with the student author.
- Contributions to the online discussions can generate 0.1 pt on the final score per *good* contribution with references or an intelligent response to a posted message. (MAX 10 pts)
- Leading a discussion in class can earn 1 point added to the final grade. Student lecturers must rehearse their proposed discussion plan with the instructor for approval and possible improvement.

6 Cheating and Plagiarism

- Students are graded on an individual basis and must therefore complete their own work.
- Students are reminded of the University's Policy against cheating and plagiarism (Chapter 2, Section V of the *Student Rules*):
< <http://www.norwich.edu/about/policy/StudentRulesRegs.pdf> >.
- Plagiarism consists of using someone else's text or ideas without using quotation marks to indicate exact duplication of the original and/or failing to indicate the source of reference materials and quotations.
- If in doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism, ask the instructor for a review of your work before submitting an assignment.
- All instances of cheating and of plagiarism must be reported to the *Academic Integrity Committee* by the instructor or by students who have observed the dishonesty.
- Penalties include expulsion from the University.
- **Ignorance of the University's Rules is not a valid defense against accusations of academic dishonesty.**

7 Additional Notes

- There will be no *grading on a curve*. There are no predetermined numbers of final letter grades. Students do not compete with each other for grades; if everyone gets A, great. If everyone fails, tough. You are not competing with your peers – be helpful to each other.
- Students are encouraged to study together but may not collaborate during quizzes or exams. Students are individually responsible for all assigned essays and online discussion material, unless otherwise noted.
- Attendance Policy – no more than three unexcused absences.
 - University regulations stipulate that “Unless stated otherwise, the maximum number of permitted absences is the number of times the course meets per week. When the student has reached the maximum number of permitted absences, the faculty member will warn the student of impending dismissal from class with a grade of ‘F.’ This warning letter will include the course number and section and date(s) of absence(s). The letter will state that any future unexcused absences may result in recommendation to the Vice President of Academic Affairs through the course School Dean that the student be dismissed from the class with a grade of ‘F.’ A copy of the warning letter will go to the student's academic advisor and to the Commandant and Vice President of Student Affairs.” (See pp 69-70 of the PDF version of the *Academic Regulations* available online at < <http://catalog.norwich.edu/residentialprogramscatalog/academicregulations/> >.)
 - Therefore, students may miss exactly three sessions of this course without explanation; the fourth and subsequent unexcused absences will be reported as stipulated in the academic regulations and may lead to dismissal from the course with an F grade.
 - If you plan to be absent, discuss the absence with the instructor in advance.

8 About your Instructor: M. E. Kabay, PhD, CISSP-ISSMP

You've already read all this stuff before. If you are affected by some odd disease that distorts your focus in life, you can learn more than any reasonable person could possibly want to know about your instructor by visiting < <http://www.mekabay.com/cv> >.

