IST611 Information Systems - Syllabus Fall 2014 / Dr. Guy J. Cortesi Rev 1.2

IST611 Information Systems - Syllabus Fall 2014

Lecturer: Dr. Guy J. Cortesi guy.cortesi@gmail.com Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description: This course provides a detailed survey of information systems. It will provide an introduction to information systems and dominant supportive technologies. It presents conceptual, theoretical, historical, social, economic, and ethical issues surrounding the development, deployment and management of information systems technologies. Topics covered include: information systems architectures, database management systems, transaction processing, e-commerce, telecommunications, software and hardware standards, Internet/Web-based systems, data warehousing, data mining, agent-based systems, and social impacts of information systems.

Course Objectives:
1. Understand fundamental terms and concepts of information systems and associated technology.
2. Learn basic skills needed to identify and evaluate information systems and technology, assess user needs, propose solutions, and evaluate proposals for implementation.
3. Communicate effectively about information technology with salespeople, technical specialists, users, colleagues, and administrators.

Textbooks

The textbooks are required and will be used in class when there are assigned readings. They are available at the University Bookstore in the Campus Center or online.

Course Website
Please consult Blackboard for the latest information regarding this course. It will be used for grades, file storage, presentations, etc. However, this is not an online course and all course materials will not necessarily be available in Blackboard.

Exams and Projects
There will be quiz, a mid-term examination, and a final project plus several assignments and h/w’s.

Grading
Blackboard will be used for students to submit coursework and to post course grades. For the course, there is both homework and assignments. Homework is normally assigned each week and is due the next week. There are four Assignments, with due dates as noted. H/W and Assignments should be submitted in Blackboard. Each should include your name, student number, H/W or Assignment #.

Homework: 10 points (total) All H/W’s are marked on a scale of 1-10 and are averaged together to total one grade of 10 points.
Quiz: (10 points) - refer to Stair chapter "test yourself" problems and review Friedman text/class discussions.
Assignment 1: 10 points
Assignment 2: 10 points
Midterm Exam: 20 points - refer to Stair chapter "Test Yourself" problems, and "Review Questions" and "Discussion Questions" and review Friedman text/class discussions.
Assignment 3: 10 points
Assignment 4: 10 points
Final Project: 15 points
Participation (5): discussion (0-2), preparation for class (0-2), attendance ** (1)
** See also Class Attendance/Lateness
Total possible points = 100

Grading Scale
A: 100-95 points A-: 94-90 points
B+: 89-87 points B: 84-86 points B-: 80-83 points
C+: 79-76 points C: 75-70 points
D: 69-60 points
F: 59 points and below

Final grades are computed based on the above formulas and are NOT negotiable. Per department policy, “…students may not submit additional work or be re-examined for the purpose of improving their grades once the course has been completed and final grades assigned.”

Participation
Each student is expected to attend and participate in every class. Positive participation means speaking so everyone can hear; asking appropriate questions; replying to questions, contributing ideas and participating in discussion without dominating it; and helping others. Positive participation creates a supportive learning environment in which other students feel comfortable asking questions and everyone contributes to the discussion. Positive participation requires that students come prepared for class including having done the readings. This means distilling the terminology and major concepts of assigned readings; having points of personal interest in mind for discussion; having questions in mind for ideas that are unclear; knowing what the day’s topics will be and what assignments are due; and bringing appropriate texts, materials, and tools for the day’s class.

Written and Verbal Expression
Being able to communicate effectively with all sorts of people is necessary for sustained success in managing information systems. Students are expected to use proper spelling and grammar and to adapt their speaking and writing to their audience. Those who habitually use words, phrases, abbreviations or acronyms that may be unfamiliar to the audience without proactively explaining them in an understandable way, will have points deducted in written assignments and in class participation as applicable.

Class Attendance/Lateness
Classes are scheduled to meet Wednesday and begin at 7:15 PM and end at 10:05 PM in Husted 004. There will be a 15-20 minute break during each class. Students are expected to attend every scheduled class. Students are responsible for all assignments, handouts, and work done in classes that are missed.

Academic Honesty
Students are expected to understand and abide by the “Standards of Academy Integrity” in the Graduate Bulletin at: http://www.albany.edu/grad/requirements_general_admissions.html#standards_integrity
**Course Outline and Readings**

The schedule of classes as well as the other information in this syllabus is subject to change. Details and specifics on homework and assignments are posted in Blackboard. The latest, authoritative version is the current one posted this website.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Class#</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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| 27-Aug-14 (1) | Introductions  
Review syllabus, PC elements, Storage, I/O, selecting technology  
Flat World Overview | Stair ch. 1, 2  
Friedman, ch. 1, 2 up to page 126  
(Due – 9/3) |
| 3-Sept-14 (2) | Finish PC Review  
Information systems; peripherals - scanners / printers, other.  
Decision-Making; How the World Became Flat  
The Flatteners  
H/W 1 Due | Stair ch. 3, 6  
Friedman, cont. ch. 2 pgs 126-200  
(Due – 9/10) |
| 10-Sept-14 (3) | Software, Digital Media, IT Research  
How the World Became Flat - The Flatteners (cont).  
H/W 2 Due  
Assignment 1 Due | Stair 5  
Friedman, ch. 3,4  
(Due – 9/17) |
| 17-Sept-14 (4) | Networking & telecomm  
How the World Became Flat - Triple Convergence  
See An Educators guide to networking for additional info on networking  
(http://fcit.usf.edu/network/) and presentation on the Triple Convergence.  
H/W 3 Due | Stair ch. 4  
Friedman, ch. 5  
(Due – 10/1) |
| 24-Sept-14 (5) | No Class | |
| 1-Oct-14 (6) | QUIZ 1 - weeks 1-3  
The Internet - See An Educators guide to the Internet (http://fcit.usf.edu/internet/)  
America and the Flat World  
H/W 4 Due  
Assignment 2 Due | Stair ch. 11  
Friedman, ch. 6  
(Due – 10/8) |
| 8-Oct-14 (7) | Information Security  
America and the Flat World – The Untouchables  
H/W 5 Due | Friedman, ch. 7  
(Due – 10/15) |
| 15-Oct-14 (8) | MIDTERM - weeks 1-6 (First part of class - 7:15 to 8:15)  
America and the Flat World – The Right Stuff | Stair ch. 7, 8  
Friedman, ch. 8  
(Due – 10/22) |
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| 22-Oct-14 (9) | Midterm discussion  
Database Systems, e-commerce ([sample database](#)),  
America and the Flat World – The Quiet Crisis. Assignment 4 and Final Project Discussions. Stair Chapter 7, 8  
**Assignment 3 Due – Class Presentations**  | Stair ch. 9  
Friedman, ch. 9  
(Due – 10/29) |
| 29-Oct-14 (10) | More Assignment 4 and Final Project Discussions – Q&A. Database & e-Commerce wrap-up. Stair Chapter 9 - DSS/GDSS ([Mrs Fields Cookies](#), AI [Eliza](#) and other examples), America and the Flat World - "This Is Not A Test ".  
**Assignment 3 Class Presentations (Cont)**  | Stair ch. 10  
Friedman, ch. 10  
(Due – 11/5) |
| 5-Nov-14 (11) | Stair Chapter 10 – Systems Development / Project Planning, Use Case Diagrams;  
Feasibility Analysis, Friedman, ch. 10.  
**H/W 6 Due**  
**Final Project Plans Due**  | Stair ch. 11  
Friedman, ch. 11  
(Due – 11/12) |
| 12-Nov-14 (12) | Stair Chapter 11, Companies and the Flat World ; Smart Technology Overview for Final Project;  
IT Management ([Altiris](#), [SMS](#), [WISE](#)),  
IT Administration ([Tech Plans](#), considerations - cabling, location of wiring closets, h/w & software, staffing, funding); Instructor to demo using MS Access for a database system that tracks a computers model number, serial number, MAC address, and RAM amount.  
**Assignment 4 Due**  | Read Stair ch. 12  
Friedman, ch. 12,13,14,15  
(Due - 11/19) |
| 19-Nov-14 (13) | Societal issues, ethics, laws; Stair ch. 12 ;  
Friedman, ch. 12,13,14,15  
Geopolitics and the Flat World, Special Topics  | Complete final project  
(Due – 12/3) |
| 26-Nov-14 | No Class – School Holiday – Thanksgiving  |  |
| 3-Dec-14 (15) | Going forward with IT; Conclusion & Wrap-up  
**Final Project Due**  
**Last Class**  | Final Project  
(Due – 12/3) |

Updated 8/26/14 gjc No class on 9/24