Syllabus for IIST 636 Systems Analysis in the Information Environment

Class Information

Class Number 3791
Term Spring 2013
Day/Time Tuesday 7:15 PM – 10:05 PM
Classroom HS 004; Downtown Campus

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor Ira Goldstein
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Voice 518.595.9472
Office Hours Draper 114B, Tuesdays 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM, or by appointment

Course Description

This course systematically describes the entire life cycle needed to create an information system, including aspects such as system architecture, requirements analysis, interface design, output design, and project management issues. This class focuses on both theory and methods of systems analysis as applied to information systems and services. It is intended to give students a solid foundation in information systems design and analysis using an object-oriented approach. This approach is widely accepted in the information industry and academic environments. The text integrates case studies to present and apply the concepts of the analysis of information systems most commonly used in business applications.

Outside of class, I am an IT manager. I will treat you and your projects as if this were occurring as formal projects in my office. Therefore, I expect a collegial environment where everyone contributes to the success of their team’s project.

Research Notice

As part of an on-going effort to improve the design and implementation of this course, included in the weekly feedback form, you will be asked to provide reflections that may address questions related to the design of the course. You will also be asked to participate in discussions on similar topics. Your responses to these inquiries will "not" have a negative impact on your final grade. Your responses will be used to improve the design of the courses, and may be used as the basis of future journal articles and other publications. Neither your name nor any other identifiable information about you will be included in any such publications. Only I, will have access to your responses. You may choose at any time to have your responses excluded from my research. Such a request will "not" have a negative impact on your grade.
Learning Goals

Students who successfully complete IIST 636 will have gained the following:

- Have a theoretical and conceptual understanding of systems analysis and design methods;
- Identify and apply major alternative methodologies used in developing information systems;
- Analyze and track issues that arise during systems analysis processes and develop an appropriate strategy to solve them and provide the required information service;
- Prepare and interpret a variety of system description documents, including physical and logical data flow diagrams, entity-relationship diagrams.

Becoming a Participant in this Learning Community

Your participation is the learning experience. This is not a passive experience. You are being invited to design, shape, and pursue a learning experience that meets your needs and benefits your classmates and me. To that end, there are some things that would quickly erode our community and so must be avoided. These will be sufficient reason for you to fail the course immediately.

- Missing more than 2 classes without **prior** permission from me or the dean of graduate studies
- Lateness without **prior** permission from me
- Abusiveness toward instructors, classmates, or our learning partners
- Non-class related use of mobile phones, instant messenger, email, or other non-class related resources on the computers

Reading Material

Required Textbook:

Title & Edition: Systems Analysis and Design, 8/e
Authors: Kendall & Kendall
ISBN-10: 013608916X

Case Study: http://www.pearsonhighered.com/hypercase/

Other supportive material will be made available during the semester.

Attendance & Participation

Class attendance is mandatory. Missing more than 2 classes without **prior** permission from me or the dean of graduate studies will be grounds for failure.
Promptness is important. Our in-class time is very limited and your engagement with the class is critical to your success. Be on time, be in the room, and be ready to teach and learn.

However, mere attendance is not sufficient. Your participation is not only required, it is necessary in order for the course to succeed. As such, your participation—both during class and with your project teams—will count heavily toward your final grade. If you’re familiar with tools we’re using already, take the opportunity to help your classmates learn them, too. We are a learning community—if you know something, and can respectfully help others learn it, do so. If you need or want suggestions on how to teach, talk with me.

**Special Needs Accommodation**

Students who have special needs due to learning or other disabilities will be accommodated, and should inform me at the first class meeting. Students who request accommodation will be asked to provide appropriate documentation, which may be obtained through the student services office.

**Assessment**

The areas I consider when assigning final grades, beginning with the most important, include:

- Collaboration with your project team (participation, supportiveness, and cohesiveness)
- Engagement with me and with your classmates (preparation, questioning, risk taking, and teaching)
- Demonstrated development skills (organization, problem solving, analysis and design skills)
- Final presentations (professionalism, coherence, and completeness)

Homework assignments are given in the form of case studies, and interactive assignments on the course “hypercase” website. Case studies will include essay-type questions, questions designed to show understanding of specific concepts that may involve diagrams, or other hands-on exercises to familiarize students with existing tools used to analyze and design information systems. Each student must complete each assignment independently and hand-in the work on time.

All reading assignments (i.e., the noted chapters and any additional material) must be completed prior to the week’s planned lectures.

**Feedback forms** are due each week by 6pm on Wednesday.

You must submit all assignments in order to pass this course. Late submissions will be reduced by one full letter grade for each day late.
There will be two in-class open book exams. The first will cover the material from the first part of the semester; the second will cover the material from the second part of the semester.

The final course project will be a group project demonstrating the use of the principals introduced in this course. Each group must choose one case, or any real or fictitious organization that uses information systems, and be able to demonstrate the use of several tools and applications introduced in this course. Presentation of the completed project, including project artifacts, will be made to the class by the entire group.

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<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your contribution to and participation in the final presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in class discussions</td>
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**The University's Responsible Computing Policy**

You are responsible for and accountable to the University's "Responsible Computing Policy", published at http://www.albany.edu/its/policies_responsible_use_of_IT.htm. Any violation of this policy will be grounds for failure.

**Plagiarism & Academic Honesty**

You are responsible for understanding what plagiarism is and for avoiding it. Guidelines can be found at http://library.albany.edu/usered/plagiarism/. In short, work you turn in must be your own and must respect others' intellectual property rights.

You are responsible for and accountable to the University's "Standards for Academic Integrity" policy, published http://www.albany.edu/reading/academic_integrity.php. Any violation of this policy will be grounds for failure and referral to the Dean for Graduate Studies.

**Reasonable Accommodations**

If any of the policies for this course conflict with your established learning needs because of physical, cognitive, or psychological concerns, I will work with you and appropriate offices on campus to adjust course requirements as needed to make this a successful learning experience for you.
Your Comments & Suggestions
Both I and my courses are works in progress. I welcome your thoughtful comments and suggestions for how the course can be improved. Constructive, respectfully presented suggestions will "not" negatively influence your final grade.

Change Policy
Changes to course expectations and schedules are inevitable. Where and whenever possible, such changes will be made to your benefit.