Course Syllabus
MIS 301: Intro to Business Information Systems – Spring 2013

Section 007 – Class meets Thursday, 7:20-10:00 PM, Robinson Hall, Room B228
Instructor Name: Greg Crabtree
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Cell Phone: (703) 447-4737
Office Hours: Enterprise Hall, Room 153 (Thursday 6:00–7:00 PM), and by Appointment
E-mail: gcrabtre@gmu.edu

Class web page:
The URL for this section of MIS301 is available on Blackboard.
(http://mymasonportal.gmu.edu)

Textbook:
Customized version of Business Driven Technology, 5th Edition, by Paige Baltzan. The text can be acquired one of two ways. A hardcopy bound edition can be obtained at the University Bookstore (ISBN 9781121556638). A digital copy can be obtained via the publisher at https://create.mcgraw-hill.com/shop/ (ISBN: 9781121611832). Since these are customized texts, you won’t be able to find them at Amazon or other online retailers.

Software:
(PC versions of) Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access will both be used in this class. If you don’t already own or have access to this software, they are available in the computer labs throughout campus (classtech.gmu.edu/computerlabs.cfm). Further, Microsoft Access 2010 is available for download free of charge to registered School of Management (SOM) students through the Microsoft Developer Network (MSDN) agreement. (See next paragraph for additional information.) [Note that this download does not work and is not available for Apple Macs. Also note that there can be (generally minor) compatibility issues with the PC and the Mac versions of the software. It is your responsibility to make sure your assignments meet the required PC standards.] During the first week of the semester you should receive an e-mail from the SOM providing you with instructions for downloading the Microsoft Access software. (Microsoft Excel is available for purchase in the Johnson Center computer store.) You will also likely need to use Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. George Mason and the School of Management currently use Microsoft Office 2007; if you are new to MS Office 2007, you can access online tutorials through the website transition.gmu.edu (click Tutorials on the left-hand menu). Additional IT-related training is available free to George Mason University students at ITTraining.gmu.edu.
Learning goals

The School of Management has developed the following undergraduate program learning goals to be addressed in its curriculum.

1. **Our students will be competent in their discipline.**
2. **Our students will be aware of the uses of technology in business.**
3. Our students will be effective communicators.
4. Our students will have an interdisciplinary perspective.
5. Our students will be knowledgeable about global business and trade.
6. Our students will recognize the importance of ethical decisions.
7. Our students will be knowledgeable about the legal environment of business.
8. Our students will be knowledgeable about team dynamics and the characteristics of effective teams.
9. Our students will understand the value of diversity and the importance of managing diversity in the context of business.
10. Our students will be critical thinkers.

Course Learning Goals:
- Apply knowledge of information technology, operations, and business functions, to assess, design and improve business processes.
- Develop data organization, storage, and processing solutions to support organizational needs for information management, including skill development in the area of business intelligence.
- Be proficient using Excel and be proficient using Access to create tables, relationships, and queries.

Roles and Responsibilities:
My teaching philosophy is founded on my experience that "People rise to the level that is expected of them." To that end, this course will be taught with the following guidelines for you and me. All students must understand instructors don't "give" grades, students earn them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Provide clear and complete course rules.</td>
<td>1. Come on time and be prepared for each class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Provide clear and relevant class instruction, consistent with course objectives.</td>
<td>2. Pay attention in class and be engaged - ask questions, don't accept everything at face value. Learn from your interaction with each other as much as you learn from me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Grade using fair criteria consistent with the syllabus, section policies, University guidelines, and the grading of other students.</td>
<td>3. Prepare and submit quality work in accordance with instructions, consistent with course objectives, and by due dates.</td>
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</table>

Course requirements and grading:
- Students must be officially registered in this section to receive a grade. It is the sole responsibility of the student to verify their own registration status. (I will not verify your registration.) Specifically, you will not receive a grade if your name does not appear on
the official class list. (Don’t wait until the end of the semester to be surprised.) Registration problems should be directed to either the SOM Office of Student Services or the Registrar’s Office.

- Grading for the course will be based on total points earned by the end of the course. Points will be derived from three exams, homework and class participation. Final course letter grade assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>&gt;=97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>91 – 96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89 – 90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>81 – 86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79 – 80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>71 – 76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>69 – 70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Three Exams = 36%
Homework/Class Participation/Blackboard = 64%
Total = 100%

Learning Tools of the Course:

Primary learning tools of the course include the following:

- **Lectures** - My teaching philosophy is dominated by the adage that ‘learning is an active process’. Lectures are ‘interactive’ in the sense that a constant questioning process takes place with responses expected. To be successful in learning the concepts, you must be actively engaged in the material.

- **Exams** - Three exams to include a Final Exam will be given, as announced. The exams will be comprehensive of the topics they cover. Exams are based upon the class lectures, textbook material, and discussion of the material covered during the classes. **All examinations are to be by individual effort as they will be graded.** NO collaboration of any kind is permitted. See the honor code paragraph below. Any collaboration will be treated as an Honor Code violation.

- **Homework** - To be successful in this course, homework will be an integral part of learning the course material. It is in the best interest of the student to complete each and every homework assignment. Homework is for the student’s benefit; it is a diagnostic tool by which the student may assess their understanding and performance. Failure to do so will adversely affect performance, and will negatively impact course grades. Avoid falling behind. Homework assignments will be posted on the website. Homework problems, both their assignment and solution, are the sole responsibility of the individual student.

  - Homework will only be accepted through Blackboard submission. Scanned, hand written work will not be accepted.
  - All Excel HW must be done in Excel while Access HW must be done in Access. No hand drawn graphs will be accepted.
  - Late Homework is not accepted. If a student needs more time, simply request an extension for that assignment. The request must be made prior to the start of the class period in which the assignment is due. I usually limit a student to 1 extension per term.
  - Blackboard discussion items are reviewed for content as well as quantity.
Acceptable Formats for Homework via Blackboard:
The hands-on exercises in this course are based on Microsoft Excel 2007 and Access 2010; the only acceptable formats for assignments are:

- Essay - .doc, .docx, .pdf
- Excel - .xls, .xlsx

Honor Code:
Students are responsible for understanding the code's provisions. In the spirit of the code, a student's word is a declaration of good faith acceptable as truth in all academic matters. Cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing of academic work and related materials constitute Honor Code violations. **These will not be tolerated.** For more information on the University's Honor Code, please visit: [http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#honor_system_and_code](http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#honor_system_and_code).

Connectivity and Computer Skills:
- Every GMU student is provided with an e-mail account. I will e-mail course announcements to the class list. It is the student’s responsibility to activate and routinely check their GMU e-mail account.
- Most of the course material is available on-line from my course website and is accessible for download over the Internet. It is the student’s responsibility to have reliable and adequate Internet connectivity and access. This includes the use of GMU computers available on campus. Further, the student must be familiar with Internet browsers and navigation.
- For technical help with your personal computing systems, call the GMU support center at 703-993-8870 or send e-mail to support@gmu.edu. However, it is the student’s responsibility to work with their ISP or personal consultant to determine and resolve connectivity and other problems.
- The student must be familiar with the basics of the recent versions of MS Office products, especially MS Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.
- The course website is an electronic medium to facilitate the transfer and dissemination of the course content. It is not a replacement or substitute for attending class.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance in this class is highly recommended in order to be successful in learning the course content. The student is solely responsible for all assignments and material presented in class even if missed due to absence. Attendance will be taken.

Laptops and Tape Recorders:
Laptops are allowed in class. If you have special circumstances for recording devices, please see the instructor to discuss.

Make up Exams:
Notice will be given before each exam; if you cannot take the exam at the designated time, you must make arrangements with the instructor before the exam is given. Exams may be made up only under extreme emergencies AND at the sole discretion of the instructor. A penalty for lateness may be assigned. Missed exams will be assigned a score of zero.
Disability:
All academic accommodations due to disability must be arranged through the Disability Resource Center (DRC). If you are a student with a disability and you require academic accommodations, please contact the DRC at 993-2474. I will cooperate fully with the DRC to accommodate a student’s special needs.

Common Undergraduate English Usage and Grammar Errors:
I have observed the errors listed below in the work place; please don't make these yourself (for a more complete list, please see Dr. Paul Brians’ page at: www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html):

Pronouns versus Possessive Pronouns
"It's" is not the possessive form of "it" - it is the contraction of "it is". The same holds true for the following:

- you → your (not "you're", which is the contraction of "you are")
- he → his
- her → hers
- they → their (not "they're", which is the contraction of "they are")
- who → whose (not "who's", which is the contraction of "who is")

Other common usage errors:
- then vs. than
- that vs. which
- lead vs. led
- lose vs. loose
- everyday vs. every day
- "data" is the plural of "datum" (i.e., "data are . . .", not "data is . . .")
- irregardless is not a word, don't use it
- "e.g." and "i.e." are not interchangeable, here's why:
  - e.g., (exempli gratia in Latin) means "for example" ("at Virginia Universities, e.g., George Mason")
  - i.e., (id est in Latin) means "that is" ("at this university, i.e., George Mason")

It is grammatically correct to have a ',' precede "and" when there is a list of words to denotes a separation of the items as distinct. For example, take two, nearly identical-sounding phrases:

"The budget is to be split between Dan, Chris and Avon."
Meaning = Dan gets 50% of the budget and Chris and Avon get the other 50% (or 25% each).

"The budget is to be split between Dan, Chris, and Avon."
Meaning = Each person gets 33% of the budget.
## Topics and Schedule:
Some sections in text chapters will be skipped, as announced. Some material not contained in the text may be presented in class, as noted. The exam dates and the specific material coverage for each exam will be announced in class. For other important dates, consult the Spring 2013 Schedule of Classes for the Academic Calendar. The tentative list of topics is given below. **The list is subject to change during the semester.** Changes will be posted/announced via Blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading in text</th>
<th>Assignments/Deliveries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 Jan</td>
<td>Business Driven Technology</td>
<td>Ch 1 (pages 2 - 11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Jan</td>
<td>Identifying Competitive Advantage</td>
<td>Ch 2/TPI2 (pages 12 - 23, 142 - 169)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Feb</td>
<td>Working With Excel</td>
<td>TPI3/TPI4 (pages 170 - 201)</td>
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<td>14 Feb</td>
<td>E-Business</td>
<td>Ch 14/BPI11 (pages 86 - 111)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Feb</td>
<td>Enabling the Organization-Decision Making</td>
<td>Ch 9 (pages 126 - 141)</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Feb</td>
<td>Creating Innovative Organizations Guest Speaker</td>
<td>Ch 13/BPI2 (pages 24 - 53)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Mar</td>
<td>Storing Organizational Info-Databases</td>
<td>Ch 7/TPI5 (pages 202 - 213, 254 - 273)</td>
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<td>14 Mar</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Mar</td>
<td>Accessing Organizational Info-Warehouse</td>
<td>Ch 8/TPI6 (pages 214 - 235, 274 - 291)</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Mar</td>
<td>Information Security</td>
<td>BPI6/TPI7 (pages 112 - 125, 292 - 305)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Apr</td>
<td>Business Intelligence</td>
<td>BPI18/TPI8 (pages 236 - 253, 306 - 316)</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Apr</td>
<td>Business Intelligence</td>
<td>BPI18/TPI8 (pages 236 - 253, 306 - 316)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Apr</td>
<td>Building Software to Support an Agile Org</td>
<td>Ch 17/BPI-14 (pages 236 - 253, 64 - 81)</td>
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<td>25 Apr</td>
<td>Managing Organizational Projects</td>
<td>Ch 18 (pages 82 - 85)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>2 May</td>
<td>Guest Speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 May</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Exam 3 (13 pts)</td>
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