

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Business and Public Administration

Course: MIS 830A Problems in Management Information Systems

Instructor: Dr. Akkanad M. Isaac

Session: September-December 1996. Fall Trimester, Block 1
Thursday: 7:30-10:20 p.m.

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W/R: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

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Units: Three Credits

Target Group: Graduate Students

Prerequisite: MIS 301

Description:

Studies the role and application of computers in modern organizations. Discusses appropriate strategies for the effective utilization of computerized environment to improve productivity and efficiency of organizations, especially planning and control functions. Major thrust of the course is focused on the following concepts/assumptions:

1. Information systems can provide competitive advantage to organizations and this recognition is important in corporate strategy formulation/implementation.
2. Development and widespread corporate use of databases, AI/expert systems and client server technology have changed the nature and role of information systems.
3. Recent technological advances (microcomputers, distributed systems, end user computing, local area networks, micro-mainframe linkages, fourth generation software, multimedia computing, object-oriented programming, mobile computing, warehousing, etc.) have made qualitative changes in the way information is acquired, processed, and used by organizations.

Topics covered include the following: Conceptual Frameworks of MIS and DSS; Information Systems for Strategic Planning vs Operations Control; Prototyping Methodology; Use of Models in a Computerized Environment; Centralization vs Decentralization; Distributed Information Systems; Assessment of Information Requirements; Expert Systems and AI Applications; Executive Support Systems; Multimedia Computing; Mobile Computing; Client Server Technology; Internet and Intranets; Imaging Systems; Data Warehousing, Feasibility, Design and Implementation of DSS; etc. The course attempts to provide an overview of modern technological and managerial developments in MIS and their impacts on corporate management and organizational structure. Case discussion will be used as the primary instructional format. The instructor will present selected MIS topics in a lecture format in each class session. Each student is required to prepare one or more assigned papers. A seminar approach will be used to examine the contents /significance of the assigned papers.

GSU ARCHIVES

MIS 830A
Fall 1996

Performance Objectives:

1. An understanding of the role and application of computers for the planning and control functions in organizations.
2. Knowledge of the specific features of information structures for Strategic Planning and Operations Control.
3. Familiarity with various conceptual frameworks of MIS and DSS and the process of adapting them to meet organizational contingencies.
4. An understanding of the step-by-step approaches needed to conduct a feasibility study to design and implement DSS for functional management.
5. An orientation to the Prototyping Methodology.
6. An appreciation of the role of Model Based Information Systems to aid and support decision making tasks.
7. Experience in developing a simple information system using a 4GL language.
8. Broad familiarity with the major developments in Information Technology and Telecommunications.
9. An understanding of the significance of Internet and Intranets in the context of Enterprise Computing.

Teaching Material: Course Package consisting of 14 selected cases/technical notes (published by the Harvard Business School).

Course Policies and Requirements:

1. Student is required to consult recent issues of periodicals which contain significant papers/information about recent developments in MIS. Some of the important periodicals are: Harvard Business Review, MIS Quarterly, Sloan Management Review, Datamation, CIO, Information Week, etc.
2. Student is encouraged to familiarize and use an applications development software for the computer project. The following is a partial list of 4GL from which student shall select a software for the project: PROGRESS, ORACLE, INFORMIX, PARADOX, CLIPPER, SYBASE, ACCESS, DELPHI, MAGIC, CLARION, POWER BUILDER, etc. In lieu of this, student may develop a project based on Internet.
3. Student is required to attend classes regularly and contribute to the class discussion.
4. Student shall complete all assignments by specified due dates. Late submissions, even if accepted, will affect grades.
5. Grade of "Incomplete" will not be given except under extenuating circumstances.

Evaluation:

Class Attendance and Preparation	10%
Case Analysis/Assignments	20%
Computer-Based Project	20%
Examination 1	20%
Final Examination	25%

CLASS SCHEDULESession DateTOPICS/ASSIGNMENTS

- | | | |
|---|---------|--|
| 1 | Sept.05 | <p><u>Lecture:</u> Structure & Overview of MIS
Issues in Information Technology in
Organizational Context</p> <p><u>Case:</u> Burlington Coat Factory (to be distributed in
class)</p> |
| 2 | Sept.12 | <p><u>Lecture:</u> Strategic Use of Information Technology (IT)</p> <p><u>Case:</u> Pillsbury: Customer Driven Reengineering (HBS-9-
195-144)</p> <p><u>Read:</u> Drucker, Peter F.:The information executives
truly need (Harvard Business Review.Vol.73,Jan.-
Feb.1995, p.54-62)</p> |
| 3 | Sept.19 | <p><u>Lecture:</u> Assessing Information Requirements Strategic
Control Systems</p> <p><u>Case:</u> Geffen Records (HBS-9-395-173)</p> <p><u>Read:</u> Isaac: Enterprise Computing :Internet and
Intranets</p> |
| 4 | Sept.26 | <p><u>Lecture:</u> Organizational Issues and Information Technology
Interorganizational Systems</p> <p><u>Case:</u> Union Pacific Railroad: Transition to
Client-Server (HBS-9-195-045)</p> <p><u>Read:</u> Managing in an Information Age: Organizational
Challenges (9-196-002)</p> |
| 5 | Oct. 03 | <p><u>Lecture:</u> Organization and Control
Information-Enabled Alliances
Reengineering Fundamentals</p> <p><u>Case:</u> Mrs. Fields, Inc., 1977-1987</p> <p><u>Read:</u> Designing and Managing the Information Age
Organization (9-196-003)</p> |
| 6 | Oct. 10 | <p><u>Lecture:</u> Cost Justification of MIS Projects
Mobile Computing
Groupware</p> <p><u>Case:</u> Mrs. Fields, Inc., 1988-1992</p> <p><u>Read:</u> Simons, Robert: Control in an age of empowerment
(Harvard Business Review. Vol.73. Mar.-Apr. 1995,
pages 80-88)</p> |
| 7 | Oct. 17 | <p><u>Lecture:</u> AI and Expert Systems
Data Warehouse and Data Mining</p> <p><u>Case:</u> Open Market, Inc. (A)</p> <p><u>Read:</u> Managing in an Information Age: IT Challenges
(9-196-004)</p> |
| 8 | Oct. 24 | <p><u>Lecture:</u> Executive Support Systems and the Nature of
Organizational Decision Making</p> <p><u>Case:</u> Chemical Bank: Technology Support for Cooperative
Work (9-193-131)</p> <p><u>Read:</u> Isaac: Online Analytic Processing (OLAP) Systems</p> |
| 9 | Oct. 31 | <u>EXAMINATION-1</u> |

- 10 Nov. 07 Lecture: Object-Oriented Programming & Systems
Client Server Technology
Case: Xerox Corp.: Leadership of the IT Function (A) (9-188-113)
Read: Designing and Managing the Information Age IT Architecture (9-196-005)
- 11 Nov. 14 Lecture: Software Development Tools
Case Tools and Systems Prototyping
Case: Siemens Rolm Communications (9-195-214)
Read: Isaac: Software Development Tools
- 12 Nov. 21 Lecture: Behavioral Analysis of MIS
MIS Implementation Strategy
Strategic Alignment
Case: Frito-Lay, Inc.: Strategic Transition, 1980-1986 (9-194-107)
- 13 Nov. 28 HOLIDAY (THANKSGIVING)
- 14 Dec. 05 Lecture: International Dimensions of Information Technology
Ethical Issues of Information Systems
Case Frito-Lay, Inc.: Strategic Transition, 1987-1992 (9-195-238)
- STUDENT PROJECT PRESENTATION
- 15 Dec. 12 FINAL EXAMINATION