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BMIS 270.50: MIS Foundations for Business - Online

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1. Course Syllabus

BMIS 270 - MIS Foundations for Business

University of Montana
College of Business
Fall 2021

Course Information

Course: BMIS 270
Meeting Dates: None. Students shall complete the course asynchronously (outside of class)
Credits: 3
Grading Mode: Traditional Letter Grade
Plus/Minus Grading: Yes
Pre-requisite: None
Final Exam: None

Professor Information

Clayton A. Looney, Ph.D.
[Dr. Looney's faculty website](#)
E-mail: clayton.looney@umontana.edu
Office: GBB 321
Office Hours: [by appointment via Zoom](#)

Course Overview

The field of Management Information Systems (MIS) is an exciting academic discipline, integral to contemporary business activities. This course is designed to introduce students to the field and to examine how these powerful systems are fundamentally reshaping organizations, economies, and society. Throughout the semester, the course will draw upon curated materials to help students refine and enhance their understanding of significant technological issues and trends affecting modern organizations. In addition to gaining exposure to a multitude of powerful ideas, students will assess and present the business potential of a technological innovation, as well as utilize systems that serve as the foundation for creating and disseminating knowledge in the 21st century.

Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, students will...

- Understand how information systems are fueling globalization and affecting the nature of work in modern organizations.
- Understand infrastructural technologies, as well as the opportunities and challenges facing data center operators.
- Describe how algorithms and code can be a source of competitive advantage.
- Understand how code can introduce blindspots in the applications we use.
- Understand "big data" and how it might lead to a source of competitive advantage.
- Gain a high-level appreciation of artificial intelligence, including strengths and limitations.
- Understand the relationship between big data and artificial intelligence.
- Understand how businesses grapple with privacy rules and regulations.
- Appreciate the security threats facing to modern organizations and identify mitigation tactics.

Course Format & Delivery

This course is not a traditional lecture course, where the professor talks while students listen. The professor's role involves curating course material and facilitating discussions via Zoom. Course materials will include case studies, articles, and videos from established, highly-respected sources.

Although these materials will help students learn, typically students derive the most value out of the interacting with each other in the discussion forums. Many students possess knowledge and have gained experience that exceeds that of other students, as well as the professor. We can learn a lot from each other. As such, it is essential that everyone full participates. In each

module, students will gain a firm command of the assigned materials, respond to any discussion questions, and take a quiz.

Course Materials

Required Materials

This course does not use a textbook. Most of the course material will be provided to students free-of-charge and made accessible via Moodle.

Computing Resources

Students must have access to Moodle. Since the professor will be interacting with students asynchronously and remotely, students are encouraged to use Zoom to engage with the professor outside of class. To use Zoom, students will need a device with a videocamera and microphone, as well as a reliable, high-speed internet connection.

Course Grading

This professor utilizes (+/-) grading. There is no curve applied to course grades. Grades will be determined using the following scale:

Highest	Lowest	Letter
100.00 %	93.00 %	A
92.99 %	90.00 %	A-
89.99 %	87.00 %	B+
86.99 %	83.00 %	B
82.99 %	80.00 %	B-
79.99 %	77.00 %	C+
76.99 %	73.00 %	C
72.99 %	70.00 %	C-
69.99 %	67.00 %	D+
66.99 %	60.00 %	D
59.99 %	0.00 %	F

Performance will be measured along three (3) distinct achievement criteria, broken down as follows:

Dimension	Qty	Points	Total Points	Percentage
Quizzes	6	10	60	19.4%
Discussion Forums	6	25	150	48.4%
Projects	2	50	100	32.3%
			310	100.0%

Quizzes

Students will take seven (7) quizzes throughout the semester. Students shall be allowed to drop their lowest quiz score, resulting in a total of six (6) quizzes that will be counted toward the final grade.

The quizzes will cover material in the *Assigned Materials* section of each module. The quizzes are intended to ensure students understand the material that will be covered in the discussion forums. Quizzes shall be completed asynchronously (outside of class) prior to the due date. When taking quizzes, be sure to keep the following in mind:

- Quizzes must be completed by the closing date (i.e., due date). **NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**
- Students have 60 minutes to complete each quiz.
- Each quiz contain a set of 10 multiple choice and/or true/false questions. Questions shall be selected randomly from a pool of questions, meaning that students might see different questions in different orders.
- Quizzes are open book. You are encouraged to have the assigned materials available during the quiz. If you are unsure how to respond to a particular question, feel free to refer to material (e.g., article, video) cited in the question.
- Quizzes can be attempted once. Once you start the quiz, complete it. Do not stop.
- Quizzes are an individual activity. Students are not allowed to work with or aid another student. Any violation will be considered a violation of the student code of conduct.

Discussion Forums

Students shall participate in seven (7) discussion forums throughout the semester. Students shall be allowed to drop their lowest discussion score, resulting in a total of six (6) discussion scores that will be counted toward the final grade.

In each module, the professor will post discussion questions related to the themes emerging from the assigned material. Discussion questions require reflection, focused thought, and consistent participation to get the most out of the course. Make sure to spend considerable time crafting your thoughts before submitting your response. Strong posts will express ideas that include original thought, new insights, substantial depth, and relevance to the topic. Strive to demonstrate a viewpoint based on logical thinking, clear connections to examples, strong reasoning, and analysis of evidence concisely (350-500 words). Student responses in discussion forums shall be written be asynchronous (outside of class) and posted in Moodle by the due date (i.e., closing date) specified. **NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

After posting initial responses, students will be able to review other students' posts. On the date specified in the module's instructions, students shall post four (4) constructive comments, two (2) for each discussion question. For each discussion question, provide feedback on two (2) of your peers' posts. Comments that simply agree with your peer's statements will be considered insufficient. Rather, try to further the conversation by asking questions, stating your opinion, and/or offering constructive feedback for improvement. Limit each comment to 50-150 words and be sure to post them by 11:59p. **NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

Projects

Students will undertake two individual projects during the semester. The projects generally represent a time to seriously bolster their grade in BMIS 270. The projects will be discussed at length later in the term.

Communications

The professor prefer to communicate with students via e-mail. Be sure to check your official UM e-mail account daily for important announcements and updates related to the course.

Faculty may only communicate with students regarding academic issues via official UM email accounts. Accordingly, students must correspond with their professors using authorized UM accounts. E-mail received from non-UM accounts may be flagged as spam and deleted without further response. Due to privacy and security issues, confidential information (including grades and course performance) cannot be discussed via e-mail.

The professor strives to be timely when responding to e-mail messages. If you send an e-mail, students can expect a response within one business day. In the "Subject" field, be sure to start it with "BMIS 270 - " (without the quotes), which will flag it as a communication coming from a BMIS 270 student.

Expectations for Professional Conduct

Beyond imparting the course material, the professor intends to prepare students to become business professionals. Consequently, the professor expects students to exhibit professional behavior at all times. As a student in the College of Business you must conduct yourself according to the [COB Code of Professional Conduct](#).

Students enrolled in COB, as well as COB faculty and staff, pledge to uphold these values. Students are expected to be familiar with the COB Code of Professional Conduct and adhere to each value. Students who fail to follow the guidelines will be asked to leave the class.

Academic Misconduct

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. The University of Montana Student Conduct Code specifies definitions and adjudication processes for academic misconduct and states, "Students at the University of Montana are expected to practice academic honesty at all times." It is the student's responsibility to be familiar the [Student Conduct Code](#).

The College of Business endorses academic honesty as a pillar of integrity crucial to the academic institution. Academic honesty is an important step towards developing an ethical backbone needed in a professional career. Failure to practice academic honesty is considered academic misconduct. Academic misconduct will be penalized to the fullest extent. Students are expected to:

- Be knowledgeable of activities that are considered academic misconduct, as defined in section V.A. of the UM Student Conduct Code,
- Practice academic honesty on all exams, quizzes, homework, in-class assignments, and all other activities that are part of the academic component of a course,
- Encourage other students to do the same.

Confusion may arise in what is and is not academic misconduct. Students should ask if they are unsure if a behavior will be viewed as academic misconduct. A good rule of thumb is that any credit-earning activity in a course should represent the true skills and ability of the person receiving the credit. A partial list of situations that are considered academic misconduct can be found in the [COB Professional Code of Conduct](#). If at any point a student is unsure whether a particular activity is permissible, that student should contact the instructor before doing so.

Grievance Procedures

Although conflicts between students and professors are rare, they do occasionally occur. Please be aware that the standard operating procedure for dealing with such conflicts within the College of Business is as follows:

1. Try to resolve the conflict directly with the professor.
2. If you feel that the conflict cannot be resolved between yourself and the professor, contact the Chair of the Management Information Systems department, Dr. Isho Tama-Sweet.
3. If, after speaking with the professor and department chair, you still feel that the conflict has not been resolved, contact the Associate Dean, Dr. Klaus Uhlenbruck.