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BMIS 674.60: Management Information Systems

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Course Information

Day/Time:	Section 1: TR 9:30 – 10:50am in GEX 105 Section 60: T 6:00 – 8:50pm in GBB 104 (or via polycom)
Credits:	2
Grading Mode:	Traditional letter grade
Pre-requisites:	None
Final Exam:	None

Professor Information

Professor:	Dr. Clayton A. Looney
E-mail:	clayton.looney@umontana.edu
Office:	Gallagher Business Building 310
Office Hours:	TR 11:00 am – 12:00 pm or by appointment

Course Description

This course intends to expose business leaders to major themes in the field of Management Information Systems. Throughout the course, we will examine the transformative effects of digital technologies on society, organizations, and individuals.

In addition to examining major themes, students will also gain exposure to innovative and interesting technologies that are widely available to consumers and organizations. This will help business managers learn about and experiment with a diverse array of technologies that can be potentially applied in a business context.

Teaching Philosophy

The course will primarily draw on a wide array of readings, real-world examples, and classroom discussions. The assigned reading, written by leaders in technology and business, will be used to stimulate class discussions. As such, the course will go beyond a traditional lecture environment, where the professor talks while students regurgitate material on examinations. Instead, the majority of class sessions will center around class discussions, where a deeper exploration of course material can be achieved.

Accordingly, students need to be present and engaged to derive the greatest benefit from the course. It is the professor's expectation that students will understand the material sufficiently to add value to the organization(s) in which they are involved, being able to manage opportunities and risks presented by digital technologies. Students are also expected to encourage and challenge each other while exploring the implications of the course materials.

At the graduate level, the professor's role will be a facilitator of learning. Given that MBA students possess substantive knowledge in specific industries, students are highly encouraged to share their experiences to enrich class discussions. Although the professor will introduce valuable material, typically students learn as much, if not more, from their peers.

Finally, the professor prefers to interact with students in an informal, professional manner. Should students have any questions concerning the course material, the professor welcomes students to visit during office hours, schedule an appointment, and/or communicate with the professor via electronic mail. The professor will make every reasonable effort to assist students in the learning experience and respond to student inquiries.

MIS Context

To maximize understanding of the topics, students will apply concepts to their "MIS context." In essence, students will explore how the course material impacts either: 1) their current organization, or 2) an organization for which they aspire to work. By placing the material within a familiar context, students will be able to better determine how the themes discussed in class affect organizations.

Required Materials

Moodle

The professor makes extensive use of the Moodle course management system, which can be accessed at <http://umonline.umd.edu/>. If you experience difficulties accessing Moodle, please visit the help desk (located in GBB 209) for assistance.

Assigned readings will be posted on Moodle on a rolling basis. Typically, assigned readings will be posted at least one week in advance of discussions.

Coursepack - Harvard Business Publishing

Most of the assigned readings are freely available and will be posted in Moodle. However, students will be required to purchase a coursepack, which contains copy-written articles, from Harvard Business Publishing. Specific information about the coursepack (e.g., cost, hyperlink) can be located in Moodle.

Course Grading

Student performance will be measured along five (5) distinct achievement criteria, broken down as follows:

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Points</i>
Theme Impact Discussion (Team)	10.0%	10
Innovation Presentation (Team)	10.0%	10
Case Study Project (Team)	30.0%	30
Comprehensive Examination (Individual)	50.0%	50
Peer Evaluations (Individual)	N/A	variable
	100.0%	100

Grades will be conferred on a \pm basis and comply with the ranges shown below.

<i>Overall Points</i>	<i>Overall Percentage</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i>
points \geq 93	pct \geq 93%	A
92 \geq points \geq 90	93% > pct \geq 90%	A-
89 \geq points \geq 87	90% > pct \geq 87%	B+
86 \geq points \geq 83	87% > pct \geq 83%	B
82 \geq points \geq 80	83% > pct \geq 80%	B-
79 \geq points \geq 77	80% > pct \geq 77%	C+
77 \geq points \geq 73	77% > pct \geq 73%	C
73 \geq points \geq 70	73% > pct \geq 70%	C-
70 \geq points \geq 67	70% > pct \geq 67%	D+
66 \geq points \geq 60	67% > pct \geq 60%	D
59 \geq points	60% < pct	F

Theme Impact Discussion (Team) – 10%

During each class discussion dedicated to the assigned readings, student teams will be selected to explain how the issues raised in the assigned readings impact their MIS context. The professor will notify students in advance. Each student should be prepared to speak for up to five minutes and engage their peers in a brief question and answer period. The nature of the interaction is intended to be positive and collaborative.

The group of students should be prepared to address the following:

1. Thoroughly review the assigned readings and be prepared to discuss the relevant issues. The professor expects students to have a command of the material prior to class. It is not acceptable for students to read from notes.
2. Relate the assigned readings to your MIS context, evaluating relevance and implications.
3. Where applicable, relate the assigned readings to materials previously discussed in class.
4. To facilitate studying for the examination, the selected group of students will be responsible for compiling notes summarizing the key points in the assigned reading. Notes must be submitted in Moodle at the beginning of class one week following the discussion. If the due date falls on a holiday, notes will be due the first class period after the holiday.

Innovation Presentation (Team) – 10%

The primary purpose of innovation presentations involves providing a snapshot of the incredible technological innovations impacting society, organizations, and individuals. The professor will assign students to teams of five to seven. Each team will be responsible for identifying a technology that will be of interest to peers. All topics must be pre-approved by the professor. Proposals must provide the professor with an overview of the topic and describe the contribution to student learning.

Each team will give a 15-minute presentation, primarily focusing on demonstrating the capabilities of the technology. The presentation will be followed by a brief question and answer period. Please note that all group members do not have to participate in the delivery, but all group members must contribute toward preparing the presentation. Teams will submit a brief managerial summary. Summaries must be submitted in Moodle at the beginning of class one week following the

presentation. If the due date falls on a holiday, notes will be due the first class period after the holiday.

Case Study Project (Team) – 30%

Student teams will write a complete case study utilizing technology to solve a major business problem or to achieve competitive advantage. Although teams will be given extensive latitude in determining the technology and business context, all topics must be approved by the professor.

Teams are encouraged to consider one team member's MIS context as the basis for the case study. Doing so will enable students to think through a problem deeply and devise a technical solution. Additional information about the project has been posted in Moodle.

Comprehensive Examination (Individual) – 50%

One comprehensive examination will be given toward the end of the semester. The examination will cover the major themes explored in the assigned readings and classroom discussions. Specific information about the examination (e.g., format, due date) will be made available later in the semester.

Peer Evaluations (Individual) – variable

For team-oriented deliverables, students will be required to submit a peer evaluation. Each student will be asked to rate the performance of each team member, based on participation, contribution, willingness to help, and quality of work. All peer evaluations will be kept confidential. Peer evaluations will be used as a basis for adjusting individual scores on team deliverables. Therefore, it is extremely important that students fully participate in team projects. Peer evaluations will be due on the last day of class.

Expectations for Professional Conduct

Attendance

As with any business profession, attendance is extremely important to succeed. Although attendance is considered mandatory, attendance will not be taken. Students do not need to contact the professor to explain an absence. However, if an absence affects the student's ability to participate in team-oriented work, the absence should be promptly communicated with team members. Also, it is the student's responsibility to obtain missed material from peers, so students should establish contact with other students in the class immediately.

Oral and Written Communications

In large part, a business professional's success depends on the quality of oral and written communications. The course will provide opportunities to further develop skills in each area. Written work should be clear, concise, substantive, and follow the formatting guidelines, which will be posted in Moodle.

Deliverables

Unless an extenuating circumstance prevails and pre-approved by the professor, no late submissions will be accepted. Please note the professor, as a policy, does not review deliverables prior to submission. However, the professor welcomes questions related to logical reasoning and proposed content. Written work will be assessed on a competitive basis in relation to peers.

Electronic Mail Communications

When communicating with the professor via e-mail, ensure messages are written in a business professional manner. Faculty may only communicate with students regarding academic issues via official UM electronic mail (e-mail) accounts. Accordingly, students must correspond with their professors using authorized UM accounts (e.g., umconnect.edu). E-mail received from non-UM accounts may be flagged as spam and deleted without further response. Due to FERPA regulations, confidential information (e.g., grades) cannot be discussed via e-mail.

Personal Electronic Devices

It is considered rude, distracting, and unprofessional to use personal electronic devices during business meetings. Therefore, personal electronic devices are prohibited during class. If a student expects an important phone call or needs to respond to an emergency, be sure the device is in “vibrate” mode prior to entering the classroom and quietly leave the room before taking the call.

Course Schedule

Since the course schedule is tentative and subject to change throughout the semester, it has been posted as a separate document on Moodle. The course schedule can be located on Moodle under *Course Information*. Please refer to the course schedule on a regular basis to stay abreast of upcoming course events and assigned readings.

Mission Statement and Assurance of Learning

The University of Montana MBA Program’s mission is to serve our region by educating leaders to effectively manage organizations in a global business environment.

As part of our assessment process and assurance of learning standards, the MBA program has adopted six learning goals. MBA graduates will demonstrate:

1. Integrated knowledge of business functions
2. Communication skills and teamwork ability
3. Ethical conduct, social responsibility, and professional leadership
4. Analytical and innovative thinking in business problem solving
5. Knowledge and application of current trends in information technology
6. Ability to evaluate the implications of operating in the global business environment

Specific to the course, the learning goals include:

1. Understand basic information systems concepts, terminology, and architectures
2. Comprehend the information systems function within organizations

3. Appreciate the profound role digital technologies play in modern societies and organizations
4. Apply technologies to solve business problems and to achieve competitive advantage
5. Identify managerial opportunities and challenges associated with information systems
6. Gain exposure to innovative technologies that impact the global business environment