

ABUS 390 – Spring 2009

SYLLABUS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor	Dixon Wilcox
Office	B&E Room 101
Office Hours	TTh 10:00 – 10:45; MW 1:30 – 2:30; MW 2:30 – 3:45 & 4:30 – 5:45 (in B&E 238E) or by appointment (use E-mail to schedule or ask questions)
Office Phone:	641-3655
E-mail:	dixonw@usca.edu
Class Meeting and Location:	Section 001: Location: B&E Room 235 Time: TTh 10:50 – 12:05

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the concepts, interactions and functions of major business systems with particular emphasis on the problems and issues related to computer-based systems. Included are concepts of designing information systems, collecting and processing data, reporting results of operations and controlling the business organization. The student will develop an understanding of information systems theory and study the flow of information through the organization to learn how managers at different levels use information as a strategic resource and how they make decisions regarding information systems and technology.(3 credit hours)

PREREQUISITES

ABUS 350, ABUS 371, ABUS 226 and ABUS 290 or satisfactory completion of Computer Applications Proficiency Exam.

MISSION STATEMENT

The School of Business Administration focuses on creating a caring learning environment in its accredited undergraduate program at multiple locations. The program prepares students to successfully meet the dynamic global, technological, and ethical challenges of business and society.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

If you have a physical, psychological, and/or learning disability which might affect your performance in this class, please contact the Office of Disability Services, 126A B&E, (803) 641-3609, as soon as possible. The Disability Services Office will determine appropriate accommodations based on medical documentation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is intended to introduce you to concepts of information systems and information technology as they relate to the decision making requirements of a non-IS manager in today's business environment. There are three main objectives for this course:

1. Illustrate the importance of determining information systems requirements for all management levels by developing an understanding of the differences between various types of computer-based information systems.
2. Understand how all information systems are decision and information driven.
3. Understanding the role of IS/IT in creating organizational efficiency and effectiveness.

Also, as a business professional, you must be able to effectively create information, manage knowledge and understand the systems in which business information is entered, processed, stored, and communicated to users of that information. In the course emphasis is placed on the:

1. Business information generated by organizational processes and operations.
2. Computer technologies (hardware software, communications) used in information systems.
3. Use of these technologies by business professionals.
4. Concepts, functions and interactions of major business systems.
5. Problems and issues related to computer-based systems.
6. The changing role of the IT professional.

Upon completion of this course, you will possess the skills, knowledge, and abilities to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of management information systems, how they work, and how they are used in business decision-making and problem-solving.
2. Demonstrate strong communication and collaboration skills.
3. Understand social, organizational, and ethical issues as they relate to the IT industry and today's modern business.

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

1. The final grade in this course will be based on the following activities:
 - A. 50% Semester Tests (2)
 - B. 30% Final Exam
 - C. 20% Participation (may include assignments and pop quizzes)
2. I will determine your letter grade using the standard percentage point evaluation below.

Letter Grade	Range of Percentages
A	90 - 100%
B+	87 - 89.99%
B	80 - 86.99%
C+	77 - 79.99%
C	70 - 76.99%
D+	67 - 69.99%
D	60 - 66.99%
F	59.99% and below

Administrative Policies:

1. As per university policy, I do not post grades. Please keep track of your grades as the semester progresses. If you have questions in the calculation of your grades or in your approximate standing through the semester, please contact me.
2. There will be no make-up tests or quizzes given. In the event of a missed test your Final Exam grade will count in its place. A second missed test will count as a zero. Quizzes are unannounced so a missed quiz cannot be made up.

3. No students will be allowed to leave the classroom after the start of any test or quiz until they complete and submit the quiz.
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REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Text: Information Systems: Supporting & Transforming Business (2nd ed.). (2008). Rainer, R. Kelly and Efraim Turban. John Wiley & Sons. Hoboken, New Jersey.
 2. Email: All students should have a USCA email account and network logon ID. If you do not have an account, you may obtain one at the Computer Center (B&E Room 238).
 3. Handouts: Some additional handouts may be required throughout the semester. These will be provided by the instructor either in hardcopy or on the web.
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ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is expected. In addition to regular attendance in the class you are expected to be prepared to demonstrate your understanding of the materials in class discussions and case presentations. Communication of ideas is a critical skill as a business professional and will be evaluated as such. Excessive absences will result in failure of the course.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

General participation, interest, and attendance will be informally evaluated during class. Remember, the objective is for you to learn! Any comment or question that facilitates that is welcome. Of particular interest is the sharing of examples in class of companies that illustrate a concept or framework discussed in class. Also, examples that you may have seen on the Internet are also welcome. These examples can be found in the popular press (newspapers, Business Week, Fortune, etc.), in more specialized publications (Information Week, Database, Darwin, Optimize, Computer World, etc.), or through personal experience. (Remember, most publications also have, sometimes rather extensive, websites). In contrast, “participation” that is irrelevant, destructive, or deals with issues that can be better resolved in a private forum will not be welcome and will reflect in your participation grade.

Evaluation of participation will consider the following factors (at least):

- Participation (asking questions, making pertinent comments, etc. -- This does not include attendance as you cannot participate without attending)
 - Preparation (reading the material and being ready to discuss it in class, etc. – This does not include bringing a pen, paper, and your book to class.)
 - Attentiveness
 - Willingness to Learn
 - Attitude
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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

From the USCA Student Handbook: “The principle of Academic Integrity and all procedures supporting it shall be referred to as the “Academic Code of Conduct”. It is the responsibility of every student at USCA to be familiar with the “Code”, to adhere steadfastly to truthfulness and to avoid dishonesty, fraud, or deceit of any type in connection with any academic requirements. Academic requirements are defined as works-submitted for academic progression or graduation or any graduate or undergraduate course work. Any student who violates this principle, attempts to violate it, or who knowingly assists another in violating it shall be subject to discipline”.

TENTATIVE COURSE PLAN AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

This class will progress through the book predominately in the order of the chapters as presented. Each chapter will take approximately 1 week. A test will follow after four chapters. There is no fixed schedule for when we will be beginning each chapter except to say that it will be at the conclusion of the previous chapter. It is more important for us to develop an understanding of the material than it is adhere to a strict schedule. While we will be covering the chapters in order, we may not cover the contents of any given chapter in its respective order. As such, you should read and prepare the entire chapter prior to our covering it in class. If you wish to read ahead – read the next chapter. I caution you that reading too far ahead can create difficulties.

FINAL EXAM

Our final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5 at 11:00 AM. The exam is comprehensive, closed book.