

Introduction to Information Systems (Info 102)

College of Computing & Informatics, Drexel University
Course Syllabus, Winter 2019

Tues and Thurs at 11-12:20 p.m., in Nesbitt III

Professor

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Office hours: Weds 2-4 p.m. in Rush 414

Course Overview

Introduces students to major types of information systems and their development and use in organizations. It emphasizes ways in which information systems can be used to help individuals and organizations meet their goals, and assumes basic knowledge of computing concepts.

There are no prerequisites, co-requisites or restrictions for this course. This is a required course for BSIS, BSCST, and BSI students. This course is usually taken in the beginning of the freshman year. It can also be taken as an elective for many other majors.

This course provides a foundation of concepts and terminology related to information systems. This course aims to bring all students to a level of familiarity with software products and information systems that will be necessary throughout the program.

Expected learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Discuss basic functions of major types of organizational information systems
- Explain uses of major types of organizational information systems
- Describe the life cycles used in developing information systems
- Discuss the impact of social media and ethics on information systems

Contacting me

Student-instructor interaction is an important part of any course, and I am available to you. I want to help you succeed in this course, in your program at Drexel, and in life. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, problems, discoveries, ideas or anything else. Email is the best way to get in touch with me. You can expect an answer within 24 hours on weekdays.

I hold **office hours on Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. in my office, Rush 414**. I am also generally available before and after class. You can drop in freely during my office hours, or contact me to set up an appointment. I am here for you!

Coursework

This course is made up of 5 components: Readings, Participation, Exams, two Homework assignments and a Term Project.

Readings

The required text for this course is *Introduction to Information Systems*, by Patricia Wallace (3rd edition, 2018, ISBN 978-0-13-463519-4). We'll be reading most of the book over the course of the quarter (see schedule on the last page of this syllabus). Please do all reading prior to class. You can also find supplementary materials in the weekly folders on Blackboard, which you should review.

Class participation

We'll do in-class activities that will be turned in and graded. Generally these are complete/incomplete, so as long as you're present and put forth an earnest effort, you'll receive full credit.

Exams

There are two exams during this course; they are both individual open book exams with multiple choice and true/false questions. The Midterm Exam will cover material from Weeks 1-4 and the Final Exam will cover material from Weeks 6-10. They will be taken in class.

Homework

There are two homework assignments. Details can be found on Blackboard.

Term project

The term project will consist of 3 parts:

- An initial project proposal
- A 1,600-word policy report on an IS topic of your choice
- A poster that illustrates your paper

More details about the term project are on Blackboard.

Grading

Taking a class is like buying a gym membership: you won't get results if you don't go; and *you* are ultimately responsible for your success. To that end, plan to attend and participate in class regularly. It'll be hard to get a good grade in the course if you don't take part. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Assignment	% of Grade
Homework 1	10
Homework 2	10
Term project	20
Class participation	25
Midterm exam	15
Final exam	20

Final grades

You can expect to receive grades and feedback within a week of the assignment's due date. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Your final grade will be assigned as follows:

A+	98-100%	A - Excellent. Goes above and beyond. Original thinking. Creatively synthesizes class readings and discussions with additional readings, reflections and observations. Strongly supports arguments with evidence and citations.
A	94-98%	
A-	90-94%	
B+	87-90%	B - Good. Demonstrates understanding of the facts and concepts presented in class. Few misapprehensions. Most arguments are well-supported.
B	83-87%	
B-	80-83%	
C+	77-80%	C - Acceptable. Meets most expectations, but some material is misapprehended or ignored.
C	73-77%	
C-	70-73%	
D+	67-70%	D - Poor. Demonstrates faulty understanding of significant portions of course material.
D	60-67%	
F	0-60%	F - Failing. Deep misunderstandings, poor attention.

Policies

Academic honesty, plagiarism and cheating

You are expected to conduct yourself in a respectful manner as befitting the university environment. This includes academic honesty. In this course, as with any Drexel course, cheating will not be tolerated. This includes plagiarism (using others' intellectual work without reference).

If you are keen on avoiding unintentional plagiarism, the Drexel University Libraries offer several tutorials for avoiding plagiarism, which can be found at <http://www.library.drexel.edu/resources/tutorials/plagiarism/plagiarism.html>. Individualized advising is available from your Drexel University Libraries-appointed CCI librarian, Tim Siftar, at siftar@drexel.edu.

All work you submit must be your own work, with sources properly cited. Any plagiarism or other academic dishonesty will result in a sanction that may range from an F on the assignment to an F for the course, depending on the severity of the plagiarism. I am obligated to report incidents of cheating (including plagiarism) to Drexel administration. A student who is found in violation twice (even if in two different courses) will be expelled from the university. For more information, please refer to the Provost academic dishonesty policy at http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/academic_dishonesty.asp or to resources regarding Student Conduct and Community Standards at http://www.drexel.edu/studentlife/community_standards/overview/.

Changes to the syllabus

I am here to help you learn, and I want to make sure we achieve the expected learning outcomes in this course. To do this, I may have to make some changes to the syllabus—for instance, if it becomes clear that we need to spend more time on some topic. I'll do my best to honor the syllabus as is, and I'll be sure to let you know about any changes as far in advance as possible.

Dropping the course

If you are considering whether to continue your enrollment in the course, please refer to the Course Add/Drop Policy, the Course Withdrawal Policy, or other relevant policy made available by the Office of the Provost at http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/course_drop.asp.

Student conduct

Drexel adopted a conduct policy requiring that all students have the responsibility to be aware of, and abide by, the University's policies, rules, regulations, and standards of conduct. The Student Conduct and Community Standards policy information is available in the Official Student Handbook at http://drexel.edu/studentlife/community_standards/studentHandbook/.

Support for students with disabilities

Students [requesting accommodations](#) due to a disability at Drexel University need to request a current Accommodations Verification Letter (AVL) in the [ClockWork database](#) before accommodations can be made. These requests are received by Disability Resources (DR), who then issues the AVL to the appropriate contacts. For additional information, visit the DR website at drexel.edu/oed/disabilityResources/overview/, or contact DR for more information by phone at (215) 895-1401, or by email at disability@drexel.edu.

Support for equality and diversity

Drexel strives to promote an environment of equality of opportunity and compliance with university policies and federal, state and local laws prohibiting discrimination based upon race, color, religion, gender, marital status, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability and veteran status. If you have questions or complaints about discrimination, harassment or retaliation, contact the Office of Equality and Diversity at (215) 895-1405 or <http://www.drexel.edu/oed/>.

Time management

Drexel assumes that each credit-unit requires four hours of work per week (i.e., a 3-unit course means a student will spend 12 hours per week on that course), including reading, participation and completing assignments. This is a three-credit course. Please plan accordingly. In particular, you'll find that this class requires more reading than you may be used to.

Course evaluations

Student evaluations are a crucial element of every course. Evaluation forms are completely anonymous. They are confidentially used to make improvements in the curriculum and teaching. They are also used by administration in evaluating faculty performance, and in decisions about promotion, tenure and retention. Please take part in course evaluations.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Date	Reading	Notes
1	Introduction to Information Systems	Jan 8		
		Jan 10	Ch 1	
2	Organizational Strategy and Information Systems	Jan 15	Ch 2	
		Jan 17	Ch 3	
3	Databases and Data Warehouses	Jan 22	Ch 4	
		Jan 24	Ch 5	No class, Hw1 due*
4	Social Computing, Mobile Computing and Mobile E-Commerce	Jan 29	Ch 6	
		Jan 31	Ch 8	Project proposal due
5	Midterm Exam	Feb 5		Review session
		Feb 7		Midterm exam
6	Knowledge Management	Feb 12	Ch 9	
		Feb 14		
7	Information Ethics, Privacy and Security	Feb 19	Ch 10	
		Feb 21		
8	Systems Development	Feb 26	Ch 11	
		Feb 28		Hw2 due
9	Business Intelligence, Decision-Making, Strategic Planning	Mar 5	Ch 7	
		Mar 7	Ch 12	
10	Presentations	Mar 12		Term project due
		Mar 24		
Final		TBD		

* Assignments are always due by the start of class, i.e., by 11 a.m.