

MIS 374 Course Syllabus, Spring 2007

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OFFICE HOURS	Mon 1-2 & Wed. 10-11 or by appointment	Email Matt for appointment.
PHONES	471-5214 (UT) 478-3349 (home) Note: I respond to email first	
CLASS TIMES	MW 11:00 AM-12:30 PM	
UNIQUE #	03760	

WEB SITES <http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/courses/MIS374>
<http://www.utexas.edu/academic/blackboard>

TEXT *Systems Development: A Project Management Approach* by McLeod & Jordan

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Learn techniques for successfully developing systems and managing the development process.
2. Gain an understanding of the complexity of systems development environments and know when to apply specific management and development techniques.

GRADING	Weight	Assignment
	35%	Client Project
	20%	Exam 1
	15%	Exam 2
	20%	Group Projects
	10%	Exercises and class participation
	100%	

CLIENT PROJECT The Client Project requires the delivery of a complete system for a client, although sometimes the scope of the project does not allow implementation. For all projects, the scope is defined by the student team working with their client and MIS supervisor – your professor. The quality of the system, documentation, team participation and user satisfaction count toward the grade. Students work in teams of 4 or 5 and choose their own team members. Projects are chosen from a list provided in class. Project descriptions are provided on the class web site: <http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/courses/MIS374> .

CLIENT PROJECT GRADE Your reports and presentations are subject to some less tangible grading criteria: an "acceptable" report that demonstrates a "correct" analysis of a problem may not earn all the points allotted to that assignment (e.g., 89/100 or 95/100). Intangibles such as creativity, depth of analysis, effectiveness of presentation, etc. differentiates an "acceptable, correct" report from a high quality report. Major deliveries 1, 2, & 4 are each 30% of the grade; Delivery 3 (the class presentation) is 10%. The peer evaluation is of utmost importance in grading. If the peer evaluation is high, then you will receive 100% of the grade. If the peer evaluation is low, you may receive as low as 50% or less of the grade. If you do not submit your peer evaluation you will receive 75% of the client project grade.

EXAMS	There are two exams. Each consists of a case problem and several questions. The questions require application of methodologies and tools to solve the case problem. These are similar in type and content to class discussions, homework, and projects. They are designed to test your comprehension of the techniques required for projects in class and later in your career as well as your ability to generate ideas for planning system development projects. If you miss an exam because of illness, a University-approved absence, or an absence approved in advance by me, you will be given the opportunity to take a makeup. It is your responsibility to schedule the makeup with me; otherwise you will receive a grade of zero. Exam 2 is optional. If you chose not to take it, your exam 2 grade will be the same as your grade on exam 1.
GROUP PROJECTS	There are two group projects with team members chosen by your professor. The Group Project average is an average of the grades. You will receive a peer evaluation that will be converted to a percentage. That will be multiplied by the average of your two group projects. For example, if your peer evaluation is very high you will receive a 100% and you will get full credit for the group projects.
APPEAL PROCESS	You must submit your request for an appeal of a grade within one week from the time it is returned to you. First look at the posted solution and/or grading criteria, which will be posted on the web or on the board outside my office. Then write up your appeal and put in my mailbox or the TA's mailbox in the IROM dept. office, CBA 5.202.
EXERCISES	There will be 7 to 15 individual exercises to be completed during class or before class. These include many of the in-class exercises listed on the schedule as well as some unannounced exercises. Grading will usually be a quick check for completeness.
CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION	You are expected to participate in class by answering questions, by asking good questions, raising issues, and making observations. No comment is considered "bad" as long as it makes a constructive class contribution. I believe that a good learning environment is a safe environment -- one in which all feel free to question and discuss. A sense of humor is always welcome!
PENALTY FOR DISHONESTY	Each student is expected to do his or her own work on all of the course material. Each student is expected to contribute equally on the group projects and each team is expected to do their own work—not collaborate with others outside the team—otherwise each student involved will be subject to the University Dishonesty Policy. (Note: Use of the web, IT experts, and vendors is a legitimate part of researching and analyzing solutions for the Client Project. These sources should be acknowledged as part of the team's effort and may be considered for Group Projects 1 & 2, as well as the Client Project.)
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES	If you are entitled to special accommodations because of a disability, let me know immediately, so arrangements may be made.