

# MIS375—MIS IN THE ORGANIZATION

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<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	Rich Christensen, Instructor, Business Administration & MIS	
<b>WHERE TO FIND ME</b>	Available by email and appointment.	
<b>HOW TO REACH ME</b>	Phone: (612) 812-1726 Email: <a href="mailto:christer@augsborg.edu">christer@augsborg.edu</a>	
<b>COURSE DESCRIPTION (FROM THE CATALOG)</b>	Broad understanding of using information systems to support organizational objectives. Topics include strategic planning and uses of information systems, business process analysis, and understanding of the technology architecture. (Prerequisites: BUS 200 or BUS 242 or MKT 252 and ENG111)	
<b>TEXTBOOKS TO BUY</b>	Laudon, Kenneth C. & Jane P. <i>Essentials of Business Information Systems</i> , 7 <sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall (2007). <a href="http://www.prenhall.com/laudon">http://www.prenhall.com/laudon</a>	
<b>GRADUATION SKILLS</b>	This course addresses the <b>critical thinking</b> and <b>writing skills</b> for graduation. Students must achieve a minimum 2.0 in the requirements for each skill area as well as a minimum 2.0 overall for the course grade in order to receive credit for the skills.	
<b>BY THE END OF MIS375 YOU WILL BE ABLE TO</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Understand the interdependency of business organizations and the information technology that supports them.</li><li>2. Appreciate the increasing important of information for all levels of business managers and the role of information systems to provide value and the appropriate information for each level.</li><li>3. Conceptualize the business organization as a system model with interdependent processes supported by information systems.</li><li>4. Utilize a systems approach and apply critical thinking skills in problem solving and decision-making.</li><li>5. Identify basic information system components and explore new technologies and issues affecting the business world.</li><li>6. Comprehend the growing complexity of managing information systems in a global, networked environment and its effect on business and society.</li><li>7. Demonstrate written and oral communication skills in presenting concepts and problem analysis.</li></ol>	
<b>CLASS APPROACH</b>	Lecture, short case studies, group exercises, discussions and written assignments will be used to aid in the exploration and understanding of MIS in organizations.	
<b>HOW YOUR LEARNING WILL BE EVALUATED</b>	Homework assignments (3 papers)	45%
	Chapter quizzes (2 at 20% each)	40%
	In-class & Online Discussions	15%
	Final grades will be determined on overall percentages—93% for a 4.0, 88% for a 3.5, 83% for a 3.0, 78% for a 2.5, 73% for a 2.0, 68% for a 1.5, 63% for a 1.0, 58% for a 0.5, and a 0.0 for percentages below 58%.	

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## POLICIES FOR MIS375

**Homework**—Descriptions of homework assignments and an initial schedule showing when readings and assignments are due follows. It is important to do the homework on time. Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of the class on the date they are due. Homework will be reduced by 10% for each class period that it is late unless you get my approval in advance.

**Honesty**—You will sign a statement at the start of the class reaffirming your commitment to Augsburg's academic honesty policy. If I find that the work you submit to me is not your own, your score will be zero for that item.

**Attendance**—I expect you to attend all scheduled classes. Some material will be covered in class that is not in your text. You will lose .5 from your final grade for each 6 hours of class you miss without my prior approval.

**Makeup Exams**—You must obtain my advance approval (with a valid reason) in order to take a makeup exam or quiz. You may leave a telephone message or send me an email in case of a last-minute emergency.

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## HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

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### HOMEWORK PAPERS

Pick a company you know well or can get information about, **or** pick an industry and make up your own company to use for the 3 writing assignments. The homework assignments are intended to build on each other—you will use the same company in all three. You will be identifying the information technology needed to make your company successful by looking at its environment (HW #1), analyzing its key business processes (HW #2), and then pulling together your analysis of the IT environment needed to successfully achieve the business objectives (HW #3).

### WRITING & CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

**This class satisfies graduation skills in writing & critical thinking.** A portion of your grade on each assignment will be determined by evidence of these skills. **For writing:** its organization and flow, sentence and paragraph structure, documentation of sources, spelling and punctuation. Keep in mind that your textbook is one source that should be documented. The documentation style used in the textbook should be your guide. **For critical thinking:** your comprehension of text material and application of it to your company, your ability to identify facts and assumptions underlying the company's approach, and your ability to envision new approaches for the company from the synthesis of theory and reality; your participation in online and in-class discussions

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### HOMEWORK #1

**Environment Analysis** (10% of grade, 3 - 4 pages)

Analyze your company and its environment using a SWOT analysis and the Value Chain and Competitive Forces models in the text. Your paper should also answer questions like these:

- What are the products and markets being targeted? How different are yours from the competitors? How does your company try to differentiate itself?
- Does there appear to be a difference in the technology that companies use? Is technology used as a competitive advantage or a means to differentiate?

Your paper must include a bibliography of sources.

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### HOMEWORK #2

**Business Processes** (15% of grade, 4 - 6 pages)

Identify at least 2 key business processes for your company, what the business objectives of the processes are, and how they work. Include process drawings (DFDs) to illustrate each (and their relationship to each other). Evaluate process performance to identify potential weaknesses or areas for improvement along with recommendations for better use of information technology to achieve the process objectives. Your paper must include a bibliography of sources.

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**HOMEWORK #3** *Company Information Systems Planning* (20% of final grade, 8 - 10 pages)  
Using the information from your first two papers, develop an information systems plan for your company's use of information technology. Your paper should start with the company vision and objectives based on your environmental analysis, discuss its CSFs (those things it must do well to succeed) and business processes, and then identify how information technology will be used to achieve these things. Your paper **must include**: a title page, a table of contents, one page executive summary or abstract of the paper, and bibliography of sources.

**ONLINE  
DISCUSSION  
QUESTIONS**

A *critical thinking* discussion question will be posted to the online discussion area for each class session. Post your response to the question, read other students' postings and post a reply to another student's posting with a comment or question. All postings must be complete by midnight Friday prior to class.

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

**Important:** Prior to the first class, read chapters 1 & 2 in the textbook, post to the first discussion forum in Moodle (available mid-March), and choose the company you will use for your 3 papers (See under Homework Assignments above). Class meets Saturday mornings, 8:00 – 12:00, in ***To Be Determined***.

DATE	TOPICS & QUIZZES	READINGS	HOMEWORK DUE
April 12	Introductions & Course Overview People in Information Systems Information Systems in Business	Chapters 1 & 2	HW1 discussion
April 26	Competition and Information Systems IT Infrastructure	Chapters 3 & 4	
May 10	Hardware, Software & Data Resources DFD Exercise <i>Quiz Review</i>	Chapters 4 & 5	<b>HW1 Due</b> HW2 discussion
May 17	<b>Test 1</b> (covering chapters 1 – 5) Communicating & Securing Information	Chapters 6 & 7	
May 31	Applications in the Enterprise E-Commerce	Chapters 8 & 9	<b>HW2 Due</b> HW3 discussion
June 7	Problems, Decisions & Information Systems Building Information Systems Ethical Computing <i>Quiz Review</i>	Chapters 10, 11 & 12	
June 21	<b>Test 2</b> (covering chapters 6 – 12)		<b>HW3 Due</b>