Instructor: Gerald Kohers
Office: SHB-236K
Phone: 294-3883 (office)
Office Hours: TTh 10:30 – 2:00, MW 10:00 – 11:00, or by appointment.
E-mail: kohers@shsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to be an introduction to the use of information systems in organizations. Material presented is selected to increase the student’s literacy in this rapidly changing field, including commonly used acronyms and emerging technologies. Specific topics to be covered include: What are Information Systems?; Hardware; Software; The Internet and World Wide Web; Telecommunications and Networks; Database Systems; E-Commerce; Systems Development; and Societal and Ethical Issues in Computer Systems. Prerequisites: Computer Literacy

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

1. Understand basic computer technology concepts.
2. Understand the development and use of information systems in organizations.
3. Propose and participate in developing information systems solutions to business problems.
4. Be a more effective end user of information systems for business operations and decision making.

REQUIRED TEXT:


GRADING CRITERIA:

|                |     
|----------------|-----|
| Homework       | 19% |
| Exam I         | 27% |
| Exam II        | 27% |
| Exam III       | 27% |

(388-10 12:30 – 2:00, May 7, 2-4)
(388-09 2:00 – 3:30, May 7, 5-7)
COURSE GRADE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Chapter Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>I. Foundation Concepts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Information Systems</td>
<td>Chapters 1, 2</td>
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<td>II. Information Technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardware</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Software</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td>Telecommunications and Networks</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Database Systems</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<td>III. Business Applications</td>
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<td>E-Business/E-Commerce</td>
<td>Chapters 7, 8</td>
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<td>IV. Development Processes</td>
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<td>Systems Analysis &amp; Design</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>V. Management Challenges</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Security and Ethical Issues in Computer Systems</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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- Applications *
  - Internet (e-mail, WWW, Dreamweaver) no chapters
  - Microsoft Excel 2003 no chapters
  - Microsoft Access 2003 no chapters

* Note: The applications section will be intermingled throughout the semester.
OTHER:

• Students are responsible for abiding by all published University rules and regulations as printed in the Undergraduate Catalogue, Student Guidelines, and in other official University publications. You may find online a more detailed description of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure:

  http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/

• Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

  http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty

• Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.

• Make-up exams will be given at my discretion depending on the related circumstances. You must notify me in advance of the exam which is missed. If you miss an exam due to illness you must have a documented medical excuse from the doctor or infirmary.

• Tests begin at the start of class and are over when the instructor says it’s over. Once someone turns in their exam, you will not be allowed to take that exam (show up on time).

• Homework is due on the due date at the beginning of class (not the middle and not the end of class). No homework will be accepted late (no excuses). You are allowed one homework drop grade.

• Regular attendance is expected.

• No extra credit will be given.

• Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work.


• Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html
1. E-mail me ONE message to (kohers@shsu.edu) for the **Subject** use **388-0#-last name** (for example, SUBJECT: 388-05-Smith)

   **Note:** This is your **course number** and **section number** and **your last name**.

   and provide the following information as the text portion:
   
   a. Your Last Name and First Name and ‘what you want to be called’.
   b. What e-mail address should I use to correspond with you?
   c. Phone Number.
   d. Type of computer at home (if you have one).
   e. Expertise level with a WP, list type of WP (rank from 1 - 10, 1=poor and 10=excellent).
   f. Expertise level with a spreadsheet (rank from 1 - 10, 1=poor and 10=excellent).
   g. Expertise level with a database (rank for 1 - 10).
   h. List other software applications you know how to use and their rankings.
   i. List programming languages that you may know and their rankings.
   j. When and who did you have for your computer literacy class?
   k. How many hours are you taking?
   l. If you have a job, what is it and how many hours per week do you work?
   m. Where do you live?
   n. Yes or No, it is ok for me to e-mail you your grades.

2. For the **signature** put your name and anything else you think is appropriate.

3. Make sure that when you send this to me that your name appears in the FROM section and not stdabc02

4. Set up an alias (nickname) for **kohers@shsu.edu**
Weekly Assignment - Current Events  
Due Dates: Beginning of every Wednesday Class  
(Unless otherwise specified)

Every week, unless otherwise specified, you are to do the following:

1. Read a current (less than a few months old) article about the topics we discuss in class.
2. Type up a short summary of the article (approximately 1/2 page).

Possible sources:
Newspapers (Wall Street Journal, Houston Chronicle)  
Magazines (Business Week, PC Magazine, MacUser, PC Week, Mac Week, etc.)  
Internet

Summary Report requirements (pts. will be deducted if you don’t follow the requirements)

1. Must be typed, (50 pts.)
2. No misspelled words, (5 pts/word)
3. Proper English (complete readable sentences), (10 pts./sentence)
4. Make sure your name, section number, and due date are typed at the top of the page, (15 pts.)
5. Make sure the complete source (properly referenced) is typed at the bottom of the page. (10 pts.)

At the beginning of the class, several summaries will be randomly selected and discussed.