

IDS 507: Advanced Systems Analysis and Design Project

Spring 2007

Class meets: Thursday 3:00-5:30 TH 216
Instructor: Sid Bhattacharyya
UH 2408, sidb@uic.edu 312-996-8794

Overview

This course involves the analysis, design and implementation of information systems, technology and analytics related solutions and products for business, with an emphasis on real projects. Various processes and activities related to analysis, design and development are covered, including documentation, testing and project management. Since all students are expected to have the basic background in systems analysis and design, this course will concentrate on project management and IT product development related issues. A number of business case studies will be used to facilitate in-class discussions. As a projects course, the essential approach is that of “learning by doing” and teamwork.

Students are required to have completed all pre-requisites. All students are expected to be comfortable with programming, databases and systems analysis and design.

This is a project-based course focused on real projects for clients. Student teams will be assigned to work on specific projects. A projects course differs from regular courses in many ways. As such, you should be clear about expectations, both in terms of day-to-day work and outcomes, workload, nature of work, and the how you will be evaluated.

- The course will take more of your time than other courses.
- Expect to spend at least half-a-day a week at the client site; based on the project, you may at times be required to spend more time at the client site. A key aspect of your work will involve coordinating, communication and interacting with the sponsor’s personnel.
- Projects often require working with specific tools/software that you may not have worked with earlier; given your IS background, you will be expected to read up and learn to work with these on your own initiative.
- Your performance in the sponsor’s environment and ability to satisfy the needs of the sponsor are critical. The sponsor’s input on your performance will be considered in your evaluation.
- The successful completion of the project, which implies your sponsor’s ability to use your implemented system effectively, or in general finding adequate value with your work, is a requirement for completing the course with a passing grade.

Students are expected to keep up with course related emails, announcements, etc as discussed in class.

Students are expected to respect and act in accordance with the CBA Honor Code. Please familiarize with Honor code at www.uic.edu/cba/Faculty/academicaffairs/honorcode.html

Evaluation

Project completion and report: 40%

Weekly progress, reports, presentations: 20%

Class work, cases, etc.: 30%

Note that 10% of points have not yet been assigned to specific items—these may be from a written exam, or other forms of evaluation that will be announced in class.

Please note that based on observation, and evaluation of your team-members, all members in a team may not obtain the same evaluation. Each team member will be required to evaluate every other member of the team.

Material

Course material is available from the Harvard Business Online website at:

<http://harvardbusinessonline.hbsp.harvard.edu/relay.jhtml?name=cp&c=c09736>

Harvard Business Essentials: Managing Projects Large and Small--The Fundamental Skills for Delivering on Budget and on Time (Paperback). HBS Press

Other cases, articles. See list below.

Procedures

Classes will be devoted primarily to discussions on on-going projects, cases and answering your questions. Unlike the detailed instruction of a regular course, students here are expected to study assigned material on their own. We will discuss certain key issues in class and help answer questions. To help bring out critical issues related to the management of IS- related projects, class discussions and course work will also involve case studies. Assigned reading material will be announced beforehand, and it is your responsibility to read the material before the class meets, discuss group assigned work, and be prepared for class discussion.

As mentioned, specific projects often require substantial reading, especially in the initial stages, to familiarize yourself with specific project environments and requirements, and to bring yourself up to speed on specific tools and systems.

Each project group will meet weekly with the instructor to access project progress. These meeting will typically last 40-60 minutes, and all project members must attend and be prepared for the meetings. Every team must submit a **weekly progress report**, which will include schedules and timelines (usually done using MS Project). **Meeting minutes** will also be maintained and distributed. The Blackboard course site will be used to keep track of these and other project documents. There will be three major project related presentations: project definition and scope, intermediate report on progress, and a final presentation.

Good communication skills are a must for a systems analyst. As such, this course places considerable **emphasis on communication activities**. (Your course material includes chapters from a Business Communications book.) Every team will make various presentations, both in class and to the client, and submit weekly progress reports and meeting minutes. A final report summarizing the team's work, recommendations, etc. will be given to your sponsors at the end of the course. In these, content, layout, format, ease and effectiveness of communication, appearance and general presentability will be key to your evaluation.

Case study and articles

- (Case) Microsoft Office 2000 by A. MacCormack , K. Herman
- (Case) Living on Internet Time: Product Development at Netscape, Yahoo!, NetDynamics, and Microsoft by M. Iansiti , A. MacCormack
- (Case) Activision: The 'Kelly Slater's Pro Surfer' Project by A. MacCormack , K. Herman , E. D'Angelo
- (Case) Dairy Farm Group: Redesign of Business Systems and Processes by A. F. Farhoomand , E. Ng , P. Banerjee
- (Case) Cisco Systems, Inc.: Implementing ERP by R. D. Austin , R. L. Nolan , M. Cotteleer
- (Case) Harley-Davidson Motor Co.: Enterprise Software Selection by R. D. Austin , D. Sole , M. Cotteleer
- (Case) Siemens AG: Global Development Strategy by S. Thomke , A. Nimgade

Chapters from Harvard Business Essentials: Guide to Business Communications.
Harvard Business School Press

- Good Writing: It Begins with Principles
- Everyday Writing: Memos, Letters, and E-Mail
- Presentations: Timeless Principles
- Backstage: Preparing Your Presentation
- Show Time: Making an Effective Delivery

Other Articles

Understanding User Needs by M. Iansiti , E. Stein

They Bought In. Now They Want to Bail Out. by Eric McNulty
Harvard Business Review Article, 12/01/2003

Why Good Projects Fail Anyway by Nadim F. Matta , Ronald N. Ashkenas
Harvard Business Review Article, 09/01/2003

Enterprise Resource Planning, Technology Note by R. D. Austin , C. X. Escalle , M. Cotteleer

What's Your Story? by Herminia Ibarra , Kent Lineback
Harvard Business Review Article, 01/01/2005

Managing Oneself by Peter F. Drucker
Harvard Business Review Article, 01/01/2005

Getting IT Right by Charlie S. Feld , Donna B. Stoddard
Harvard Business Review Article, 02/01/2004

IT Doesn't Matter by Nicholas G. Carr
Harvard Business Review Article, 05/01/2003