



Class: GBAR3350
Class Time: Asynchronous
Instructor: Nanette Scarpellini Metz
Office: Virtual
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Credits: 3
Location: Online Asynchronous
E-mail: nmetz@sulross.edu
Office Hours: by request

Required Materials:

Textbook:

Information Systems, Paige Baltzan 7e, McGraw Hill, ISBN10: 1266834133 | ISBN13: 9781266834134

Supporting Material: (Provided through SR Blackboard)

Course Description: This course introduces the discipline of management information systems. We will discuss the use of information technology in business focusing on the management of technologies. The main topics cover the different systems available in modern business environments, the impact of the Internet, Information Technology Infrastructure and Project Management, among other areas.

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of the course students will:

1. Describe the information age and the differences among data, information, business intelligence and knowledge. Identify the different departments in a company and why they must work together to achieve success. Explain how management information systems enable business communications.

Assessment: Exam and/or written assignment

2. Explain the importance of decision making for managers at each of the three primary organization levels along with the associated decision characteristics. Classify the different operational support systems, managerial support systems and strategic support systems, and explain how managers use these systems to make decisions and gain competitive advantages. Describe artificial intelligence and identify its five main types.

Assessment: Exam and/or written assignment

3. Compare disruptive and sustaining technologies, and explain how the Internet and the WWW caused business disruption. Describe ebusiness and its associated advantages. Explain the ethical issues in the use of information technology. Identify the six policies organizations implement to protect themselves

Assessment: Exam and/or written assignment

4. Explain MIS infrastructure identifying the three primary areas associated with an information MIS infrastructure. Describe the characteristics of an agile MIS infrastructure.

Assessment: Exam and/or written assignment

5. Explain the four primary traits that determine the value of information. Describe a database, a database management system and the relational database model. Identify the business advantages of a relational database. Explain the business benefits of a data- driven website.

Assessment: Exam and/or written assignment

MBA Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of the MBA students will:

1. The ability to collect, evaluate and analyze data to make informed business decisions.
2. Demonstrate business leadership skills through the development of innovative solutions to complex problems that satisfy the needs of the multiple stakeholders of the organization.
3. The ability to design sustainable business models that ensure long term competitive advantage in the ever changing global economy.
4. The ability to recognize major digital trends impacting business and adapt their organization to leverage these trends into a competitive advantage.

Marketable Skills: Upon successful completion of the MBA students will have the following markable skills:

1. The ability to use software to analyze and report data.
2. The ability to work with others to solve problems.
3. The ability to communicate effectively.
4. The ability to use the latest digital technology.

Academic Integrity: Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources ***unless permission is expressly given*** for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

Classroom Climate of Respect: This class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against other students.

Counseling: Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting

Timelycare/SRSU. The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and SRSU International students.

Libraries: The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu/. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LobolD and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123). No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu. Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and ScanIt to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email mary.schwartze@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Official Communication: All official communication by the University or me will be sent to your Sul Ross email account. As a result, you are required to activate your email account and check it from time to time for personal communication. I encourage you to email me if you have questions or comments, BUT PLEASE include your full name and the course for which you have questions. Even if you submit your email through the Blackboard site, I cannot tell which course you are in nor what your real name is (i.e., egar123) unless you put it in the body of your email.

Technical Support: The Support Desk is where you can direct your more technical questions. For example, the Support Desk can help you if you are having issues submitting a document, getting videos to play, or using BlackBoard. The support desk is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week for your convenience. You can reach the support desk by calling 888.837.8888 or by email blackboardsupport@sulross.edu. You may also reach the Support desk from the Technology Support tab within Blackboard by clicking the Support Desk graphic on the course homepage or calling 936.294.2780.

SRSU Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook

Module/ Date	Topic	Chapter	Description
Mod 1 Jan 14	Management Information Systems: Business Driven MIS	1	Introduction to the Management Information systems concepts
Mod 2 Jan 18	Decisions + Processes: Value Driven Business; Ebusiness: Electronic Business Value	2 & 3	Decision making and operational support systems. The Internet, WWW and ebusiness Assignment 1—January 25
Mod 3 Jan 25	Ethics + Information Security: MIS Business Concerns	4	Ethical issues in the use of information technology
Mod 4 Feb 1	Infrastructures: Sustainable Technologies	5	Information systems infrastructure
Mod 5 Feb 8	Data: Business Intelligence	6	Database management systems Assignment 2—February 15
Mod 6 Feb 15	Networks: Mobile Business	7	Network concepts
Mod 7 Feb 22	Enterprise Applications: Business Communications	8	Enterprise Resource Planning and Supply chain Management systems
Mod 7 Mar 1	Systems Development and Project Management: Corporate Responsibility	9	Project management and system development methodologies Final Assignment—March 5

Assignments

Late Work: There will be a 10% penalty for assignments submitted late.

Course Requirements and Grading

Requirement	Points Possible	Grading Scale
Weekly Discussion Posts – Due Weekly	350 points	A = 900 to 1000 points
Assignment 1 – Due January 25, 2026.	200 points	B = 800 to 899 points
Assignment 2 – Due February 15 2026.	200 points	C = 700 to 799 points
Final Assignment – Due March 3, 2026.	250 points	D = 600 to 699 points
		F = less than 599 points

Possible Points **1000 points**

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly Discussion Board:

1. Faculty will post a weekly discussion board that will be available at 12:01 AM Tuesday and have a due date of the following Monday at 11:59 PM.
2. Students will be required to respond to the question itself by Friday and reply to two other students by Sunday night.

3. The question will be designed to facilitate discussion by requiring students to offer their analysis, evaluation or design based on the course's weekly topic. (Blooms Levels 5-6).
4. The Instructor will be active in the Discussion Board by responding to at least half of the student posts each week.

Discussion Board Rubric: (50 points)

Rubric 1: The student's main post responded completely and substantially to all of parts of discussion question. (30 points).

Rubric 2: The Student's initial post was no later than Friday (5 points)

Rubric 3: The response was well-organized, clear and free of grammatical and mechanical errors. (5 points).

Rubric 4: The student post substantially to two other students. 5 points each (10 points)

ASSIGNMENT 1 (DUE JANUARY 25) MIS in Decision-Making and E-Business Strategy Analysis

Description: Students will select an existing organization and analyze how it uses Management Information Systems to support decision-making and operational processes. The paper should examine the role of MIS dashboards, transactional systems, and decision-support tools in improving efficiency or solving business problems. In addition, students will evaluate the company's e-business strategy—how it uses the Internet, the web, and digital channels to create business value, reach customers, and streamline operations.

Deliverable:

3 to 5 page analysis (APA format)

- Include at least two MIS frameworks (e.g., TPS, DSS, value chain, e-business models)
- Provide recommendations for improving the company's digital effectiveness
- Use at least 5 scholarly sources

ASSIGNMENT 2 (DUE FEBRUARY 15) Information Security, Data Infrastructure, and Business Intelligence Review

Description: Students will conduct a critical evaluation of an organization's IT infrastructure, cybersecurity posture, and data management capabilities. The report should analyze ethical concerns related to data collection, storage, and employee/customer privacy. Students must also evaluate how well the organization leverages data for decision-making through business intelligence tools or databases.

Deliverable:

- 3 to 5 page report (APA format)
- Assess infrastructure (hardware, cloud, virtualization), data security controls, and BI capabilities
- Identify major risks and propose 2–3 strategic improvements supported by course concepts
- Use at least 5 scholarly sources

FINAL ASSIGNMENT (DUE MARCH 5) End-to-End MIS Governance, System Development, and Technology Strategy Proposal

Description: This capstone project requires students to develop a comprehensive MIS strategy for a company experiencing growth, digital transformation, or operational challenges. The strategy must integrate networks, infrastructure, enterprise systems (ERP/Supply Chain), project management, and ethical considerations. The report should present a phased roadmap that includes system selection or upgrades, governance policies, and risk management.

Deliverable:

- 6 to 8 page strategic report (APA format)
- Must include:
- MIS challenges and opportunities

- Data, infrastructure, and network assessment
- ERP/SCM or enterprise system recommendations
- System development or project management plan
- Ethical and security considerations
- Include a final executive summary aimed at senior leadership
- Use at least 7 scholarly sources