



Trent University  
ADMIN-COIS 1620H  
2008 Summer Term

## INTRO TO INFORMATION SYSTEMS

### Course Outline

**Instructor:** Michael Jack,  
OC 102  
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**Secretary:** Bonnie MacKinnon  
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**Text:** *Information Systems Today: Why IS Matters (2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition)*,  
L.M. Jessup, J.S. Valacich, and M.R. Wade (2008),  
Pearson Prentice Hall ([www.pearsoned.ca/jessup](http://www.pearsoned.ca/jessup))

**Meetings:** Tuesday/Thursday, 18:30 - 20:30, GCS 110.

**Office Hours:** Monday, 17:00 - 18:30, OC 102.

### **Course Content:**

This course provides an introductory overview of information systems and will address the following important questions:

- Why Information Systems Matter
- Information Systems for Competitive Advantage
- Data and Knowledge Management
- The Internet and Security
- Electronic Business, Intranets, and Extranets
- Organizational Information Systems
- Enterprise-Wide Information Systems
- Information Systems Development and Acquisition
- Information Systems Ethics and Computer Crime

### **Course Objectives:**

- Understand why information systems matter to contemporary organizations and society.
- Understand exactly what innovative organizations are doing with contemporary information systems and where things are headed.
- Present a uniquely Canadian perspective on the field of information systems.
- Empower students with the essential knowledge they need to be successful in the use and understanding of information technology in their careers.
- Teach the students the principles and importance of critical thinking.

## **Methodology:**

For each student, this course is comprised of weekly lectures, nine quizzes, two tests, and a research project. It is a busy agenda, but one that attempts to involve you as much as possible in the learning process.

## **Grading scheme:**

40%	9 online quizzes
40%	2 in-class tests
20%	1 research project
5%	bonus

## **Quizzes:**

The quizzes are based on the chapters from the text book – one quiz per chapter. The best 8 out of 9 will be selected for the calculation of the final grade. All the quizzes will be done online using the myLearningSystem (WebCT) system. Since you are taking quizzes at the time and place of your convenience (during the allocated time frame), you can use any resources such as the Internet and books to help you answer the questions. However, the quizzes must be completed independently. The duration of each quiz will be 30 minutes.

## **Tests:**

Both tests are paper based and will be given in class settings. The tests are open text book. The duration of each test is one hour. The tests are structured strictly around material presented in each chapter. The better you do on your quizzes, the easier it will be for you to “ace” the tests.

No computers may be used during the tests. The only digital devices permitted are calculators and digital wristwatches. Cell phones must be turned off as well.

## **Research project:**

The intent of the research project is to teach you to think critically and to look at Information Systems from a broader perspective. You are to pick a case in which Information Systems inadvertently or intentionally produce adverse effects on the environment, animals, or humans. You are required to write an 8-10 page summary of what you have found and what you think of it. Make sure to provide references to the sources of your information. The project paper is to be completed independently and submitted in paper form on the last day of the classes.

A list of possible topics to look into:

- [www.consciousmedianetwork.com](http://www.consciousmedianetwork.com)
  - Nick Begich on Chipping
  - Nick Begich on Cellphone Radiation
  - Nick Begich on the Human RFID chip
  - Ian Wagge on our Technological Future
  - Leuren Moret on The Uranium Wars
  - Jerry E. Smith on HAARP

- <http://www.storyofstuff.com>
- Zeitgeist (available on video.google.com)
- America Freedom to Fascism (available on video.google.com)

**Bonus:**

You can earn up to 5% bonus that will be added to your final grade. For every logical or syntax mistake that you find in the text book you can earn a point. The point will be awarded to ONLY the first student who shows the instructor the mistake and for a maximum of 5 points per student.

**Missed or Delayed Term Work:**

You are expected to complete your research projects and hand them in on time and you are expected to take the online quizzes within the allocated time frame. If you miss or don't hand in some term work due to illness or another legitimate reason, Michael Jack is willing to make accommodations, but only if you report the problem to Michael Jack (not anyone else) as soon as is reasonably possible. Accommodations for missed term work will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Typically they will involve either taking the quiz after the expiration date or making changes to the weighting used to compute the course grade.

**Correspondence:**

Due to privacy legislation, any email correspondence from the course instructor or assistant will be forwarded to your Trent account only.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism and cheating, is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from failure in an assignment to suspension from the University. Definitions, penalties, and procedures for dealing with plagiarism and cheating are set out in Trent University's Academic Dishonesty Policy which is printed in the University Calendar and found at:

[http://www.trentu.ca/deansoffice/policies\\_dishonesty.php](http://www.trentu.ca/deansoffice/policies_dishonesty.php)

**Get help, but do not cheat!**

You are encouraged to discuss your work with the instructor, lab adviser, and fellow students, since this is one of the best ways to learn the material. However, you should not let anyone take your quizzes and do your research project for you. When you submit your work, ask yourself two questions:

*Do I understand all the material I am handing in?  
Could I do this over again without any help?*

The answer to both questions should be YES. If you are caught cheating you will be reported to the Dean's Office for appropriate discipline.

**Access to Instruction:**

It is Trent University's intent to create an inclusive learning environment. If a student has a disability and/or health consideration and feels that he/she may need accommodations to succeed in this course, the student should contact the Disability Services Office (BL Suite 109, 748-1281, [disabilityservices@trentu.ca](mailto:disabilityservices@trentu.ca)) as soon as possible. Complete text can be found under Access to Instruction in the Academic Calendar.

**Course Schedule**

Timeframe		Material
Release	Close	
June 17	June 22	Ch 1: Why Information Systems Matter.
June 22	June 25	Ch 2: Information Systems for Competitive Advantage.
June 25	June 29	Ch 3: Data and Knowledge Management.
June 29	July 2	Ch 4: The Internet and Security.
July 3	July 3	Test 1: Ch 1, 2, 3, 4.
July 2	July 8	Ch 5: Electronic Business, Intranets, and Extranets.
July 8	July 13	Ch 6: Organizational Information Systems.
July 13	July 18	Ch 7: Enterprise-Wide Information Systems.
July 18	July 23	Ch 8: Information Systems Development and Acquisition.
July 23	July 28	Ch 9: Information Systems Ethics and Computer Crime.
July 29	July 29	Test 2: Ch 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; Research project summary.