Introduction to Information Systems in Organizations

As the course catalogue describes IFSM 300, this is an "overview of information systems, their role in organizations, and the relationship between information systems and the objectives and structure of an organization." Information systems collect, organize, process, and make available or distribute data. The systems involve people, technology, and processes. Students in this class come from a variety of different majors and disciplines; however, in today's business and personal world, each of us is impacted by information systems on a regular basis.

There is a clear relationship between information (derived from raw data), information technology (the computer-based tools used to work with information), and people (you!). What is critical to keep in mind is that they all contribute (together) to **business success**. Investments in technology and information systems are worthless if they do not support or contribute to the business' success.

People, processes and technology all work together. The "processes" are the business activities of the organization. In order for those processes to work, information is needed. Information, therefore, becomes the lifeblood of the organization. It is one of the most important assets in an organization, and the primary way that people get information is through information technology. Information technology in and of itself is not useful unless it delivers the *right* information to the *right* people at the *right* time. Since people, information and information technology (in that order of priority) are inextricably linked, if one fails, they all fail.

So, we will begin our study of "Information Systems in Organizations" with developing an understanding of the business environment. We will use the term "business" to represent a variety of organizational types: government entities, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and general businesses, both large and small. The concepts apply in all of those environments.

As you approach each week's work, you should read and view the assigned items in the order presented. They are grouped by topic to aid your understanding of the topic and to prepare you to demonstrate your learning when it comes time to complete the assignments.