# BCIS 4730/5670 – International Issues of Information Technology
# Spring 2021

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Office Hours: 2:00 – 5:00 pm, Thursday
and by appointment
Zoom ID: 835-1733-0335 (Course)
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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an in-depth analysis of contemporary information systems topics with emphasis on the organizational, economic, and technological impacts of computer information systems in an international business environment. It is designed to be both interesting and informative for the information systems professional who wants to better understand important international IT management issues.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

During this course the student will develop an awareness of:
- General global business and IT environments
- Roles of IT in international business
- Global IT strategy and management
- IT and global supply chain management
- Cultural, social, organizational and political issues of IT
- Factors affecting global electronic commerce
- International considerations of the adoption of new technologies
- International considerations of organizational forms and the alignment of IT services
- Strategies for global IS development
- Global IT sourcing

## PREREQUISITES

- BCIS 3610/5090 (Introduction to Business Computer Information Systems) or equivalent, or consent of department.

## TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS

- D. E. Leidner and T. R. Kayworth, Global Information Systems: The Implications of Culture for IS Management (ISBN: 978-0-7506-8648-8)
- Subscription to Wall Street Journal (Check Canvas for subscription information)
- Additional articles as shown in the Class Schedule section and to be announced in class

## ONLINE TOOLS

- **Zoom**
  The class meets via Zoom. Students must sign in using their full names and keep video on during the entire class.
- **Canvas**
  The course uses Canvas for communication between the instructor and students and among students. Exams are administered using Respondus Lock Down browser with a webcam.

## GRADING

**Point Distribution**

| Component | Points |
|---|---|
| Midterm exam | 250 |
| Final exam | 250 |
| Individual research and presentation | 50 |
| Team research project | 250 |
| Attendance, presentation and participation | 200 |
| **Total** | 1,000 |

**Grading Scale**

| Percent | Grade |
|---|---|
| 90.0 – 100 % | A |
| 80.0 – 89.9 % | B |
| 70.0 – 79.9 % | C |
| 60.0 – 69.9 % | D |
| Less than 60 % | F |

## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH AND PRESENTATION

Each student will conduct research on a topic, issue or event recently reported in a source such as Wall Street Journal. The student must select a story relevant to the course and conducts additional research for background information, analysis and interpretation and prepare and submit a research report in PowerPoint. The student also prepares and records a presentation on the topic in Zoom (5-10 minutes). Submit your recorded presentation along with the PowerPoint report to the designated Canvas site. There will be an extra credit for submitting and/or presenting early (see class schedule for details).

## TEAM PROJECT

Each student will participate in a research project that investigates and reports the business and IT environment; cultural, social, organizational and political issues related to the adoption and use of IT; and any other topics relevant to the course for a country or region of choice. The objective of the project is to allow students to reinforce the theories and concepts they learn from the course by applying them to a target country or region while gaining intimate knowledge of the country or region.

### Team:

Each team will consist of up to five members. It is the responsibility of individual students to find colleagues to work with as a team. Once a team is formed, each member has obligation to stay and function as a productive team member until the completion of the project. Any disputes, conflicts and problems within a team must first be resolved among the members.

Each team will elect team leader who will be responsible for coordinating various project tasks and communicating with the instructor. The performance of a team will be graded as a single unit. That is, each member of the team will get the same grade for the project. However, individual members will receive an adjusted grade at the end of the semester, which reflects the level of contribution as assessed by peers.

### Presentation (100 points)

Each team will prepare and record a presentation in Zoom to report their findings on the country or region. The presentation will be evaluated for its contents as well as the quality and style of presentation. The presentation should last between 15 and 20 minutes. Submit the recorded presentation along with the PowerPoint slides to the designated Canvas site.

**Report** (100 points)

Each team will submit a report that summarizes the findings of the research project on the country or region. The report of 7 to 10 pages in length (double-spaced, excluding appendices) should include the following (but not limited to):

- Cover page
- Table of contents
- Executive summary
- Page number on each page (except the cover page)
- Tables and charts and their references in the report
- References of resources identified and/or used in the project

**Peer Evaluation** (50 points)

All members of the team will receive the same grade for the presentation and the report. At the end of the project (after the report has been submitted), the team members will anonymously evaluate each other on their levels of contribution to the project. The result of this evaluation will determine the points each member will receive for the peer evaluation part of the project grade.

## ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Regular and punctual attendance for the full class period is expected. Attendance will be recorded. You must attend the entire class to avoid being recorded absent. Any student whose absences exceed the equivalent of two weeks of the class without proper notice may be dropped by the instructor with a WF for nonattendance.

You are expected to come to class prepared. That means you will need to read the assigned chapters before coming to class and be prepared to discuss them. Attendance and class participation represent 200 possible points of your final class grade. I will assign your class attendance and participation score for each class based upon your attendance, performance on the in-class quiz, and the level of contributions you make in class. Details for grading criteria will be provided in class.

## ACADEMIC INTEGIRY STANDARDS AND CONSEQUNECES

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Consult the University of North Texas *Student Handbook* (www.unt.edu/student/code.htm) for guidelines and policies regarding student academic conduct.

Scholastic integrity *must* be exhibited in your academic work, conduct, and methods. Course work for which you receive an individual grade *must* be your original, individual effort. If any evidence of copying, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty on all or part of any of your graded course work, you (and any others involved) will be given a zero for that work. A second incident will result in a grade of F in this course and a recommendation for further action by the Dean of Students.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request

accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

## EMEGENCY NOTIFICATION AND PROCEDURES

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

# CLASS SCHEDULE
BCIS 4730/5670 – Spring 2021
(Last updated: 01/14/2021)

| Week | Date | Topics and Readings | Note |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1/14 | **Course Introduction**<br>• Course overview and introduction<br>• [Video] "World Is Flat" by Tom Friedman (http://video.mit.edu/watch/the-world-is-flat-9145)<br>• "World Is Round" by Laurence Prusak (Provided) | |
| 2 | 1/21 | **Global IT Issues**<br>• "Key IS Management Issues: Need for an International Research Program" Palvia, *Journal of Global IT Management*, Vol. 9, No. 2, 2006, pp. 1-4.<br>• "Using the Internet to Enhance Global Strategy" Yip and Dempster, *European Management Journal*, Vol. 23, No. 1, 2005, pp. 1-13.<br>• "History Lessons and Forecasting Future" (Dr. Koh's lecture) | |
| 3 | 1/28 | **Global Digital Divide**<br>• "Forward: Special Issue on IS in Developing Countries" Walsham et al., *MIS Quarterly*, Vol. 31, No. 2, 2007, pp. 317-326.<br>• "Factors Contributing to Global Digital Divide: Some Empirical Results" Bagchi, *Journal of Global IT Management*, Vol. 8, No. 3, 2005, pp. 47-65.<br>• "Global Challenges Facing Humanity – How Can the Global Convergence of Information and Communications Technologies Work for Everyone" In *The Millennium Project: Global Future Studies & Research* (http://www.millennium-project.org/millennium/Global_Challenges/chall-06.html)<br>• World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report 2017-18 (Report in PDF format) | |
| 4 | 2/4 | **Global Perspective of Information Privacy**<br>• 'Guest Lecture' - "The Surveillance State" Paul Rosenzweig, J.D. The George Washing University Law School<br>  o Listen to the following three lectures on privacy and go to Assignments to answer questions:<br>    ▪ Lecture 17 - Technology Outruns the Law<br>    ▪ Lecture 18 - Your Personal Data Is the Product<br>    ▪ Lecture 22 - Europe's Right to Be Forgotten<br>  o Lecture Note for your review<br>• Team Project and Research | |
| 5 | 2/11 | **Global IT Strategies and Outsourcing**<br>• "Competitive Advantage of Nation" Michael Porter, *Harvard Business Review*, March-April 1990, pp. 73-91.<br>• "Strategies for Global IS Development" Akmanligil & Palvia, *Information & Management*, No. 42, 2004, pp. 45-59.<br>• "UCB: Managing Information for Globalization and Innovation" McFarlan & DeLacey, *Harvard Business School Case* 9-304-096, 2004 (HBS), August 8, 2005.* | 10 extra points for early report & presentation by 2/11 |

| 6 | 2/18 | **Culture and Global IT** <br> • "The Cultural Relativity of Organizational Practices and Theories" Hofstede, *Journal of International Business Studies*, Vol. 14, 1983, pp. 75-89. <br> • "Hofstede's Model of National Cultural Differences and Their Consequences: A Triumph of Faith – A Failure of Analysis" McSweeney, *Human Relations*, Vol. 55, No. 1, 2002, pp. 89-118. <br> • "International and Cross-Cultural Influences on Online Shopping Behavior" Stafford, et al., *Journal of Global IT Management*, Vol. 7, No. 2, 2004, pp. 70-87. <br> • "The Paradox of Samsung's Rise" Khanna, et al., *Harvard Business Review*, Vol. 89, No. 7/8, July-August 2011, pp. 142-147. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 2/25 | • Student Presentations | 7 extra points for early report & presentation by 2/25 |
| 8 | 3/4 | Midterm | |
| 9 | 3/11 | **[TEXT] *Global Information Systems: The Implications of Culture for IS Management*** <br> • Introduction: An Overview of Culture and IS <br><br> **Part 1: The Role of Culture in IS Development** <br> 2. Cross-Cultural Software Production and Use <br> 3. Reporting Bad News about Software Projects | |
| 10 | 3/18 | Team Project and Research | |
| 11 | 3/25 | **Part 2: The Role of Culture in IS Adoption and Diffusion** <br> 5. Diffusing the Internet in Arab World <br> 9. Qualitative Assessment of Arab Culture and IT Transfer | |
| 12 | 4/1 | **Part 3: The Role of Culture in IT Use and Outcomes** <br> 11. Impact of National Culture on IT Usage Behavior <br> 12. Mexican and Swedish Manager's Perception of the Impact of EIS <br> • "Self-Perception-Based vs. Transference-Based Trust Determinants in Computer-Mediated Transactions: A Cross-Cultural Comparison Study" Kim, *Journal of MIS*, Vol. 24, No. 4, 2008, pp. 13-45. | Individual research report & presentation due |
| 13 | 4/8 | **Part 4: The Role of Culture in IT Management** <br> 15. Developing a Management Culture in Which IT Will Flourish <br> 16. IS Employment Structures in USA and Singapore | Team research presentation & report due |
| 14 | 4/15 | Team Research Presentations | Peer evaluations due |
| 15 | 4/22 | Final | |

Most of the articles listed can be obtained online from the UNT Library system.
* Harvard Business School case articles can be obtained from http://hbsp.harvard.edu/