

The Catholic University of America
School of Library and Information Science
Syllabus for Information Systems in Libraries and Information Centers - LSC 555
(ONLINE)
Spring 2007 Semester (January 8 – April 27)

Instructor: Dr. Saiid Ganjalizadeh

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Course Web Site: <http://bb.cua.edu/> (Username: **CUA Account** and Temporary Password: **welcome**)

Course Description:

Introduction to the role of information systems in the storage and retrieval of information. Covers information-seeking behavior and communication in electronic environments, with special emphasis on using systems to solve information problems. Explores the use of computers in information centers, library automation, database structure and design, search engines, and the Internet.

Course Objectives:

1. Discuss the role and functions of computer based information systems in libraries and information centers.
2. Employ basic systems concepts to analyze and evaluate library and information system operations.
3. Apply basic design principles to the analysis and design of information system user interfaces.
4. Describe important issues related to information seeking in electronic environments.
5. Understand fundamental computer and communications technology principles applicable to library and information center systems.
6. Apply basic management principles to the development and operation of information systems.

Text/Materials:

1. **Textbook 1:** Ralph Stair and George Reynolds, *Fundamentals of Information Systems, Third Edition*, Course Technology, 2006, ISBN 0-619-21560-7

2. **Textbook 2:** Thomas Kocktanek and Joseph Matthews, *Library Information Systems: From Library Automation to Distributed Information Access Solutions*, Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2002, ISBN: 1-59158-018-8
3. **Handouts:** Additional weekly readings will be available online (in **Blackboard**).

Teaching Methods:

1. **Lectures:** This course is entirely online. We will have a few Discussion Forums during the course of the semester on different subjects that we study. We will also meet face-to-face once at the beginning of the semester on Saturday, January 20, 2007 and another time on Saturday, March 10. Both meetings would be from 1 to 4 pm. The place of the meetings to be determined.
2. **Assignments and Projects:** Review Assignments, Case Problems, and other projects will be assigned every week to reinforce material in the text. All weekly assignments and discussions are due by the Sunday of that week.
3. **Exams:** Two exams will be given. The final exam will not be comprehensive in nature. However, I would reserve the right to retest on material that was not appropriately comprehended. These items will be announced in advance.
4. **Internet:** All material will be distributed on the Internet. Class notes, instructional material, and student assignments will be posted in **Blackboard System**.

New Policy on Student Academic Dishonesty:

This policy addresses plagiarism, improper use of one's own work, fabrication, and cheating. The policy applies to all academic conduct, including coursework, research, comprehensive examinations, and the preparation of theses or dissertations. This policy supersedes all previous university policies on academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for these policies. Students should note that plagiarism includes any unacknowledged use of another's ideas, words and or works, which include items posted on the Internet, papers written by other students, interviews, radio or TV broadcasts, and any published or unpublished materials. It is also a violation of the policy to submit one's own work for a course that was done for a previous course as though the work were newly created for the current course. The policy is available at <http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm>.

ADA Accommodation:

Students with disabilities requiring accommodation under federal regulations must present a written accommodation request to the instructor by the second class meeting (September 6). It is also strongly recommended that the student contact the Office of Disability Support Services, Suite 207, Pryzbyla Center. This is the University office responsible for disability accommodation and services, and its staff can answer questions about services and requirements regarding documentation. Special accommodations or other arrangements cannot be made without documentation approved by this office.

The Center's contact information is:

Telephone: 202-319-5211

Fax: 202-319-5126
 TTY: 202-299-2899
 Website: <http://disabilityservices.cua.edu/>

Further information can be found here:
<http://counsel.cua.edu/ADA/publications/disbro/contents.cfm>
<http://counsel.cua.edu/ADA/clicks/>

Grading System:

- Midterm Exam: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%
- Projects: 25%
- Class Participation (Assignments & Discussions): 15%

Letter grades will be determined using standard percentage point evaluation as outlined below. Grades may be curved after the total semester points have been tabulated. However, do not count on a curve to obtain your desired grade.

A 93%-100%	B+ 86%-89%	B- 80%-82%	C 73%-75%	D 60%-69%
A- 90%-92%	B 83%-85%	C+ 76%-79%	C- 70%-72%	F Below 60%

Tentative Course Outline – Spring 2007

Week	Date	Topics
1	1/8-1/14	Introduction to the course and CUA Chapter 1: An Introduction to Information Systems in Organizations (Stair & Reynolds)
2	1/15-1/21	Chapters 1 & 2: [The Evolution of LIS and Enabling Technologies] & [The Library Information Systems Marketplace Technologies] (Kocktanek and Matthews)
2+	1/20	Meeting on Campus: Review of the Blackboard System - Review of the Projects – Web Design @ CUA
3	1/22-1/28	Chapter 2: Hardware and Software (Stair & Reynolds) Chapter 11: Usability of Systems (Kocktanek and Matthews) Topic for Discussion: What are the fundamental functions in an information storage and retrieval system, and how do web search engines, digital library systems, and library OPACs instantiate them.
4	1/29-2/4	Chapter 4: Telecommunications, the Internet, Intranets, and Extranets (Stair & Reynolds) Chapter 5: Telecommunications and Networks (Kocktanek and Matthews)
5	2/5-2/11	Chapter 3: Organizing Data and Information (Stair & Reynolds) Chapter 3: Design of Integrated Library Systems (Kocktanek and Matthews)
6	2/12-2/18	Chapters 8 & 9: [Basic Technology Axioms] & [The Impact of Technology on Library Services] (Kocktanek and Matthews)

7	2/19- 2/25	Midterm Exam
8	2/26- 3/4	Spring Recess (No Class)
9	3/5- 3/11	Chapter 6: Standards and Standards Organizations (Kocktanek and Matthews)
9+	3/10	Meeting on Campus: Review of the Materials before Midterm Exam, Review of the Projects – Web Design @ CUA
10	3/12- 3/18	Chapter 9: The Impact of Technology on Library Services (Kocktanek and Matthews)
11	3/19- 3/24	Chapter 14: Digital Libraries (Kocktanek and Matthews) Topic for Discussion: User motivation and behavior: what motivates the use of library information systems, what important characteristics do users bring to the system, and how do they affect the design and functionality?
12	3/26- 4/1	Chapter 13: Technology Trends (Kocktanek and Matthews)
13	4/2- 4/8	Chapter 7: Planning for Information Technology (Kocktanek and Matthews) Chapter 8: Systems Development (Stair & Reynolds)
14	4/9- 4/15	Chapter 12: Managing Library Information Systems (Kocktanek and Matthews) Chapter 9: Security, Privacy, and Ethical Issues in Information Systems and the Internet (Stair & Reynolds)
15	4/16- 4/22	Review for Final Exam and Projects
16	4/23- 4/29	Final Exam (Chapters 5-9)