INFS 8328 Economics of Information Systems  Bin Wang
Spring 2018  (956)665-3882  bin.wang@utrgv.edu
F 1:30 to 4:10 p.m. EMAGC 2.406  Office: EMASS 1.158
Office Hours:
In Office: TR 3:00 to 4:00 pm. All other times by appointments only.

**Required Textbooks:**
None.

**Course Description**
This course introduces students to classic and contemporary research on economics of information systems using methodologies such as econometrics and analytical modeling. Examples of topics covered include IT business value, open source software, IS security and privacy, information goods, digital markets, online auctions, digital word-of-mouth, mobile commerce, social media and social networks, and crowdsourcing and crowdfunding.

**Prerequisite**
None.

**Use of Web Site**
Course materials are posted online in Blackboard at [http://mycourses.utrgv.edu](http://mycourses.utrgv.edu). For questions and technical support on using Blackboard, please contact the COLTT help desk at (956)665-5327.

**Email Policy**
Generally I will respond to emails within 24 hours of receiving them. If I plan to be away from my computer for more than a couple of days, I will let you know in advance.

**Learning Objectives/Outcomes for the Course**
Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
1. Identify key areas of classic and contemporary research on economics of information systems.
2. Identify seminal research on economics of information systems.
3. Identify methods used in economics of information systems research.

**Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Mission and Learning Goals**
Our mission is to be the agent of innovation, knowledge discovery, and economic development in South Texas, Northern Mexico, and beyond, by offering a rigorous curriculum informed by experiential learning, high quality research, and community partnerships. Your mastery of these learning goals and objectives help us to achieve this mission.

The Robert C. Vackar College of Business Entrepreneurship has adopted the following learning goals that each student should achieve while in the degree program. Not all goals and objectives are covered in each course; however, all goals and objectives should be addressed throughout the degree program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ph.D. in Business Administration learning goals</th>
<th>This course contributes to the following College of Business and Entrepreneurship learning goals:</th>
<th>How measured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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### Information Systems major learning objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Systems major learning objectives</th>
<th>This course contributes to the following Department of Information Systems learning objectives:</th>
<th>How measured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will understand concepts needed to design and implement information systems infrastructure</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>Reading summary and critique, class presentation, class discussion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students will be able to design and implement information systems infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students will be able to effectively communicate in writing</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>Reading summary and critique, class presentation, class discussion, research proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students will be able to effectively communicate orally</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>Class presentations and class discussion</td>
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**Mandatory Course Evaluation Period**

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account ([http://my.utrgv.edu](http://my.utrgv.edu)); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

**Grading Policies**

| Weekly Readings & Presentations | | |
|----------------------------------| | |
| Reading summary/critique | | 330 |
| Class presentation | | 110 |
| Class discussion | | 60 |
| Final exam (research proposal and presentation) | | 500 |
| Total | | 1000 |

There will be no individual-based work for extra credit. Grading scale:

- 900 and up - A
- 800 to 899 - B
- 700 to 799 - C
- 600 to 699 - D
- 599 and below - F

**Weekly Readings & Presentations**

Each student will read the readings prior to the class presentation and discussion and submit a one-page summary and critique of each reading. In addition, each student will give a 15-minute presentation on one
research paper each week. Your reading summary/critique and your presentation should include the following components:

- Motivation and justification for the research.
- Research questions.
- Theory/literature used
- Data and methodology including the source of data, dependent, independent, and control variables, and data analysis methods.
- Results
- Limitations and future research.
- Your evaluation on the strengths and weaknesses of the research.

Your reading summary and presentation slides are due the day before the class discussion and should be submitted through Blackboard.

Without an official document, the following rules will apply to late assignment submissions:

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<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Within 24 hours</td>
<td>80 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Within 48 hours</td>
<td>50 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>After 48 hours</td>
<td>0 %</td>
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Late submissions with acceptable official excuses will be given full credit. However, they must be submitted within a reasonable time period. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be graded using the penalties indicated above.

Athletic events and routine or pre-planned company assignments are not acceptable excuses for late work. Affected students should make arrangements for their assignments to be submitted prior to the deadline given.

**Final Research Proposal and Presentation**

Each student will submit a research proposal analyzing an IS topic using an economic research method and give a presentation at the end of the semester. Students are encouraged to discuss with the professor their topic and research method early on in the semester. Your research proposal should include the following sections:

1. Title
2. Abstract
3. Introduction
4. Literature review, theory, and hypotheses
5. Proposed data collection method, variables (dependent, independent, and control), and data analysis method
6. Expected results
7. References

The proposal should be of conference (e.g., ICIS, HICSS, and AMCIS) submission quality.

**Absence Policy**

Students with unexcused absences who do not attend the first three classes will be dropped from the class. Absences in excess of three class hours without acceptable documentation may result in a failing grade or a drop from the course. Students arriving late or leaving early will be recorded as tardy. Every two tardy records will count as an absence. Students with excessive tardiness (6 or more) may be dropped from the course.

The faculty member will check for attendance at the beginning of class hour. Students are advised to be punctual for class because they will be counted as absent when they are not in their assigned seat when attendance is taken. Students will also be asked to sign the class attendance roll at the end of the lecture. Please note that any student signing the roll for another student who is absent from class will be dropped.
from the course. Random checks of the signed roll will be made periodically. Any student who has a signature on the roll but is not present when the name is called will also be dropped.

**Student Responsibilities**
The Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship expects students to behave in a professional and respectful manner in the classroom and during any interaction with professors, colleagues, and other stakeholders (e.g., recruiters). Here are a few specific policies I would like each student to respect while in my course:

- Read and understand course syllabus.
- Check Web site on regular basis.
- Read assigned material before class.
- Academic Honesty: Cheating of any kind is an unacceptable behavior and will not be tolerated.
  - Do your own work.
  - Do not collaborate with others on assignments unless it is specifically allowed.
- Unless otherwise noted, all work submitted to me needs to be typed (double-spaced) and stapled.
  - Make sure you follow instructions and proofread assignments.
- Arrive to class on time.
- Do not disrupt class.
  - No reading the newspaper during class
  - No chit-chat about noncourse related topics.
- No NEDs (Noise Emitting Devices, e.g., cell phones, pagers, mp3 players).
  - Please place your NEDs on vibrate or turn them off during class.
- Instructor permission is required prior to using a lap top in class.
  - A lap top computer used in class should be employed strictly for class related activities.

**Academic Integrity**
Cheating of any kind is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Some of the more common types of academic dishonesty relate to the following:

- Plagiarism - Do not use published and/or unpublished material without acknowledging the source.
- Cheating on assignments or projects – Do not collaborate with other students unless it is specifically stated by the instructor that working with others is allowed (e.g., a team project).
- Cheating on exams – Do not acquire from, or give information to, other students about exams. Do not use materials or resources during exams that are not expressly permitted by the instructor.

Penalties for cheating and plagiarism may range from an F on a particular assignment, an F for the course, to expulsion from the university. Violators of the University's policy on Academic Integrity will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Services for hearings, and will automatically receive an "F" for the course if found guilty.

**Students with Disabilities**
If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.
要想在大学期间学习有关性骚扰、歧视和暴力，你的教师是负责报告的员工，必须根据美国大学系统的规定报告任何发生在学生在校期间的性侵犯、跟踪、恋爱暴力、家庭暴力或性骚扰事件。更多信息可以在www.utrgv.edu/equity找到，包括校园内的保密资源。

学院的教职员工致力于提供一个促进个人美德、文明和相互尊重的学习、工作和生活环境，该环境应免于性骚扰和歧视。

**Important Dates**
- **January 16**: Classes Begin
- **January 31**: Last day to drop a class before it appears on the transcript and counts toward the “6-drop” limit.
- **March 12 to March 17**: Spring break; no classes
- **March 30**: Easter holiday; no classes
- **April 12**: Drop/Withdrawal Deadline; last day for students to drop the course and receive a DR grade. After this date, students will be assigned a letter grade for the course that will count on the GPA.
- **May 3**: Study Day; no classes
- **May 4 to May 10**: Final Exams

**Course Schedule**
This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics and Readings</th>
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| 1/19 | Course Introduction and Overview of economics of IS research  
| 1/26 | Business value of IT  
| 2/2 | IT Capabilities, Standards, and Outsourcing  

Optional:

**2/9**

**Open source software**


Optional:

**2/16**

**Electronic markets and online auctions**


Optional:

**2/23**

**Digital word-of-mouth**


Optional:
## Mobile commerce


Optional:


## Social media


Optional:


## Social networks


Optional:


## Crowdfunding and crowdsourcing


<table>
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<tr>
<th>4/13</th>
<th>Health IT, IS security and privacy</th>
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**Optional:**


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>4/20</th>
<th>Data analytics and sharing economy</th>
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</table>

**Optional:**


| 4/27 | Final research proposal presentations |