

IT 425 Project Management (exists as MSIS 425)

Instructor: Roger Blake
Telephone: 617-287-7692
E-Mail: roger.blake@umb.edu

Office: M/5-251
Office Hours: Tue 2:30-4:00 PM,
Thu 2:30-4:00 PM

I Course Materials

Information Technology Project Management, Kathy Schwalbe, Course Technology, 2006, ISBN 0-619-21526-7.

II Course Background

It is rare to find any individual, particularly in the field of information systems, who has not had involvement in work on one or more projects. Information systems are most often implemented through the use of projects. Yet, projects involving information technology are notorious for failure. One study cited an overall success rate for technology projects of 16.2%. This 'success' rate was for the approximately 175,000 technology projects embarked upon each year, with an estimated annual cost of \$250 billion; further studies have shown similar success rates.

One of the causes for this less-than-stellar track record is the lack of good project management. Studies have indicated that the application of project management techniques is one of the critical success factors for successful projects. (Other factors include top management support and user involvement.)

This course introduces students to the concepts involved in project management, including project planning, cost estimation, project life cycles, work breakdown structures, scheduling, staffing, and project management software tools.

III Learning Objectives

The objectives of this course are:

- 1) To introduce you to project management as a discipline,
- 2) To give you an understanding of the knowledge areas and the processes involved in project management,
- 3) To familiarize you with current software tools used in managing projects, and
- 4) To make you more successful in the workplace.

IV Course Format

We will combine lectures, mini-paper presentations, and the computer lab for this course. We will emphasize the material from the text book as a guide to project management concepts, and illustrate those concepts through cases from the text, cases from experience, and through mini-papers and projects. The computer lab will be used for applying project management software, specifically Microsoft Project 2003. We will also make use of WebCT for this course, primarily in order to distribute documents.

V Evaluation

There will be a mid-term, a final, homeworks, mini-papers, and projects. The weighting of these for determining the final grade will be as follows:

Item	Weight
Homeworks	12%
Mid-term	20%
Projects	15%
Mini-papers	18%
Final	25%
Class Participation	10%

Note that participation is important. However, participation is more than just showing up; you should come to each class prepared, and be ready to ask questions. Project management is a very wide field, and covers a lot of topics that can seem abstract, especially if you've never experienced real MIS projects. There is never, ever a bad or dumb question. At least, I've never heard one in all the time I've been teaching, and remember that if you have a question, most likely others do too.

VI Administrative Notes

These administrative notes are in the form of guidelines that will apply to our course; please make sure you have an understanding of them:

- Under no circumstances will the dates of exams be changed individually.
- All assignments that are turned in late will receive half credit.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of class.
- As with all courses in the College of Management, this course is governed by the UMass regulations and procedures regarding Academic Standards, Cheating, Plagiarism, and the Documentation of Written Work as published in the Undergraduate Catalog. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will fail the course and a description of the incident may be attached to his or her academic record.
- Students should be aware that, at the discretion of the instructor, assignments may be submitted to plagiarism detection software programs for the purpose of detecting possible plagiarism. Students in this course must be prepared to submit an electronic version of any written assignment upon request of the instructor.
- If you do not understand an assignment, it is your responsibility to seek clarification – please ask questions in class.

VII Detailed Schedule

Here is our planned schedule at the outset, subject to change as the semester progresses:

Topic	Readings	Due
	Introduction to course, syllabus and to Project Management	
Ch 1 and 2	Project Mgt, context of Project Mgt in MIS, SDLC	
Ch 4	Project integration management, elements of a project plan	Homework #1
Ch 5	Project scope management, work breakdown structures	Homework #2
	Paper presentations	Colossal Failure paper
	Paper presentations	
Ch 5 (continued)	Scope management, project charter	
Ch 6	Time management	Homework #3
Appendix A	Intro to MS-Project	
-	Work in lab on MS-Project #1	
	MS-Project, Pert and Gantt charts	MS Project #1
	Work in lab on MS Project #2	
Ch 7	Cost management	Homework #4
-	Work in lab on MS Project #2	
No class - spring break		
No class - spring break		
	Mid-term	
Ch 7 (cont'd)	Cost management	MS Project #2
	Paper presentations	Cost management paper
	Paper presentations	
Ch 8	Quality management	Homework #5
Ch 9	Human Resource management	M-B profile
Appendix B	PMI certification	
	Paper presentations	Quality in IT paper
	Paper presentations	
	Work in lab on MS Project #3	
Ch 11	Risk management	Homework #6
	Work in lab on MS Project #3	
Ch 12	Procurement management	MS Project #3
Appendix E	Project management simulation	
	Review for final	