

**College of Information Science & Technology  
University of Nebraska at Omaha**

**CIST 1010, Foundations of Information Science and Technology, Fall 2008  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**LOGISTICS**

**Time:** Section 1: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., Thursdays, PKI 359, call # 10711

Section 2: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., Wednesdays, PKI 164, call #10712

(NOTE: some sessions meet in PKI 276 lab, per course schedule on last page)

**Professor:** Dr. Ilze Zigurs, PKI 284E, voice: 402.554.3182, fax: 402.554.3400,  
[izigurs@unomaha.edu](mailto:izigurs@unomaha.edu), <http://www.isqa.unomaha.edu/izigurs/home.htm>

**Office hours:** 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays; 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Thursdays; and by appointment, email, and/or telephone

**Teaching Assistant:** Mr. Bikash Upadhyay

**Required text and readings:** as posted in Blackboard and/or handed out in class.

**Prerequisite:** none

**Blackboard:** Course documents and up-to-date schedule information are available through Blackboard, so check early and often.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

The official description for this course is: “An introduction to the information age; focus on foundations of information technologies, problem solving, information system applications and social issues. Also describes careers in information related fields.”

What does that mean to you, the student? It means that you have an opportunity to find out what the College of Information Science and Technology is all about – the main areas of study, the big topics in our field, and the opportunities that are ahead of you. We want you to experience the “inner workings” of information technology and get a first-hand feel for what you might do, so that you can make informed choices for the next few years of your life as a student here.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- Understand the main areas of study in information science and technology
- Recognize and appreciate the range of career options in information science and technology
- Be able to find answers to questions during your career as a student here
- Know how to connect with faculty members in your areas of interest
- Know how to connect with staff members who can help you accomplish your academic goals

## GRADING

Grades are assigned based on the following:

Class attendance: 1500 points (100 points for each class - once a week for 15 weeks)

Assignments: 1500 points (100 points maximum for each of 15 assignments)

Each separate assignment will specify the criteria for achieving maximum points.

The course is graded pass/fail. In order to receive a passing grade in the course, you must earn a minimum total of 2500 points. No make-ups for assignments or missed classes will be given. The point structure allows slack for up to 5 missed classes and/or assignments before you fail the course. That provides plenty of room for illness, unforeseen emergencies, and anything else that could arise. So please don't ask for make-ups, just be there and be ready!

## COURSE POLICIES

This course will be conducted in a manner consistent with official policies of the University of Nebraska at Omaha and in a spirit of professionalism and integrity. Please read and follow the Student Code of Conduct at <http://studentaffairs.unomaha.edu/studentcode.php>. Please pay particular attention to the following points.

### *Class Attendance and Timeliness*

Timely attendance is a sign of professionalism. Being late disrupts class. Please be considerate.

### *Late Assignments, Make-ups, and Incompletes*

Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class or not at all. (See details under "Grading".) There are no make-ups. Incomplete grades will not be given except for genuinely extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the professor.

### *Score/Grade Appeals*

Any grade you receive on an assignment is subject to appeal. You must make the appeal in writing. However, score changes are at the discretion of the professor and may be up or down based upon a complete review of the work. Final grades are assigned by the professor, based on total points at semester's end. A grade reflects *another's* judgment of your work. In this sense, all grading is subjective. Appealing scores on assignments is discouraged, since a few points rarely make a difference in the final grade. Time is much better spent discussing/clarifying the information content presented in the course. Ask for work to be re-graded only in cases of real inequity.

### *Academic Integrity*

The web has made it all too easy to copy material from all over the world and include it in your own reports and writing. Be aware that you must cite your web sources just as you would sources from printed material. To copy another's ideas or writing and pass them off as your own is *plagiarism*. It is unethical and illegal. Dishonest students suffer the risk of failing this course and being expelled from the university. Remember, if you copy material verbatim *from any source*,

including web sources, you must put quotation marks around the verbatim material and provide a citation to its source. Merely changing a word or two, so that the material is no longer verbatim, still is not enough to make those ideas your own. ***YOU MUST ALWAYS CITE THE SOURCE.***

Cheating or copying will not be tolerated. You are expected to do your own work on the assignments. If you turn in another person's work as your own, you will receive an F for the course.

### ***Disabilities***

Accommodations are provided for students with verified disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in EAB 117 or 554-2872, TTY 554-3799, <http://avalon.unomaha.edu/disability/>.

## **YOUR PROFESSOR**

Dr. Ilze Zigurs joined UNO in Fall 2001, having taught at the University of Colorado for thirteen years and the University of Minnesota for one year prior to that (which is where she completed her Ph.D.). Ilze used to build systems for a living, starting as a COBOL programmer in a prior century. Ilze analyzed and designed a variety of systems in those days, and saw all kinds of problems with the way systems were being developed. Partly to figure out why things were happening the way they were, she went back to school to learn something about theory and principles and how they could be applied to improve practice. She has been working on that goal ever since. For more, see <http://www.isqa.unomaha.edu/izigurs/Home.htm>.

## **RESOURCES**

- College of IS&T home page, <http://www.ist.unomaha.edu/>
- AITP (Association of Information Technology Professionals), <http://www.aitp.org>
- PMI (Project Management Institute), <http://www.pmi.org>
- IFIP (International Federation of Information Processing), <http://www.ifip.or.at/>
- SIM (Society for Information Management), <http://www.simnet.org/>
- ITAA (Information Technology Association of America), <http://www.itaa.org/>

## COURSE SCHEDULE, as of 10/29/2008

	<b>Date</b>	<b>In-Class Activity</b>	<b>Assignments and Reminders</b>
1	27/28 Aug	Course Overview; IT Innovation Through Collaboration; Who We Are	Assignment #1 due: Meet and Greet
2	3/4 Sept	Tree of Interdisciplinary IT; Dean Hesham Ali and Associate Dean Deepak Khazanchi	Assignment #2 due: IT and You;
3	10/11 Sept	Bioinformatics exercise; Dr. Kiran Bastola	Assignment #3 due: What is Bioinformatics? <b>Meet in PKI 276 lab</b>
4	17/18 Sept	Bioinformatics exercise discussion; Dean Hesham Ali	Assignment #4 due: Bioinformatics in Action
5	24/25 Sept	Computer Science exercises; Mr. Bikash Upadhyay and Dr. Parvathi Chundi	Assignment #5 due: What is Computer Science? <b>Meet in PKI 276 lab</b>
6	1/2 Oct	Virtual Worlds exercise; Mr. Bikash Upadhyay and Mr. John Murphy	Assignment #6 due: Computers and Collaboration <b>Meet in PKI 276 lab</b>
7	8/9 Oct	Information Assurance exercise; Prof. Steve Nugen, assisted by Luke Wentz, Connie Jones, Ellen Sampson	Assignment #7 due: What is Information Assurance? <b>Meet in PKI 361 Steal lab</b>
8	15 Oct	Finding Your Strengths; Ms. Irene Burkland, Gallup (Thurs. class cancelled)	Assignment #8 due: Finding Your Strengths
9	23 Oct	Finding Your Strengths; Ms. Irene Burkland, Gallup (Wed. class cancelled)	Assignment #9 due: What is Management Information Systems?
10	29/30 Oct	Management Information Systems exercise	Assignment #10 due: Treasure Hunt
11	5/6 Nov	IT Innovation and Visualization; Dr. Jerry Wagner	Assignment #11 due: What is IT Innovation? <b>Meet in PKI 276 lab</b>
12	12/13 Nov	What Computer Scientists Do; Dr. Qiuming Zhu, Dr. Jon Youn	Assignment #12 due: Computer Science in Action
13	19/20 Nov	What IT Professionals Do; Mr. Doug Bahle	Assignment #13 due: Interview with an IT Professional
<b>26/27 Nov, Thanksgiving Holiday – no class</b>			
14	3/4 Dec	Linking IT to Other Fields	Assignment #14 due: Reaching Out with IT, <b>Meet in PKI 276 lab</b>
15	10/11 Dec	Plan of Study; Ms. Farida Majid and Ms. Judy Monarrez Diaz-Kelsey	Assignment #15 due: Plan of Study
	17/18 Dec	Final exam week (no class meeting)	Assignment #16 due: What You Learned (supplemental & optional)

- Notes:** 1. Each assignment is due at the beginning of class on the day listed for the assignment.  
2. Some classes meet in a lab, as indicated in the “Assignments and Reminders” column; unless indicated otherwise, we meet in our regular classroom.