Course Description

Introduction to Computing (3:1:2) IT 304 analyzes how IT has changed the nature of society and contributed to the evolution of a global economy and how the global economy has impacted IT. Students will examine the changing nature of work, education, and communication as well as ethical issues such as intellectual property rights, computer related crime, privacy concerns, and public policy issues in the light of students roles as future IT professionals. IT304 also presents sufficient economic theory to help students grapple with the global economy, the workings of international trade, and the operation of trans-national corporations and trans-national organizations in the global economy.

Prerequisites

IT 103 / IT 104 or equivalent.

General Education Course

This course is an approved General Education course in IT Ethics and is designed to meet the following General Education Mission Objective: “General education courses should encourage students to make important connections across boundaries.” This course will demonstrate how IT is changing the nature of work, identity, communication, and world economies. The role of IT as both a facilitator and driver of globalization will be presented. Legal and social issues will be examined. Students will discuss their research and views with respect to information privacy, intellectual property, computer related crime, eCommerce regulation, and public policy. Students will research the place of IT in developing nations and the place of these nations in the global economy. The research will be submitted in both paper and web site format.

The General Education mission statement is in the University Catalog and on the web at http://catalog.gmu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=5&poid=1437

Objectives

After successful completion of the course, the students will be able to –

- Appreciation for the rapid rate of technological change and its impact on societies around the world.
- Appreciation for the role of IT in the globalization of economies, crime, culture, and the shifts in global power.
• Appreciation for the role of IT in the changing nature of work, governance, identity, communication, and loss of privacy.
• Appreciation for the role of IT in creating a global civil society and facilitating the work of NGOs and consortia.
• Appreciation for the role of IT in economic development and meeting UN Millennium Development Goals.
• Basic understanding of the international laws and treaties in place with respect to e-commerce, intellectual property, computer-related crime, taxation, and trade.
• Knowledge of professional codes of ethics, ethical decision making models and processes.

Textbooks
None, but there is a directed reading list of journal articles that are required reading. All articles are available online at the GMU library website. See Blackboard for Reading Assignments.

Grading
Grades will be awarded in accordance with the GMU Grading System for undergraduate students. See http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/ under Grading System for more information.

The grading scale for this course is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97 – 100%</td>
<td>Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 96%</td>
<td>Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92%</td>
<td>Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89%</td>
<td>Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86%</td>
<td>Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82%</td>
<td>Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79%</td>
<td>Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 – 76%</td>
<td>Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 72%</td>
<td>Passing*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69%</td>
<td>Passing*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 59%</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* Grades of "C-" and "D" are considered passing grades for undergraduate courses. However, a minimum grade of "C" is required in the BSIT program for any course that is a prerequisite for one or more other courses. This course is a prerequisite for several courses in BSIT program – see http://catalog.gmu.edu/preview_entity.php?catoid=19&ent_oid=2545 for more information on those courses.
Raw scores may be adjusted by the Instructor to calculate final grades.

Final grades will be determined based on the following components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Assignments</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are responsible for checking the currency of their grade books. Grade discrepancies must be brought to instructor’s attention within one week of assignment submission and 48 hours of exam submission.

Grading components are outlined in the following sections.

**Course Policies**
Late work will only be accepted with prior permission. Makeup exams will only be given when arranged prior to the exam. Students with concerns about meeting course requirements should discuss these with the instructor in advance of the due date. Students with disabilities that require accommodation should register with the GMU Office of Disability Services and notify the instructor before any assignments are due.

**Exams (midterm and final)**
Both midterm and final exams are “closed book”. No makeups for missed exams for any reason.

Final grades will be posted to PatriotWeb, which is the only vehicle for students to obtain those grades. A student with a "hold" on his/her PatriotWeb account will be unable to access final grades until the hold has been removed by the Registrar.
## Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture/Topic</th>
<th>Lecture Reading Assignment</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Introductions.  
      Historical perspective on economic change: *Overview of Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions, the service-based economy and transition to the Information Age. Effects of IT on the nature of communication: email, IM, blogs, video, satellite communications.* | **Video viewing assignment:** view first seven chapters of Commanding Heights episode 1 and be prepared to discuss at the next class. |
| 2    | IT and the changing nature of work - relationship of worker to corporation, government, and society. TNCs, outsourcing and offshoring. Friedman’s “10 Flatteners”.
      Discuss chapters viewed in Commanding Heights episode 1. | **Video viewing assignment:** view chapters 1-3 and 5-12 Commanding Heights episode 2 and be prepared to discuss at next class.  
**Week 2 reading/writing assignment due.** |
| 3    | Global governance: the emergence of global consortiums and NGOs, the new “fourth world,” international crime, loss of privacy and the concept of “information prison”. Presentation on Library Research.
      Discuss chapters viewed in Commanding Heights episode 2. | **Video viewing assignment:** view Chapters 1-4 and 7-10 of Commanding Heights episode 3 and be prepared to discuss next class.  
**Week 3 reading/writing assignment due.** |
| 4    | Effects of IT: family, gender issues, personal identity, cultural identity, warfare, education, politics (domestic and foreign), poverty, etc.
      Be prepared to discuss the segments of the video series “Commanding Heights” | **Week 4 reading/writing assignment due.** |
| 5    | Transforming technologies: *How innovations in IT have changed the world - the Internet, GPS/GIS, IM, wireless technologies, and cryptography.*
      Discuss chapters viewed in Commanding Heights III. | **Video viewing assignment:** view chapters 11-18 of Commanding Heights episode 3 and be prepared to discuss next class.  
**Week 5 reading/writing assignment due.**  
First draft of paper due |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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| 6    | Ethics: *deontological vs. utilitarian ethics.* Codes of ethics. Ethical decision making processes. The role of the IT professional in society. Discuss chapters viewed in Commanding Heights episode 3. Discuss scope of and directions for midterm exam. | Video viewing assignment: view Youtube video of Thomas Friedman’s address at MIT.  
Week 6 reading/writing assignment due. |
| 7    | **Midterm Exam**                                                                                |                                                                                               |
| 8    | Discussion of midterm exam. Selection of teams and topics for class presentations.               | Week 8 reading/writing assignment due.                                                          |
| 9    | Intellectual property laws, contracts, licenses and liability. Further discussion of group presentations. | Film: Globalization at the Crossroads (View and be prepared to discuss in class)  
Week 9 reading/writing assignment due. |
| 10   | Global Trade, Corruption and the global compact. International law, computer crime and law enforcement including forensic and jurisdictional challenges. | Video viewing assignment: view the video of Daphne Koller’s presentation to the TED conference. |
| 11   | **Website Due**                                                                                 | Prepare for presentation                                                                        |
| 12   | Team Presentations                                                                               | Prepare for presentation                                                                        |
| 13   | Team Presentations                                                                               | Prepare for presentation                                                                        |
| 14   | Team Presentations                                                                               | Prepare for final Exam                                                                          |
| 15   | **Final Exam (Check Blackboard announcement area for final exam date)**                         |                                                                                               |

The reading assignment shown for each lecture is to be completed prior to that lecture.

*This schedule is subject to revision before and throughout the course.*
Important Dates
Please view the semester calendar available on the Office of the University Registrar’s web site for important dates and holidays.

Religious Holidays
A list of religious holidays is available on the University Life Calendar page. Any student whose religious observance conflicts with a scheduled course activity must contact the Instructor at least 2 weeks in advance of the conflict date in order to make alternative arrangements.

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to attend each class, to complete any required preparatory work, and to participate actively in lectures, discussions and exercises. As members of the academic community, all students are expected to contribute regardless of their proficiency with the subject matter.

Students are expected to make prior arrangements with Instructor if they know in advance that they will miss any class and to consult with the Instructor as soon as possible if they miss any class without prior notice. Any student who expects to miss more than two class sessions is strongly advised to drop the course and take it in a later semester when he/she can attend every class.

Departmental policy requires students to take exams at the scheduled time and place, unless there are truly compelling circumstances supported by appropriate documentation. Except in such circumstances, failure to attend a scheduled exam will result in a score of zero (0) for that exam, in accordance with Mason policy on final exams. Students should not make travel plans or other discretionary arrangements that conflict with scheduled classes and/or exams. If the University is closed due to weather or other unforeseen conditions, final exams may be rescheduled – students are strongly advised not to make plans that would prevent them from attending exams that may be rescheduled during the entire exam period.

Classroom Conduct
Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to learning, as directed by the Instructor. Any student who negatively impacts the opportunity for other students to learn will be warned – if disruptive behavior continues, the student will be asked to leave the classroom.

Communications
GMU e-mail is the preferred method of communication.

Students must use their MasonLIVE email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. Federal privacy law and GMU policy require that any communication with a student related in any way to a student's status be conducted using secure GMU systems.
**Privacy**
Instructors respect and protect the privacy of information related to individual students. Instructors will take every possible measure to protect the privacy of each student’s submissions, scores and grades.

**Disability Accommodations**
Any student with a disability of any kind is strongly encouraged to register with The Office of Disability Services (ODS) (703.993.2474) as soon as possible and take advantage of the services offered.

Accommodations for disabled students must be made in advance – ODS cannot assist students retroactively, and at least one week's notice is required for special accommodations related to exams. Any student who needs accommodation should contact the Instructor during the first week of the semester so the sufficient time is allowed to make arrangements.

**Honor Code**
All members of the Mason community are expected to uphold the principles of scholarly ethics. The GMU Honor System and Code will be strictly enforced in this course. Any use of the words or ideas of another person(s), without explicit attribution that clearly identifies the material used and its source in an appropriate manner, is plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Blackboard’s SafeAssign tool is used to detect plagiarism in any work submitted by students for this course.

For this course, the following requirements are specified:

All assessable work is to be prepared by the individual student, unless the Instructor explicitly directs otherwise.

All work must be newly created by the individual student for this course for this semester. Any usage of work developed for another course, or for this course in a prior semester, is strictly prohibited without prior approval from the instructor.

Students may seek assistance with assigned work (and are encouraged to do so if they feel the need), provided the directions for the assigned work do not prohibit such assistance and assistance is acknowledged in the submitted work, clearly identifying the person(s) giving assistance and the nature of the assistance given.

In short, The GMU honor code will be strictly enforced and any violation will result in an “F” in the class in addition to any other penalties imposed by the honor committee. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. This is an IT ethics class and students are considered IT professionals. All homework assignments are to be individual efforts. It should always be clear which words are yours and which are someone else's. If you are unsure how to cite a quotation properly, ask for assistance. Do not paraphrase quotations. If you have questions or need help proofreading, please ask or contact the Writing Center.

**Available Resources**

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1 Available at [www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies](http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies) and related GMU Web pages.
WRITING CENTER: A114 Robinson Hall; (703) 993-1200; http://writingcenter.gmu.edu
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES “Ask a Librarian” http://library.gmu.edu/ask
COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS): (703) 993-2380; http://caps.gmu.edu