The University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
The Bryan School of Business and Economics  
Department of Information Systems and Operations Management  

**ISM 625: Information Assurance and Systems Security**  
Spring 2006  

**Prerequisite:** ISM601/MBA 618 or Permission of MSITM program director; Admission to a UNCG Graduate Program  
**Instructor:** Rahul Singh, Ph.D.  
**Office:** Bryan Room 481  
**Phone:** (336) 256-0260 Office  
(336) 334-4083 (ISOM Department Fax Machine)  
**E-mail:** rahul@uncg.edu (E-mail is my preferred method for communication)  
**Office Hours:** M 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Other times by appointment.  

**Course Web Site:**  
The course is hosted on BlackBoard - [http://blackboard.uncg.edu](http://blackboard.uncg.edu). Please choose the appropriate course after you login. The course web site on Black Board is updated regularly. Please check the course site frequently for homework, reading assignments, additional readings, references, handouts and general course announcements.  

**Catalog Description:**  
Study of the technical, managerial and organizational issues in systems security, including systems security models, analysis of business process and technology for systems security and information assurance.  

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:  
- impact of Systems Security and Information Assurance (IA) for Organizations  
- Understand the broad role of IA in business processes  
- Understand the technical foundations for IA  
- Study the implications for IA in Inter-Organizational business processes.  
- Study the implications for IA in Enterprise Information Systems  
- Understand the issues in managing the security of Information Systems.  
- Understand how to assess and mitigate the risks and vulnerabilities in systems  

**Required Texts/Readings/References:**  
Additional readings will be given in class and/or posted on Blackboard  

**Additional References:**  
The following are representative texts and professional references for Information Security and IA Courses.  
- Additional Readings will be selected from leading academic and practitioner journals including Communications of the ACM, ACM Transactions on Information and Systems Security, IEEE Computer, IEEE Security and Privacy, Business week, CIO and other leading periodicals and research sources including the Gartner Research Database.
Evaluation Methods:
ISM 625 course grades will be determined by the combination of individual and group assignments, quizzes and one final exam.

The course will be letter graded. A student’s final grade will be distributed in the following manner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation and Discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article Reviews / Homework Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (2 Quizzes)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Please read the material listed under preparation prior to class. This will help improve class discussion. Also, the quiz for any class period will include preparation material. NO MAKEUP quizzes will be given unless there is an extreme emergency case that is/can be documented.

Assignments: Due dates and format guidelines: All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Assignments turned in after class starts will be counted as late and will be assessed a severe grading penalty. Papers not received within 24 hours of the due date will not be accepted and will be given a grade of 0.

Use software features to check spelling and grammar, when appropriate. However, DO NOT assume that the software will catch all errors. Please proofread your work carefully. Be sure to cover all assignment parts. Any assignment that requires rework will be assessed at least a 10% penalty.

Exams: In-class tests will be in the format of True/False with justification, multiple choice, and short answer questions. Questions will be derived from the text, other distributed articles, class discussions, Web discussions, videos, and/or guest lectures. History indicates that there is a strong correlation between students reading their chapters prior to class discussion and effective test performance. Exams will assess your knowledge of concepts and terms. If a student is late for a test, they will be given only the time remaining to complete the exam.

COURSE CONTENT and PERSPECTIVES

Oral & Written Communications Content:
Students are expected to attend class prepared to think and communicate their thought process. Analysis questions frequently do not have only one correct answer so students should be prepared to defend the conclusions they reach! Students may be required to participate in web-based threaded discussions of questions or issues that are distributed by the instructor.

Effective written communication is stressed through written assignments, web discussions, e-mail communications, and short essays on tests. It is expected that all communications are prepared and presented professionally.

Technology Applications:
Discussion of information technology is a major component of the course and technology is used as a tool in ISM 625. Knowledge of graphics and diagramming software, spreadsheet, presentation tool and a word processor is assumed.

Ethical Perspectives:
The importance of ethical considerations in the management and use of technology by business will be addressed. Specific ethical issues such as software piracy, confidentiality of data and databases, software licensing and copyright protection (among others) may be discussed. Other ethical issue discussions may relate to uses of the Internet, e-mail, threaded discussion groups, groupware, and other electronic tools.
Global Perspectives:
Although globalization of systems is an emerging topic, global aspects of business and technology are not specifically covered in this introduction course.

Demographic Diversity Perspectives:
Many information systems deal with and about an increasingly diverse workplace. Many exercises within analysis deal with breaking myths and get to core values and core "truths" about systems and the people that make them work. A by-product of this course is to learn how to triangulate and respect perspectives that may be different than our own.

Political, Social, Legal, Regulatory, and Environmental Perspectives:
Coverage of political, social, regulatory, and environmental perspectives is limited to the context of business issues in general and newsworthy developments that are both business-related and technology-related and may be considerable.

Academic Honor Code
Students must review the University’s Academic Integrity Policy in the student handbook or on-line at http://saf.dept.uncg.edu/studiscp/Honor.html. The instructor should be contacted if any questions related to academic integrity arise.