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

ISM 412-01: Open Source Software and Applications  
Fall 2006

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Office Hours: TR 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
other times by appointment

Course Web Site: The course is hosted on Blackboard - 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 Open Source Systems (OSS) the Linux Operating System, the open source software concept and widely used open source software applications; experience with the installation, administration, and use of open source software

Pre-Requisites: ISM 210, 240, Permission of the Instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:  
- Understand the OSS and its potential as a viable alternative to proprietary software  
- Understand Linux environment and operating systems fundamentals  
- Understand Linux installation and administration  
- Evaluate various OSS application systems as viable enterprise systems  
- Understand the OSS model and OSS growth

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

Recommended Text: While there is no specific required text for this course, it is highly recommended that you purchase one of the many available Linux Guides available as part of professional references from Prentice-Hall, OReilly, Wiley, Wrox, Sams, Ques. I recommend the following as a good example of such a book.  

ISBN 0-13-147024-8
**Instructional methodology:** Lectures, class demonstrations and assignments.

**Evaluation Methods:** Grades in the course will be based on tests, assignments and a group project.

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Please read the material listed under preparation prior to class. This will help improve class discussion. NO MAKEUP exams 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 reword will be assessed at least 20% 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.

**Written Tests:** If for any reason, the student must miss a test, the student must notify the instructor in advance and reschedule the test in advance of its scheduled date.

**Posting Grades:** The ISOM Department does not post grades nor give them over the phone. You may also dial 1-800-613-9503, enter your SS# and UNCG Pin number, and receive your final grades as soon as they are loaded into the computer.

**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. Knowledge of graphical software, a spreadsheet, a 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 IS 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 should 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.