



# INFO 661 Course Syllabus

Name	Sect.	Ref. #	Time	Day(s)	Room	Building
Management Information Systems	E902	13056	7:00 - 9:40 PM	Wednesdays	4115	Business Building

**Instructor**

Peter Aiken. I received my doctorate in Information Technology from George Mason University, School of Information Technology and Engineering in 1989. The school used the following definition of information technology:

*Information Technology is a discipline that encompasses the design, development, and application of hardware and software systems to facilitate human endeavors.*

**Contact**

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not my: Yesterday is history, Tomorrow is a mystery and
quote: Today is a gift - that's why it's called the Present
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- If you fax me any material please call and leave me a message so I can be certain to separate your fax from the others in the in-box.
- My office phone rolls over to voice mail after three rings - you can always leave a message there for me. I check my messages regularly, especially when I'm traveling, and I will return your call.
- I spend about 50% of my research time working at my home office, please feel free to try to contact me there. At home I often hide from sales calls behind the

answering machine. If you get the answering machine, press and hold any key on your touch-tone phone to by-pass the recorded message and please announce yourself. If I'm there, I'll pick up unless I'm attempting deep concentration. Regardless, please leave me a message - I will return your call.

- This semester I'll usually be spending approximately two days each week in New York City where I'm working on sponsored research with the Deutsche Bank.
- I'm often required to travel beyond my usual visits to New York and when I do I leave this information on my office answering machine.

**Office Hours** My office hours are before class my classes from 4:00-7:00 PM on Mondays and Wednesdays and other times by appointment. In addition to my regularly scheduled office hours, I'll stick around as long as required after the evening class to answer any questions.

**Schedule** My class schedule for the Spring 1999 semester is INFO 468 on Mondays and INFO661 on Wednesdays. Both classes are from 7-9:40 PM.

**Prerequisites** Admission to the Graduate School in Business at VCU or permission of the instructor.

**Catalog** This course is designed to familiarize students with the concepts and methodologies inherent in the design, development, uses, and management of Management Information Systems (MIS).

**Objectives** To develop an understanding of:

- Why you must play a valuable role in the organizational information system development/reengineering process.
- How organizational information systems should form a symbiotic relationship with organizational processes.
- An appreciation of the nature of data as an organizational asset and how data delivering systems are used to support operations.

Upon completing this course, you will have an in-depth perspective of the role and value of information in planning, controlling, and decision-making within business organizations and understand the concepts and benefits of database management, information, systems, strategic information, knowledge based systems, and the methods of evaluating the organizational MIS and information technology resources and their applications.

**Texts**

Hammer & Champy *Reengineering the Corporation* Harper Business Press 1993. (This is available in paperback from local bookstores and often the University Bookstore has used copies in stock and you might also check <http://www.dealpilot.com/>.)

Nolan, Stoddard, Davenport, Jarvenpaa *Reengineering the Organization* Harvard Business School Publishing, 1996. (This has been ordered through the bookstore and should arrive around 24 Jan.)

**Attendance**

You are responsible for all material discussed in class.

**Grading**

As shown below, your grade will be determined by a combination of group and individual grades.

Individual Component			Group Component	
Test #1	Test #2	Class Participation	Group Case Technology Briefing	IT Implementation Support Report
25%	25%	5%	20%	25%

First, you will receive an individual grade for each of 2 tests. Five percent of your grade will come from your individual class participation, this will be formally assessed twice during the semester. These will be designed to test your knowledge of the concepts and their application. (All tests are open book open notes.) Self appointed groups will each present one of the IT/Reengineering Case Briefings during the semester according to the 'most recent schedule.' A 10 page (maximum) report will document how you or your group added value to an IT implementation project during the semester. Up to 5% extra credit may be awarded in response to contributions to my web pages.

**IT Implementation Deliverable****The Project**

The semester project will count 25% toward your final grade. You may work in approved groups, and each group may choose its own focus. Some topic suggestions will be discussed in class. You are expected to your group's contribution to a real life IT implementation project. A (10 page maximum) report will document the following information:

- the IT implementation to which your group is adding value through their participation;
- the IT implementation goals and objectives;
- the characteristics of the implementation initiative;
- your group's specific contribution to the effort;

any relevant information systems/reengineering trends you think will be of interest to the host organization, the instructor, or the rest of the

class. Guidelines for preparing the reports will be discussed in response to specific questions.

**Project Grade** The composition of the project grade is as follows:

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Interim Report</b>	<b>Final Report</b>
5%	15%	25%	55%
(1.25%)	(3.75)	(6.25)	(13.75)

(the numbers in parentheses are the final grade percentages)

**Abstract** Turn in a one page project abstract, including the proposed project title, the names of the members in your group, and a brief narrative description of what you intend to do.

**Proposal** Turn in three pages, including again the proposed project title, the names of the members in your group, the scope of your project, a detailed plan of activities, the purpose, goals, and objectives of any major activities, a proposed time schedule for completing the project, and a preliminary anticipated results list.

**Interim Report** Turn in about five pages, describing all activities carried out so far, and including a schedule for completing the project, a description of the results to date, as well as an updated description of the anticipated results if different from the proposal.

**Final Report** About ten pages single spaced using 12 point type with one inch margins, including graphs and other illustrations. Extra materials may be included in appendices.

All text submitted must be typed on a word processor, must be neat, and must be in correct English and must be accompanied by a diskette containing the final version because I hope to publish the final versions on the website. The final report will be assigned a grade, but this grade may be reduced if the specified dates for handing in the abstract, proposal, and interim report are not met, or if unsatisfactory work is handed in.

Only one copy of the abstract, proposal, and interim report should be handed in per group. These will be returned to you and should be placed in a folder or binder. The complete folder or binder, including all previously handed in material, should be submitted each successive time. The complete folder or binder should also be handed in with the final report. Two copies of the final report must be handed in. One copy will be kept by the instructor, the other one will be returned to the group.

Grades will only be assigned to those students whose names appear on all project materials and the final report. If a group decides to drop a member because of insufficient participation or other reasons, it is that person's responsibility to come up with a project of his/her own. Each group member should keep his or her own personal copies of all project work. If a group decides to split, all factions may continue to work on the same topic independently.

## Motivation

### CONSULTING & SYSTEMS INTEGRATION POSITIONS

Business Requirements Analysts [ EIT Engineering Positions ]

Reference #304

Work with financial institutions in a consultative capacity to determine requirements for Internet-based payment services.

Gather requirements, develop high-level systems architecture, and develop proposals (including pricing) and presentations for high-level management and technical management at the financial institutions. A significant amount of travel may be required at times.

Requires knowledge of several (but not necessarily all of the following):

- \* Networking, Internet protocols, WWW, firewalls
- \* Bank protocols, credit/debit processing
- \* Relational databases
- \* Public key cryptography
- \* Ability to work with technical and business employees of financial institutions in a consultative capacity.

Educational Requirements

- \* BS/BA + 5-10 years of hands-on consulting/technical experience, or
- \* MS/MBA + 3-10 years of hands-on consulting/technical experience

## Required Fine Print (Spring)

**Religion** January 21<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for students to provide advance written notification to instructors of intent to observe religious holidays

**Graduation** January 21<sup>st</sup> is the last day for degree candidates - to submit graduation applications to you advisers for December degrees.

**Withdrawal** March 3<sup>rd</sup> is the last day to withdraw from a course with a mark of "W".

