WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
MASTERS OF SCIENCE - INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGIES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: IT Policy & Strategy
COURSE NUMBER: IST 7100

I. RATIONALE

Students develop an understanding of the strategic use of information technology from a business perspective at the enterprise level. They are expected to understand the internal management of information systems services from the point of view of the CIO and to examine alternative strategies and tactics available to management to achieve goals. Working students and students with post-baccalaureate experience will be able to examine the current and potential impact of information and information technology on all aspects of their position, firm, and industry.

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

Goal A. Understand the role of IT in reaching business objectives

Learning Outcomes: The student will be able to:
A-1 describe the significance of alignment of external partners, business units, and customers with the IT organization
A-2 differentiate between effective business strategies based on a company’s vision, strategy, and mission statements

Goal B. Understand the role of governance and communication in the selection and use of organizational processes to make decisions about how to obtain and deploy IT resources

Learning Outcome: The student will be able to:
B-1 differentiate between varying governance models and to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each
B-2 differentiate between effective and ineffective steering committees
B-3 identify ‘organizational’ cultural attributes that enable or inhibit effective governance
B-4 identify effective guidelines for communicating
B-5 identify methods to improve communication processes in an organizational setting

Goal C. Review organizational structure and Human Resource issues as they relate to IT systems

Learning Outcome: The students will be able to:
C-1 distinguish between the advantages and disadvantages of organization types
C-2 differentiate between the centralization and decentralization of IT functionality
C-3 identify skill sets needed to have a successful future in IT
C-4 describe elements used in managing human resources in an IT organization
C-5 identify the primary sources of workplace stress for IT professionals

Goal D. Understand the potential impact of emerging technologies on an organization

Learning Outcome: The students will be able to:
D-1 describe the technology life-cycle
D-2 describe the implications of not keeping pace with technological advancements
D-3 identify emerging technology to adopt in organizations

Goal E. Understand the role and function of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) in an organization

Learning Outcome: The students will be able to:
E-1 summarize the evolution of the CIO
E-2 describe attributes of CIOs that seem to contribute to effectiveness
E-3 distinguish between the functional and executive roles of the CIO

III. CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Students are expected to attend class and participate actively and in a positive way. Questions and relevant observations are encouraged and enrich the experience of the entire class.

Computers in the classrooms are intended to be used as tools to enhance the students' learning experience. Instant messaging, gaming, emailing, and surfing the web are distractions to the student, the surrounding students, and the instructor and constitute inappropriate behavior. Students are ethically obliged to avoid these and similar practices.

IV. CLASS SCHEDULE - OUTLINES – READINGS:

A “structured external assignment” will constitute the closing activity for this course. Students will be asked to submit a topic for instructor approval that integrates IT concepts discussed in class into the student’s vocational or educational interests or workday environment. Ideally, a “planning paper” will result that is topical, and possesses significant utility within the student’s job-related responsibilities or educational/vocational interests.

Instructor will include weekly outline to reflect what has to be achieved by the student in the 5 hours Out-of-Classroom project (Structured External Assignment) including submission deadline and grading criteria.

Semester = 15 weeks with a reading week at Week 8
Blocks = 7 weeks, with a Reading Week between Blocks I and II.
The syllabus must reflect which preliminary reading all students should complete during the week prior to the start of the course.

Note: A cooperative and participative learning strategy will be deployed with every expectation that the student will contribute heavily, in a self-directed action-learning mode, to this educational experience. Students should anticipate that assignments, and this syllabus, will be adjusted to match the pace of the course, the class size, and to meet the needs of individual students.

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