

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
LONDON CANADA**

**Management and Organizational Studies**

**MOS 2240a**

**Section 001**

**Information Management and Decision Making**

**2010**

**1.0 CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

A study of effective management of information as a critical resource in the organization and its relationship with the decision-making process. Topics include systems theory, classification of information systems, information management, decision analysis.

Prerequisite: Enrollment in MOS. Senate Regulations state, “unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites”.  
Half course.

**2.0 COURSE INFORMATION**

Instructor:	Julie Aitken Schermer, Ph.D.
Office:	2215 Social Science Centre
E-mail:	jharris@uwo.ca
Office Hours:	Mondays 11am-2pm
Telephone:	661-2111 ext 84699
Lectures:	Wednesdays 9:30-12:30, SSC 2024

### 3.0 TEXTBOOK

Custom print for the course. Includes selected chapters from Rainer (2008) Introduction to Information Systems, Canadian Edition and Bazerman (2006) Judgment in Managerial Decision Making and Selected Chapters from Gordon: Information Systems

### 4.0 COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide the student with an understanding of how decisions are made and the biases which influence decisions with a concentration on human resources management systems.

### 4.5 COURSE FORMAT

The primary course format will be lectures. Nevertheless, questions and discussions are desired and encouraged.

### 5.0 EVALUATION

**There are 3 non-cumulative exams in this course.** Exams 1 and 2 are each worth 33% of the total grade. The third exam is worth 34% of the course grade. These tests are **multiple choice in format**. Each exam, in total, will be scheduled for **two hours, consist of 60 questions**, and are **closed book examinations**. In addition, **no calculators or dictionaries are allowed into the examinations**. Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures (including any videos shown in class) as well as the assigned chapters in the texts. Exams 1 and 2 will be in class time. The third exam will be scheduled during the exam period. Exams will not be returned to students but may be reviewed in the instructor's office.

Students are **REQUIRED TO TAKE ALL THREE TESTS** in the course. There are no exceptions to this. "Extra assignments" to improve grades will **NOT** be allowed.

Grades will **not** be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course. The university definition of grades is as follows:

University-wide grade descriptors:

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Cheating will not be tolerated; students are referred to the university policy on scholastic offenses in the academic calendar. Looking at the test of another student, allowing another student to view your exam, or obtaining information about a test in advance are all examples of cheating.

**Students found cheating will receive a zero (0%) on that exam** and the incident will be reported to the Dean's office and will be kept on record.

A number of safeguards will be employed to discourage cheating. For example, examination supervisors (proctors) of the tests may ask students to move to another seat during the exam, cover their paper, avert their eyes from other students' papers, remove baseball caps, etc. This is not meant as a personal affront nor as an accusation of cheating, rather as vigilant attempts at proctoring.

Exams will be scored using the program "**Scan Exam**" which examines the answer sheets for "unusual" coincidences in the pattern of answers given which may be indicative and used as supporting evidence of cheating.

## **5.5 EXAMINATIONS AND ATTENDANCE**

Please note that there is a minimum attendance requirement in the academic calendar, which states, "Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of Registration."

### **5.5.5 OTHER INFORMATION**

- ◆ Bring student identification to exams.
- ◆ Nothing is to be on/at one's desk during an exam except a pencil, an eraser, and the individual's student card
- ◆ Do not wear baseball caps to exams
- ◆ Do not bring cassette/CD players, cell phones, beepers, etc. to exams

## 6.0 STUDY SCHEDULE

*September 15* Introduction to the course

*September 23* Rainer Chapter 2 - Information systems: Concepts and management

*September 29* Rainer Chapter 3 - Ethics, privacy, and information security  
Rainer Chapter 4 - Data, information, and knowledge management

*October 6* Rainer Chapter 8 - Organizational information systems  
Rainer Chapter 9 - Managerial support systems  
Exam review

### **OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup> - EXAM 1 IN CLASS (12 questions per chapter = 60 questions)**

*October 20* Bazerman Chapter 1 - Introduction to Managerial Decision Making  
Bazerman Chapter 2 - Common Biases

*October 27* Bazerman Chapter 3 - Framing and the reversal of preferences  
Bazerman Chapter 4 - Motivational and affective influences on decision making

*November 3* Bazerman Chapter 5 - The nonrational escalation of commitment  
Bazerman Chapter 6 - Fairness in decision making  
Exam review

### **NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> - EXAM 2 IN CLASS (10 questions per chapter = 60 questions).**

*November 17* Bazerman Chapter 7 - Common investment mistakes  
Bazerman Chapter 8 - Bounded ethicality

*November 24* Bazerman Chapter 9 - Making rational decisions in negotiations  
Bazerman Chapter 10 - negotiator cognition

*December 1* Bazerman Chapter 11 - Bounded awareness  
Bazerman Chapter 12 - Improving decision making

*December 8 – Last Class* Exam review

**EXAM 3 - DECEMBER EXAM PERIOD: 10-21, 2010**  
**(10 questions per chapter = 60 questions)**

## 7.0 UNIVERSITY POLICY REGARDING ILLNESS

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters.

**In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.**

**Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested.** These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy [<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/general/privacy.pdf>].

**Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s).** Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty.

**Academic accommodation shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete his/her academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill.”)**

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation **in advance of due dates, examinations**, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

In the case of a final examination in the course, the student must arrange for a **Special Examination or Incomplete through their Dean's office**, for which you will be required to provide acceptable documentation.

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, you should contact your instructor and the Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be

discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. In general, retroactive requests for grade revisions on medical or compassionate grounds will not be considered

### **7.5 MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS**

The student must write a make-up exam. The make-up exam differs in format from the original exam and would be scheduled before or at the completion of the course. Make-up examinations will be of the **true/false** nature **with guessing penalty** in which 0.5 marks are deleted from the number correct for *each* incorrect answer.

This format equates the grade a student would achieve if they randomly guessed on a multiple choice exam, which would result in a grade of approximately 20-25%. If a student randomly guessed on a true/false exam, they would achieve a grade of 50%. Thus the guessing penalty then equates the grade due to guessing alone to 25%.

### **ATTENDANCE**

It is expected that students will attend all classes. The professor does not provide access to lecture notes. Students are encouraged to obtain missed lecture notes from a fellow student. Please note that there is a minimum attendance requirement as described above in the examination section of this outline.

### **8.0 UNIVERSITY POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offenses. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offenses in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offenses include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers: in using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer; in adopting another writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are his/hers. If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate, consult your instructor.

A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" will not be accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offense include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

### **9.0 PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

In the first instance, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor (informal consultation). If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal must be sent to the Program Director or Designate of the BMOS/BACS program. If the response of the Director is considered unsatisfactory to the student, he/she may then appeal to the Dean of the Faculty in which the course of program was taken. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean, may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office.

## 10.0 STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Material covered in lectures will not always be the same as material covered in the textbook. These two sources should be viewed as complimentary and not redundant. As such, students who want to do well in this course are **strongly encouraged** to attend lectures on a regular basis. Please note that the instructor will not be providing copies of lectures notes or overheads. Therefore, if you miss a lecture, you should try to obtain this material from another student.

In this class, some students may be unaware that their private discussions are distracting to other people. If you feel that students are distracting your attention from the material, then you should ask them to be quiet. If you feel uncomfortable doing this (or the problem persists), then please see the instructor. In addition, please avoid engaging in private discussions with other students during the lectures.

To avoid unnecessary distractions, please arrive to each class on time.

## 11.0 OTHER ISSUES

### **Short Absences.**

If you miss a class due to minor illness or other problems, check your course outlines for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or exam. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow the missed lectures notes from a classmate.

### **Extended Absences.**

If you are absent more than approximately two weeks or if you get too far behind to catch up, you should consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses. The Academic Counsellors can help you to consider the alternatives. At your request, they can also keep your instructors informed about your difficulties.

### **Academic Concerns.**

If you are in academic difficulty, it is strongly recommended that you see your academic counsellor.

**Important Dates:**

September 13, 2010	Fall/Winter Term classes begin.
September 21, 2010	Last day to add a first term half course
October 15, 2010	Last day to drop a first-term half course without academic penalty
December 8, 2010	Fall/Winter Session classes end.
December 9, 2010	Study Day
December 10-21, 2009	December examination period.

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**For The University of Western Ontario Senate Regulations, please see the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy at:**

**<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>**