

**UNIVERSITY OF KENT – CODE OF PRACTICE FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE
MODULE SPECIFICATION**

- 1 **The title of the module**
CO321 Introduction to Information Systems
- 2 **The Department which will be responsible for management of the module**
Computing Laboratory
- 3 **The Start Date of this revision of the Module**
2007
- 4 **The number of students expected to take the module**
275
- 5 **Modules to be withdrawn on the introduction of this proposed module and consultation with other relevant Departments and Faculties regarding the withdrawal**
Supersedes 2004 revision of module
- 6 **The level of the module (eg Certificate [C], Intermediate [I], Honours [H] or Postgraduate [M])**
Certificate (C)
- 7 **The number of credits which the module represents**
15
- 8 **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**
Autumn term and Spring term
- 9 **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**
None
- 10 **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**
BSc Computer Science
BSc Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence
BSc Computer Science and Management Science
BSc Business Computing
BSc Web Computing
BSc Computing and Business Administration
BA/BSc Joint Honours Programmes in Applied Computing
BSc Business Information Technology
BSc Information Technology
BA/BSc Programmes ‘with Computing’
BEng Computer Systems Engineering
BSc Management Science
Variants of BSc Management Science
together with Year in Industry variants of the above.
- 11 **The intended subject specific learning outcomes and, as appropriate, their relationship to programme learning outcomes**
This module introduces students to a range of information systems and some of the ways in which they can be constructed. By the end of the module students should:
 - have studied several types of information system [A2];
 - understand how information systems are used in different contexts;
 - be aware of the interaction between economic & commercial factors and globalisation and the development of information systems [B6];

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- have gained an appreciation of the importance of professional issues, together with an understanding of relevant statute law [B6];
- know about the components and structures of typical information systems [A4, C3];
- be familiar with the basic principles of data and information, and their presentation, representation and structuring using HTML and XML [A2];
- appreciate the wide range of applications of XML, within and without the information systems domain;
- be familiar with some of the notations used in representing the conceptual design of information systems;
- be able to observe, describe and critically evaluate a range of modern information systems [A4, C2];
- be able to use standard notations drawn from UML to describe the functionality and components of straightforward information systems;
- be able to implement simple static web pages using HTML [B2, B4];
- be able to specify simple documents using XML.

12 **The intended generic learning outcomes and, as appropriate, their relationship to programme learning outcomes**

By the end of the module students should be able to:

- work effectively with others as a member of a group and meet obligations to others [D1];
- make succinct presentations of their work to their peers [D2],
- communicate findings effectively in written reports and using diagrams;
- manage information, collect appropriate data from a range of sources and undertake simple research tasks with external guidance;
- make effective use of general IT facilities and information retrieval systems [D3],
- manage their own learning and development with appropriate support [D5].

13 **A synopsis of the curriculum**

The following topics will be covered:

- Introduction to information systems through examples.
- Ways of characterising information systems, via functionality, level etc.
- What is an information system? The relationships between information systems, people, organisations, and their environment.
- Communicating information between people, between machines and between people and machines.
- Data and information.
- Syntax and semantics.
- Information presentation and delivery using HTML.
- Information system components and structures.
- Modelling functionality using use case diagrams.
- More structure – communication between information systems; business-to-business systems.
- Data and information representation using XML.
- Applications of XML.
- Manipulating and transforming information.
- What is an information system? A holistic approach to discerning what information systems are and are not.

14 **Indicative Reading List**

Core text

P, Beynon-Davies *Information Systems: an introduction to informatics in organisations*, Palgrave, 2002

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Other reading

D. Langford, *Business Computer Ethics*, Addison-Wesley, 1999.

S. Haag, M. Cummings & D.J. McCubbrey *Management Information Systems for the Information Age*, McGraw Hill/Irwin, 2004

A.Kotok & D.R.R. Webber *ebXML: the new global standard for doing business over the Internet* New Riders, 2002

E.T.Ray *Learning XML 2nd edition*, O-Reilly, 2003

15 Learning and Teaching Methods, including the nature and number of contact hours and the total study hours which will be expected of students, and how these relate to achievement of the intended learning outcomes

The module comprises 150 hours of study over one term. The taught component of the module includes 22 lectures, in which concepts are set out and illustrated by case studies and examples.

Week	Indicative lecture topics
1	Introduction to the module
	Examples of information systems
2	Ways of characterising IS
	HTML
3	Systems thinking and its application to IS
	IS structures and components
4	IS structures and components continued
	Introduction to professional issues
5	Introduction to computer law 1
	Introduction to computer law 2
6	Communicating information
	Syntax and Semantics
8	Requirements and Use Cases
	Distributed systems and client-server architectures
9	XML
	XML and its applications
10	More applications of XML
	The business drivers for communication between IS
11	B2B e-business
	B2B e-business continued
12	Manipulating and transforming information
	What is (or isn't) an IS: review of the module

Weekly small group meetings of about 20 students back up the lectures. The weekly meetings will take the form of discussion seminars and group presentations. Attendance at classes is mandatory.

Week	Indicative class topics
2	Discussion of an example IS
3	HTML
4	Systems thinking
5	IS components: data management with reference to professional issues
6	Group presentations
8	Use case diagram exercises
9	Data, information and communication

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10	Client-server and distributed systems
11	XML exercises
12	Commercial B2B solutions

16 Assessment methods and how these relate to testing achievement of the intended learning outcomes

The module is examined by a combination of:

- A group presentation incorporating web pages.
- Individual report on professional aspects of information systems.
- Exercises on the use of XML.
- A 2-hour written examination at the end of the academic year.

The coursework will contribute 50% of the marks for the module and the examination the remaining 50%.

17 Implications for learning resources, including staff, library, IT and space

The module will require appropriate free software and the purchase of new library books. Some classes will require Internet access for the supervisor or for students in groups.

18 Statement

As far as can be reasonably anticipated, the curriculum, learning and teaching methods and forms of assessment do not present any non-justifiable disadvantage to students with disabilities. Specialist web browsers should be suitable for students with visual disabilities. There are specialist units that can provide help with tactile diagrams.

Statement by the Director of Learning and Teaching: "I confirm I have been consulted on the above module proposal and have given advice on the correct procedures and required content of module proposals"

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Director of Learning and Teaching

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Date

Statement by the Head of Department: "I confirm that the Department has approved the introduction of the module and will be responsible for its resourcing"

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Head of Department

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Date