



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
**SAN ANTONIO**

**Management Information Systems – CRN: 22768**  
**CISA 3358 –002**  
**Spring 2025**

Department of Computer and Information Systems (CISA), College of Business  
**Course Syllabus**

**Class Modality:** Face to Face  
**Class Meeting Time and Place:** Tuesday 7:00 PM- 9:45 PM, STEM 121  
**Class Duration:** 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2025– 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
**Instructor:** Sahan Ahmad, Ph.D.  
**Office:** 441 G BLH  
Tel: 337-255-0075  
E-Mail: sahmad@tamusa.edu

**Course Website:** <https://tamusa.blackboard.com/>

**Office Hours:** In person, Wednesday 3:00 PM-4:00 PM

**Zoom:** <https://tamusa.zoom.us/my/sahan.tamusa>

Email: sahmad@tamusa.edu

Email the professor for communication to Zoom meeting (Mon – Fri)

**Catalog Course Description:** A comprehensive study of information technology as an organizational resource, including implementing disciplined processes and management development to exploit the power of modern information technology effectively. This course is specifically designed for non-computer information systems majors. Grade of ‘C’ or better in each of CISA 1305 or CSCI 1336 or CSCI 1436.

**Course Objectives:** Students will learn about information system concepts, hardware and software systems components, the basics of systems operation, and the ethical use of information systems. Students will gain a greater understanding of information systems.

**Prerequisites:** CSCI 1336. Students who do not meet the prerequisites must contact the instructor immediately.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Students demonstrate the usage of business computer applications.
2. Students apply the concepts and techniques of information systems to business cases.

3. Students select appropriate information system solutions for business problems.

**AACSB Assessment:**

The College of Business is in the process of applying for AACSB accreditation. As part of that process, students will be assessed on program level outcomes based on course outcomes from various courses. The materials from this course may be used for assessing such program level outcomes, and hence students must follow the necessary rigor to ensure mastery of the above course outcomes.

**Textbooks:** Multiple books will be followed in the class and students may buy any of the books they found useful in the class. Additional reading material will also be provided in the class. Students may buy any of the recommended materials. There are no strict guidelines for buying textbooks in the class due to the nature of the course.

**Recommended / Reading Materials Materials:**

- Data Science for Business by Foster Provost & Tom Fawcett First Edition second release ISBN:978-1-449-36132-7
- System Design Interview , an insider guide by Alex Xu 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

**Time:** You are expected to spend 5-6 hours per week for the course. Based on the background, some student may require more time. Time spent may be longer when assignment/exams are due.

**Other Recommended / Reading Materials:** Additional reading materials are available on the course website as recommended by the instructor.

**Grading Policy:** The final course grade will be based on your performance on the quizzes, exams, assignments and class participation using the following weights:

**EVALUATION**

Assignments	40%
Presentation	10%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Final exam	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

The final letter grades will be assigned as follows: Above 90% A; 80 – 89% B; 70 – 79% C; 60 – 69% D; Below 60% F. This course has a requirement of a grade of C as a minimal grade for satisfactory completion of this course.

**Examinations and Assignments:** There will be mandatory mid-term exams and a mandatory final exam (as per university schedule). Questions will emphasize understanding and applications of concepts and topics covered in class. Additional details about the format for the exams will be provided in advance. You are expected to read the chapter in advance, watch a video lesson and complete a quiz based on the content of the video and chapter prior to class.

**Assignments/ Presentation:** There will be several assignments and projects during the course. Individual assignment statements and due dates will be posted through Blackboard. The presentation will provide an opportunity for an in-depth investigation of specific topics. Additional instructions and requirements for the research papers and projects will be provided as separate handouts at the course website.

**Make up and Late Assignment policy:**

Exams: As a general rule, make-ups or late submissions will **NOT** be offered or accepted for any missed assignments/exams/quizzes. If you miss an exam for a valid documented excuse, then the grade for the missed exam will be replaced with a grade equivalent to the percentage score in the final exam. If you miss the final exam, you must contact the instructor within 24 hours and provide valid proof of your special situation.

Assignments: Late submissions will be assessed a grade reduction penalty. The grade reduction penalty will be specified in the instructions for the assignment. The grade reduction penalty for late assignments will be waived only if you have a valid **documented** extra-ordinary circumstance such as an excused official university activity, a severe illness, or a dire emergency.

## Broader Use of Generative AI Permitted Within Guidelines

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, are permitted in this course for students who wish to use them. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work (this includes in-text citations and/or use of quotations and in your reference list). Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

**Class conduct and civility code:** Everyone in class is expected to follow all rules in the student handbook, as well as common courtesy during classroom lectures and discussions in class and online, including the following:

1. It is the students' responsibility to obtain and be able to use the required materials and software for this class.
2. Student must retain copies of all assignments and graded work for verification purposes. Keep copies of all computer files and e-mails.
3. If you will not be able to complete this course, dropping from this class is your responsibility.
4. For any questions about the exams and assignments, a student should contact the instructor, before the day they are due, so the instructor may have enough time to provide feedback.

5. All communications will be via e-mail communications to the Texas A&M University e-mail account, and students are expected to use their school provided email account. The instructor will reply to a student e-mail messages and voice messages within 24 hours during week days.
6. All assignment submissions must be uploaded to Blackboard by the due date/time.

Anyone violating these policies may be subject to disciplinary actions.

**Class attendance and Participation:** A vital part of every student's education is regular attendance of class meetings. Any absences tend to lower the quality of a student's work, and frequent or persistent absences may result in a failing grade. This is an asynchronous class, but it requires you to login to the course on a regular basis every week. You are responsible for any missed instruction or assignments.

The course is intensive and challenging and you are expected to master the materials presented in class. The structure of the class makes your individual study and preparation outside of class extremely important. Reading the assigned chapter(s) and having some familiarity with them will be very useful for understanding recorded lectures. Each student will be expected to spend enough time in the preparation of the assignments.

***Spring 2025 Class Schedule:***

The provisions and information set forth in the schedule below are intended to be informational and not contractual in nature. The instructor reserves the right to amend, alter, change, delete or modify the provisions of the schedule.

**Important Dates Spring 2025:**

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## Spring 2025 Regular 16-Week Session

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October 21	Monday	Registration opens
December 23-January 1	Monday-Wednesday	Winter Break
January 14	Tuesday	Tuition & fee payment deadline
January 16	Thursday	Drop for non-payment
January 17	Friday	Last day for students withdrawing to receive 100% refund (0% responsibility) for tuition
January 20	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No classes
January 21	Tuesday	First class day
January 28	Tuesday	Last day to register
February 5	Wednesday	Census Date
February 6	Thursday	Drop for non-payment
February 24-March 7	Monday-Friday	Midterm grading period
March 10-March 15	Monday-Saturday	Spring Break
April 18	Friday	Study day - No classes
April 21	Monday	Last day to drop with an automatic grade of "W"
April 28	Monday	Last day to withdraw from the university
May 5	Monday	Last day of scheduled classes for weekday classes
May 6	Tuesday	Study day - No classes
May 7-May 13	Wednesday-Tuesday	Final examinations
May 13	Tuesday	End of term
May 16	Friday	All grades due by noon
May 19	Monday	Grades available in JagWire
May 20	Tuesday	Commencement

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**The text in the remaining sections is a compilation of University policies.**

### **COVID-19 protocol**

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, had exposure to COVID-19, and/or are confirmed to have COVID-19, refrain from coming to campus and self-report in the online COVID-19 Reporting Portal found at: [https://redcap.link/TAMUS\\_COVID\\_PORTAL](https://redcap.link/TAMUS_COVID_PORTAL) for further guidance.

### **Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance**

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

### **Counseling Resources**

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call [210-784-1331](tel:210-784-1331) between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM, Monday – Friday. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student’s academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

In a crisis situation, please walk-in to the Student Counseling Center (SCC) any time between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM, Monday – Friday, to be seen by a clinician. For after-hours support, please call 210-784-1331. Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent.

### **Jaguar Writing Center**

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at [www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center](http://www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu).

### **Academic Learning Center**

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu) or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

### **University Email Policy and Course Communications**

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at 210-784-4357.

### **Meeting Basic Needs**

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. In addition, you may notify the instructor if you are comfortable doing so.

### **Military Affairs**

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, about special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person, Room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

### **Religious Observances**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under A&M System policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

### **Respect for Diversity**

We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the classroom, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

### **The Six-Drop Rule**

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

### **Drop Policy**

You may drop the course with an automatic grade of W on or before the date listed in the academic calendar at www.tamusa.edu. The last date to drop a course, or withdraw from the University is also indicated in the academic calendar on the university website (www.tamusa.edu). If you wish to drop the class, you must submit the necessary paperwork to the proper authority. Students dropping a course are subject to all conditions listed in the university catalog.

### **Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for individuals with disabilities. Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodations of their disability. If you have a disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu).

### **Emergency Preparedness**

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff, and faculty who are registered in JagE Alert, will have the option to receive a text message, email, and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>.

### **Statement of Harassment and Discrimination**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism, and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about an incident of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

### **Students' Rights and Responsibilities**

The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions of students' freedoms and responsibilities to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System, including the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

#### *Students' Rights*

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or procedure that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the university, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

#### *Students' Responsibilities*

5. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and staff, and the administration.
6. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted and compliant with the University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and in the University Catalog.
7. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.

### **Violations of Academic Conduct (Section 14.5 Student Handbook)**

As a member in an academic community, students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education, be mature, be self-directed and be able to manage their own affairs. Students who are unwilling to abide by these basic expectations will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Students are expected to share in the responsibility and authority with faculty and staff to challenge and make known acts that violate the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Code of Conduct. For more information please visit the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities website <http://bit.ly/TAMUSASStudentRR>.

Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions, collusion, lying and bribery. For more



information, refer to the Student Code of Conduct, Article III: Conduct Rules and Regulations. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty has the discretion to impose grade penalties as deemed necessary.

Faculty members are required to report such serious breaches of academic honesty to their chair, their dean and the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. In cases of academic misconduct, students may be subject not only to grade sanctions in courses but to disciplinary action. Grade sanctions may be imposed only by faculty members, but suspension or expulsion may be imposed only by the Vice President for Student Affairs. If a student wishes to appeal the decision of suspension or expulsion due to violations of academic misconduct, they must initiate their appeal as outlined within the Student Code of Conduct. Extenuating circumstances may cause the University to deviate from the defined time frames.

All student term papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software. Posting of any class work given to student, or solutions, or discussion, on publicly accessible forums or on social media is not permissible.

Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If a student is unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please she/he should contact the instructor for an assessment of the situation.

## **COVID-19 SYLLABUS ADDENDUM**

Everyone is strongly encouraged to get vaccinated and get vaccine boosters! It is the best way to prevent serious illness or death.

While in the classroom everyone is strongly encouraged to wear a well fitting mask! N95 and KN95 (NIOSH approved) masks offer the best protection from COVID-19 but even a surgical or cloth mask of at least three layers offer some protection. Wash and sanitize your hands regularly and always before attending class.

Students should use the Jaguar App Self Wellness Screen to conduct a self-assessment each day before coming to campus to determine if they are exhibiting any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19. Information on times and location of testing can be found here:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/community-safety-together/testing-contact-tracing.html>

Do not come to class if you are having symptoms of COVID-19! Go get tested! Students should visit the on-campus testing facility to receive a COVID-19 test if they are exhibiting symptoms or have been exposed. If you have a positive COVID-19 test, symptoms, or a known exposure report it through the COVID-19 reporting portal <https://www.tamusa.edu/community-safety-together/>

After reporting through the portal the Dean of Students will contact your instructor and inform them that you will not be attending class. Your instructor may provide you with an accommodation (For example: prerecorded lecture, synchronous online link, extension of deadlines, or make up exams). Accommodations are available for students with a documented illness or those with symptoms awaiting test results. Do not return to class until cleared by the Dean of Students.