

Instructional Philosophy

ISE 477 / IHE 677 Systems and Process Analysis is designed to encourage active learning versus passive learning. In active learning, you as the student, are responsible for exploring and gathering relevant information; and then, for constructing personally meaningful schema which add to your own individual knowledge and experience. The instructor's role is to establish parameters and facilitate the learning process; and to serve, not as the primary source of information, but only as one of many potential resources. As such, ISE 477 / IHE 677 relies heavily on student participation in the form of classroom discussions and group exercises. The course related exercises and projects are important assessment tools for this class.

In general, the exercises are intended to be individual efforts; however, students are encouraged to work collaboratively on the exercises. The projects will normally be group efforts and will be judged on the basis of a team effort; whereas individual grades will be assigned to each team member based on the instructor's judgment of each individual's participation and contributions. Students are expected to attend all scheduled class functions and to be responsible for all assignments whether or not the assigned material is covered in a lecture and/or is discussed in class. Your overall course grade reflects the instructor's assessment of your effort, learning, comprehension, and mastering of the subject material. The course grade will be a composite of your class participation, your efforts expended on exercises and projects, and your understanding of the course material as evidenced by test results.

ISE 477 / IHE 677 is structured to be a hands-on, case study, exercise/project oriented learning experience. As such, lectures, guided discussions, and demonstrations will occupy approximately 30 percent of the allocated class time. The remainder of the class period should be used as a hands-on laboratory experience along the following guidelines.

1. Students are responsible for all reading assignments, including handouts, whether or not the material is discussed during class. Prior to each scheduled class, read and understand the assigned material. If the chapter illustrates/demonstrates computer application ideas, use a computer to actually experience implementing those topics. We will utilize class time to reinforce the concepts; however, it is imperative that students come to class prepared to learn by having read the material beforehand.
2. Since the course includes both individual hands-on experiences and group participation involvement, absences create an adverse effect for the individual and for the group. Only the most dire circumstances justify being absent.
3. Students should expect to spend at least four to six hours outside of class for every hour spent in class. The Cacioppo Computer Lab (Russ 243) has all of the required application programs and is open 24/7. Be advised that the computers in R243 are protected by a computer configuration program that prevents permanently storing user files on the hard drive. The protection program initiates a computer reboot after a period of no use. A reboot automatically eliminates any user files from the hard drive. In order to retain your files, you must use alternate storage media.
4. In order to receive a passing grade for the course, all assignments must be completed using the appropriate computer application program. All exercises/projects must be satisfactorily completed and submitted no later than the dates indicated. Substantial penalties will be levied on late or incomplete assignments.

Students who fall behind, will most likely be left behind. If you are not committed to attending every class, arriving on time, being prepared, and enthusiastically participating, your chance of receiving a passing grade is slim. If your schedule is such or if you are not resolute in your determination to excel, suggest you either not enroll or drop the course early.