COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: **ISYS 4243 Current Topics in Computer Information**
Prerequisite: Junior standing. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

Course Description:
Intensive investigation of selected developments in computer information systems hardware, software, and organization having current impact on computer information systems design and application. Offering an extension of lower-level CIS courses through individual student research and faculty team-teaching of advanced topics. Topical selection made with each course offering.

Special Topic RFID:
This course is all about RFID what it is, how it is being used, exploring new ways for it to be used, solving problems with deployment, understanding the data generated from an RFID environment, etc.

Value of the Course:
Mandates by Wal-Mart, the Department of Defense, Target and Best Buy, among others have driven the retailing, transportation, and manufacturing industries to adopt RFID. RFID is the future of product identification. However barcodes requires "line of site" and only identifies product categories not individual items or cases. RFID does not require line of site and each item and case can be individually identified. The opportunities with RFID as a fledgling but rapidly growing technology are unbelievable.

Course Objectives:
At the end of the semester you the student should have a through understanding of RFID technology its uses and its impact on supply chain (I.e., changing the way we do business). Given the limited amount of RFID knowledge currently in the industry students successfully completing this course may consider themselves RFID experts. My goal is to make this course unlike any you have ever taken.

Text:
No text. Readings will be used thorough the semester. Print copies of RFID journals will be made available as well as an online subscription. I encourage you to use these resources. You may also find other online RFID sources useful.

Class Procedures:
The teaching method for this class will include group discussion, independent research and hands on activities in the RFID laboratory.

Special Requirements:
Students will be required to spend some time in the RFID laboratory. Due to the sensitive nature of the tests and experiments conducted for/with Wal-Mart and their vendors, students will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Attendance and Participation:
Because interaction with the instructor and fellow students is an integral part of the learning process participation is a must. Absences from required class meetings or laboratory visits will be detrimental to your participation grade. If you must miss a required meeting please notify the instructor BEFORE the meeting.

Examinations:
There will be two exams (mid-term and final). There are no make up exams. Any uncoordinated, unexcused exam will result in a score of zero for that exam.

Term paper:
Each student will be required to complete a project, write a paper to accompany the project, and make a presentation (of the project). Projects will be assigned by the instructor in consultation with the student(s). term paper will accompany and complement the project (e.g., project may be on "impact of RFID on promotions: paper would be a literature review of the same topic a project description, project outcomes, etc). Students will work in teams of 2-4.

Grades:

Exam 1	=	100
Exam II	=	100
Project/paper/presentation	=	150
Total Points	=	350

Grades will be assigned as objectively as possible according to the following scale based on total points earned divided by total points possible (350).

90% - 100%	= A
80% - 89	= B
70% - 79	= C
60% - 69	= D
Below 60%	= F

Academic Honesty:
As a core part of its mission, the University of Arkansas provides students with the opportunity to further their educational goals through programs of study and research in an environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and academic responsibility. Accomplishing this mission is only possible when intellectual honesty and individual integrity prevail.

Each University of Arkansas student is required to be familiar with and abide by the University's 'Academic Integrity Policy' which may be found at http://provost.uark.edu/ Students with

questions about how these policies apply to a particular course or assignment should immediately contact their instructor.

Application of the Academic Honesty Policy, as stated at http://provost.uark.edu/ will be fully adhered to in this course, and all courses within the MIS program. Academic dishonesty involves any act, which may subvert or compromise academic integrity or the integrity of the educational honor code pledge, which was signed by each student upon on entering the program indicating agreement with this policy.

Inclement Weather:
From time to time we could be challenged by the weather. Class will be canceled when the University is closed. Class may also be canceled due to inclement weather even though the University remains open; When the weather is such that there are questions about whether we are having class, by 9:00AM of the class day your instructor will post an announcement on BlackBoard and send an email regarding the status of class that evening. Check in with BlackBoard or by email.

Tentative Schedule:

DATE	WEEK	TOPIC/ACTIVITY
January 15	1	*Introduction to RFID Technology*
January 17		RFID overview
January 22	2	RFID technology
January 24		RFID technology / RFID data
January 29	3	RFID data
January 31		*attend RFID Conference (Reynolds Center)*
February 5	4	Guest speaker: Sam Von Bose, Wal-Mart
February 7		ROI for the retailer
February 12	5	Guest speaker: Ron Mayes, P&G
February 14		ROI for the supplier
February 19	6	Guest speaker: Stephen Witty, FedEx Freight
February 21		ROI for the logistics provider
February 26	7	Pulling it all together: RFID in the supply chain
February 28		Use case: out of stock
March 4	8	Use case: inventory accuracy
March 6		Exam I
March 11	9	Item-level technology
March 13		Guest speaker: Chuck Lasley, Dillard's

March 17-21	10	Spring Break
March 25	11	Item-level applications
March 27		Item-level applications
April 1	12	Public policy / Privacy issues
April 3		Cold chain technology
April 8	13	Guest speaker: Herb Markwardt, Tyson Foods
April 10		Cold chain applications
April 15	14	*paper / project work day*
April 17		*paper / project work day*
April 22	15	Guest speaker: Barry Ridings, Motorola
April 24		RFID: the technology provider's perspective
April 29	16	Semester wrap-up
May 1		presentations; **papers/projects due**

Dead day: Friday, May 2

Final exam: Monday, May 5, 12:30-2:30pm