COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: **ISYS 4283 Business Database Systems**
Prerequisite: ISYS 3293 with a grade of "C" or better

Welcome:
Welcome to Business Database Systems, also known as "Database." Understanding databases is a fundamental skill that can be applied in a variety of professional environments. I expect you to put effort into this class, and I hope you have fun learning various aspects of database design, development, and management.

E-mail and Blackboard will be used as a major means of communication between students and with the instructor. Questions regarding graded items are to be submitted by email. I encourage you to use e-mail and blackboard to share anything IS-related that you run across, ask questions, or address any concerns.

Course Description:
The focus of this class is to introduce you to centralized information system design and implementation for business applications. This will include an in-depth study of data modeling, logical systems modeling, physical design, and software requirements as they relate to database management. Students will utilize CASE tools, Structured Query Language (SQL), Visual Basic, and various DBMS platforms to apply database concepts.

Text:
- Hoffer, J.A., Ramesh, V. and Topi, H. Modern Database Management, 10th Edition, (Prentice Hall, 2011). 0-13-608839-2
- (Optional) Pratt, Phillip J. A Guide to SQL, 7th or 8th ed., (Course Technology, 2004). ISBN: 0 619-21674-3

Course Logistics:
Face-to-face instruction will be provided in a Walton College of Business classroom, and your course will be supplemented with material delivered online using course management software, Blackboard

Value of the Course:
As an Information Systems major, an understanding of the role of database systems within the business environment is crucial to your success. Database systems provide the foundation for management information systems. Nearly all business applications utilize databases to some degree, and most utilize databases heavily. To make appropriate decisions, managers need to understand and effectively utilize database management systems.

Blackboard Assistance:
- Consult online support resources found within Blackboard or a http://bbsupport.uark.edu
- Contact the Blackboard Help Desk
- E-mail: blackboard@walton.uark.edu
- Telephone: 479-530-8427 or 479-575-6804

Course Goals:
- Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:
- Demonstrate stronger critical thinking and logical reasoning skills.
- Explain the importance of databases in information systems.
- Describe the roles of various information systems professionals who work with databases.
- Demonstrate functional knowledge of the fundamentals of database design, implementation, and utilization.
- Demonstrate database skills through both individual and team projects.

Entry Skills:
The prerequisites for this course are ISYS 2263 or equivalent and ISYS 3293 (Systems Analysis & Design). A pre- or co-requisite is ISYS 3393 (Business Applications in Visual Basic). The registrar's office will automatically drop any student who does not have the necessary pre- or co-requisites.

Blackboard:
As with most classes, Blackboard will be used for providing multimedia content, handouts, study guides, readings, and other sources of materials. Blackboard will also be used for discussion boards as needed. Blackboard is available at http://learn.uark.edu

Assessment and Grades:
Homework
The best way to become familiar with the concepts of database systems is by using them. To aid in your learning there will be a number of individual homework assignments in this class. Assignments will consist of exercises from the textbook as well as other material as appropriate. Assignments are due on the specified date by the beginning of the scheduled class meeting.   For late assignments (anything after the start of class on the specified due date) I will subtract 15% from your score on each project for each business day that it is late. If you have not submitted your homework by the 3rd day after it is due, it will not be accepted.

Exams:
There are two exams in this course. The second exam will most likely be given during the scheduled Final Exam period. The format of the exams may include any combination of multiple choice, short answer, essay, and problem solving questions. Exams will include materials from the textbook, reading assignments, handouts and classroom discussion. The latter exams are not typically cumulative, although the topics build on material covered in earlier sections. If you will miss an exam, it is your responsibility to let me know ahead of time. Make-up exams may be oral, essay or another format at the discretion of the instructor.
Any uncoordinated absence from an exam will result in a score of 0 for the exam.

Projects:
The class project is team-based and will be turned in and presented near the end of the semester. We will form teams with three or four members per team. I reserve the right to arrange/rearrange team assignments based upon skill mixture among the individual team members. Teams will be selected and the project assignment will be distributed during the first few weeks of the class. Three deliverables are included in the project, and a working application of professional quality is expected from each team. Group members will critique other group members' contribution and these critiques will have a direct bearing on the points allocated to individuals on each team. Your project will require you to create a working software application (e.g. Visual Basic (preferred), COBOL, Java, etc…) that accesses a database on SQL Server, DB2, or Teradata. A wide range of skills is required to successfully complete the project, and this must be kept in mind when assembling project teams. Further details on the project and presentation will be given later.

Quizzes:
Several quizzes will be given throughout the semester. The quizzes are unannounced and may be given anytime in class (beginning or end). When possible, quizzes will be administered online. If you are not in class when the quiz is being administered, you may not take the quiz. There will be approximately 12 quizzes over the semester worth 10 points each. Any missed quiz will result in a score of 0 for that quiz. I will only count your 10 highest quiz scores at the end of the semester. If you are prepared for class, the quizzes should be easy five-minute exercises.

Grading Scale:
Note: I do round up, so 89.5% is an A. On the other hand, 89.4% is a B. If you are one or two points away from a letter grade at the end of the class, you almost certainly could have done something earlier in the semester to make a difference. Keep that in mind.

Percentage	Grade	
89.5%	A	Exceptionally High Quality
79.5%	B	High Quality
69.5%	C	Average Quality
59.5%	D	Low Quality
0	F	Failing Quality
N/A	I	Incomplete

Course Point Values:
This is a typical breakdown of point values. I reserve the right to deviate from this distribution at my discretion.

Component	Pts	%
Exam I	100	20%
Exam II	100	20%
Homework Assignments	100	20%
Quizzes / Participation	100	20%
Project	100	20%
TOTAL	500	100%

Extra Credit:
Opportunities may be offered periodically to earn extra credit towards your course grade. Extra credit awarded may not exceed 10 points per semester, or 2% of your total grade, whichever is greater. This limit does not apply to bonus points offered as part of a quiz, assignment, or exam.

Course Policies:
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/245.php.

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

Grade Appeals:
All grade appeals are to be made in writing (e-mail is ok) within 48 hours. You should include your name, the specific item you are appealing, your original response and an explanation why that item should be re-scored. This is done to document the process and ensure grade equity across the class.

Inclement Weather Policy:
I will "officially" cancel classes only if the University cancels all classes. Information concerning University closings can be obtained by calling 575-7000 or 575-2000. When in doubt, check your email as well as Blackboard for any pre-class announcements because I will post a message on Blackboard and send an email if class is cancelled. If weather prevents you from attending class, please notify me immediately. Likewise, if weather prevents me from attending class (I live on a very steep hill), I will notify you as quickly as I can and adjustments will be made to the schedule as necessary.

Illness & Pandemic Policy:
If you are not feeling well, and suspect you may have a contagious illness, do not attend class. Seek medical attention as needed, and notify me as early as possible before class. Assignment due dates may be adjusted on a case-by-case basis and only with appropriate medical documentation of your absence. In the event that I am unable to attend class due to illness, two ISYS faculty members have been identified as backups – class will be held if at all possible, unless all classes are canceled by the University. If we experience significant impacts from a pandemic (canceled classes and/or many students ill), we will use Blackboard as an alternate communication mechanism for course lectures and topical discussions. Announcements will be sent out and I can be contacted directly via e-mail, as usual.

Social Networking Policy:
I maintain a presence on LinkedIn and Facebook. You are welcome to add me to your LinkedIn network any time. I also stay in touch with many former students on Facebook – however, I will

not normally accept Facebook friend requests from students who are currently (or will be) enrolled in a class I am teaching. I will be glad to add you after the class is finished if you still care to keep in touch. The purpose of this policy is to avoid any perceived or actual unfairness caused by some students having access to me (and vice versa) in this personal/social medium, and others not having that access.

Disclaimer:
I reserve the right to deviate from the schedule and any changes to the schedule will be posted on blackboard and/or communicated by e-mail. It's your responsibility to remain up-to-date. Additional information about the exams, assignments, and project will be provided in class. The scheduled dates for exams, etc. are subject to change, but changes will be discussed in class. Students are expected to attend classes and are responsible for obtaining information from missed classes from other students (including changes to due dates and assignments) and/or Blackboard.

Guidelines for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:
Any student requiring special accommodation (e.g. disability, religious observance) should contact me as soon as possible so we can work within the university and college guidelines.