

# Course Syllabus – IS574 Business Intelligence and Analytics

**Instructor:** Merri Beckfield [mbeckfie@depaul.edu](mailto:mbeckfie@depaul.edu) cell: 262-492-8938  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday 4:30-6:00 PM CT (via Phone or Zoom)  
Other times via appointment  
**Class Sessions:** Online – Async  
(Each week begins on Monday and ends the following Sunday)

This course introduces the concepts of business intelligence (BI) as components and functionality of information systems. It explores how business problems can be solved effectively by using operational data to create data warehouses, and then applying data mining tools and analytics to gain new insights into organizational operations. Detailed discussion of the analysis, design and implementation of systems for BI, including: the differences between types of reporting and analytics, enterprise data warehousing, data management systems, decision support systems, knowledge management systems, big data and data/text mining. Case studies are used to explore the use of application software, tools, success and limitations of BI as well as technical, managerial and social issues.

**PREREQUISITE(S):** See course catalog for current prerequisites.

## Required Text

Students are required to purchase one Harvard Business School case pack from <https://hbsp.harvard.edu/import/1087885>

- Caterpillar Tunneling: Revitalizing User Adoption of Business Intelligence Frances Leung; Murat Kristal
- Managing with Analytics at Procter & Gamble (613045-PDF-ENG) Thomas H. Davenport; Marco Iansiti; Alain Serels

Several of the reading assignments are from the following text which is available on-line through the DePaul Library: [ProQuest Ebook Central - Book Details](#)

- Business Intelligence Guidebook by Rick Sherman, copyright 2015  
ISBN: 978-0-12-411461-6

## Grading

– Individual Assignments	50 points
– Quizzes	25 points
– Term Project	50 points
– Case Studies	40 points
– Discussion Participation	25 points
– D2L Required Items	10 points

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Total 200 points possible

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## Grade Assignment Scale

– A	93.0% +	C+	77.0%
– A-	90.0%	C	73.0%
– B+	87.0%	C-	70.0%
– B	83.0%	D	60.0%
– B-	80.0%	F	less than 60%

## Assignments, Case Studies, and the Term Project

Two individual assignments, two case studies, and one team project (with multiple parts) will be required throughout the course. Details of each assignment and the project will be posted on D2L. All assignments and project deliverables are due on the due date associated with the submission folder. No credit can be earned when an item has been graded and returned to other students, when the solution has already been discussed in class, or when turned in after the last class session.

There is one team/group project in the course. This is designed to provide you with hands-on experience with some of the major topics of the course. The project will be completed in groups of 3-5 students. The group assignments will be provided by the end of the second week of class.

Late assignment or project submissions will be penalized unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. You will lose 25% of the possible credit if less than 1 week late, 50% of the credit if 1-2 weeks late, and 100% of the credit if more than 2 weeks late.

## Quizzes

Quizzes will be conducted on D2L. While the quizzes will be on D2L and can be completed remotely, they will be timed and must be completed within the allotted time. Quizzes must be completed by the due date. Missed quizzes will not be allowed to be taken after the due date, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. More information will be posted on D2L prior to each quiz.

## Course Syllabus – IS574 Business Intelligence

### Participation – Online Videos, Lectures, and other Required Items

Points are earned for completing items marked as “required” in D2L. As an online course, it is important to keep up with the pace of the course by completing required items in a timely manner. Key material to review placed each week in D2L. These items will be flagged as “Required –Automatic”. When you review one of these items (reading, videos, etc.) D2L will automatically track your progress. (Note: D2L also records time spent as well. If time spent is unrealistically low, points will not be earned).

Grading: At the completion of week 5, your grade for this type of participation for weeks 1-5 will be recorded (5 points possible). Similarly, at the end of week 10, your grade for this type of participation in weeks 6-10 will be recorded (5 points possible). Grades are earned as follows for this:

- To earn full points, you must complete >90% of required items.
- To earn 4 points, you must complete 80-89% of items.
- To earn 3 points, you must complete 70-79% of the items.
- To earn 2 points, you must complete 60-69% of the items.
- No (0) points will be earned for completing less than 60% of items.

### Participation – Discussion Boards

In addition to online lectures and supporting Power Point Presentations, participation in online discussions is required as part of class attendance for this course. These will be posted to D2L each week and will be **due by the end of day the following Monday**. For example, a discussion topic that opens on September 11th will close at 11:30 PM on September 18th. Discussion questions will be locked after the due date and no more posts will be accepted. To be clear, no credit will be given for posts submitted late. **Please pay attention to the discussion due dates.**

Posts and replies need to show depth of thought to get credit. One-word responses or short phrase responses will not earn credit. In general, to receive credit, posts will need to be a paragraph or more as a general guideline. In addition, just cutting and pasting content from other sources will not earn credit. The point is to share your thinking on a topic with the rest of the class. In general, participation in a specific discussion question can earn up to 5 points. **To earn the maximum, you must share a post and comment on someone else’s post.**

Here is further detail on criteria used for grading posts and comments.

- Shares valuable insights, asks good questions, makes constructive observations, and shows depth of thought. Thoughts are effectively communicated. Shares own post **and** comments on one or more posts by peers. (4-5 points)
- Questions, answers, or observations are superficial, short, and/or lacking in depth of thought and effectiveness. (2-3 points)
- Questions, answers, and comments reflect little to no prep. (0-1 point)
- Did not participate in a given weekly discussion board. (0 points).

**Important notes:** There will be **no** opportunity for extra credit in this course. Therefore, it is very important to pay attention to the due dates and submit your work on time.

## Course Schedule

Week	Week Start	Topics / Notes	Readings	Activities
1	9/4	Course Overview; BI Overview	BI Guidebook Ch. 1	Introduction
2	9/11	Decision Making Business Cases	BI Guidebook Ch. 2 D2L Assigned Articles	Discussion 1 Quiz 1
3	9/18	BI Basics Data Architecture	BI Guidebook Ch. 4 D2L Assigned Articles Case Study 1	Discussion 2 Quiz 2
4	9/25	Managing BI Data Literacy	BI Guidebook Ch. 17-18 D2L Assigned Articles	Case Study 1
5	10/2	BI Requirements and Data Security	BI Guidebook Ch. 3 D2L Assigned Articles	Discussion 3 Quiz 3
6	10/9	Data Visualization and Ethics	BI Guidebook Ch. 14 D2L Assigned Articles	Term Project 1
7	10/16	User Segmentation and Storytelling	D2L Assigned Articles Case Study 2	Discussion 4 Assignment 1
8	10/23	Data Trends	D2L Assigned Articles	Quiz 4 Case Study 2
9	10/30	Unstructured Data and Streaming Data	D2L Assigned Articles	Assignment 2 Discussion 5
10	11/6	Augmented Analytics, AI, ML	D2L Assigned Articles	Quiz 5
11	11/13	Term Project: Final Deliverable Due		Term Project 2

## Policies

### Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

### Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>.

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in the course should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. It is critical for all quotes, facts, images and so forth that are used in support of student work be appropriately cited. Formal footnotes are expected and required.

***The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by someone else. There will be no credit given for any assignment or discussion post submitted that was primarily prepared by another student. This applies to any students who submits work that is essentially a duplicate of other students work.***

If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

### Use of Generative AI

The use of generative AI tools is **permitted** in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming ideas
- Fine tuning your research questions
- Exploring what you need to learn about your topics
- Drafting outlines
- Checking grammar

If you use generative AI in any of the above ways, please describe the tools you used, and how you used them, in a paragraph at the end of your discussion post or essay. Please include the prompts you provided to the generative AI tools.

The use of generative AI tools is **prohibited** in this course for the following assignments and activities:

- Composing discussion board posts and responses
- Writing self-reflections
- Writing paragraphs used to complete any assignments (including case studies and the term project).

If you are unsure about whether or not a specific tool or use of AI is permitted, please contact me. **Using generative AI in a way that is not permitted is considered a violation of DePaul's Academic Integrity Policy.**

## **Withdrawal**

Students who withdraw from the course do so by using the Campus Connection system <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu>. Withdrawals processed via this system are effective the day on which they are made. Simply ceasing to attend, or notifying the instructor, or nonpayment of tuition, does not constitute an official withdrawal from class and will result in academic and financial penalty.

Last Day to Drop with no penalty: September 17, 2023

Last Day to Withdraw: October 24, 2023

## **Retroactive Withdrawal**

This policy exists to assist students for whom extenuating circumstances prevented them from meeting the withdrawal deadline. During their college career students may be allowed one medical/personal administrative withdrawal and one college office administrative withdrawal, each for one or more courses in a single term. Repeated requests will not be considered. Submitting an appeal for retroactive withdrawal does not guarantee approval.

College office appeals (for CDM students only) are rare. If a student believes he/she has an extenuating circumstance that warrants consideration of an exception, such an appeal must be [submitted online via MyCDM](#). Due dates are as per school policy online.

## **Incomplete Grades**

A grade of “incomplete” is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. CDM policy requires the student to initiate the request for incomplete grade before the end of the term in which the course is taken. Prior to submitting the incomplete request, the student must discuss the circumstances with the instructor. Students may initiate the incomplete request process in [MyCDM](#).

- All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval.
- If approved, students are required to complete all remaining course requirement independently in consultation with the instructor by the deadline indicated on the incomplete request form.
- By default, an incomplete grade will automatically change to a grade of F after two quarters have elapsed (excluding summer) unless another grade is recorded by the instructor.
- An incomplete grade does NOT grant the student permission to attend the same course in a future quarter.

### **Online Course Evaluations**

Instructor and course evaluations provide valuable feedback that can improve teaching and learning. The greater the level of participation in the survey, the more useful the results will be. As students, you are in the unique position to view the instructor over time. Your comments about what works and what doesn't can help faculty build on the elements of the course that are strong and improve those that are weak. Isolated comments from students and instructors' peers may also be helpful, but evaluation results based on high response rates may be statistically reliable (believable). As you experience this course and material, think about how your learning is impacted. Your honest opinions about your experience in and commitment to the course and your learning may help improve some components of the course for the next group of students. Positive comments also show the department chairs and college deans the commitment of instructors to the university and teaching evaluation results are one component used in annual performance reviews (including salary raises and promotion/tenure). The evaluation of the instructor and course provides you and opportunity to make your voice heard on an important issue – the quality of teaching at DePaul. Don't miss this opportunity to provide feedback.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential.

To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at:

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

Phone number: (312)362-8002

Fax: (312)362-6544 TTY: (773)325.7296

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