Speaking Notes
PADM 5501
August 18, 2022
Dr. Neubauer

WHERE WE ARE

- This is our first class meeting.
- We will continue to meet this way every week on Thursdays at 6 p.m. Eastern unless otherwise announced.
- This contains the link to our meeting "room."
- http://www.robertcat.net/zoom/

GENERAL COMMENTS

GeorgiaVIEW is our learning management system. All assignments MUST be submitted there. Otherwise, I will lose them.

If you see important mistakes send me email, please.

I plan to keep office hours in Zoom from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. weekdays. My home telephone is 229 439-9238. I prefer email, please.

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This is our textbook. It is NOT at the ASU bookstores.

Textbook Equity Edition (2014) Information systems for business and beyond. Available here:

http://solr.bccampus.ca:8001/bcc/file/15ebfc13-0505-4209-8abb5baac13336a6/1/Information%20Systems%20for%20Business%20and%20Beyond.pdf

Our syllabus is available in GeorgiaVIEW.

NOTES FOR THIS WEEK

Please read CHAPTER 1, 2 and 3.

I like this course and am very glad for the opportunity to teach it again.

Information systems are vital because information is vital in modern organizations. I see am organization as being a combination of social networks of people and computer networks. The organization should be designed based on CONVERGENT DESIGN.

Important decisions should be made using the help of modern technologies.

The "business processes" of modern organizations are automated.

The distinction between ARTIFICAL INTELLIGENCE and NATURAL INTELLIGENCE is important. They are different, but are best when correctly integrated with one another.

Computers are different from most other tools because they enhance the brain/mind rather than enhancing the body. That makes them very special.

We often speak of brains by using computer metaphors. That is because we designed computers more or less, "in our own image."

Computers and software applications are evolving very quickly. Humans are not. This has interesting implications for the future of humanity. I doubt that "they" will either destroy us or save us from our mistakes. But they will continue to change our lives.

Let me teach one "big idea" here. It is the distinction between ERP systems and stovepipes.

Please study this page.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enterprise_resource_planning

An ERP "system" in a modern organization supports many "business processes" and usually shares one common database. Generally speaking, this is good. But when an organization buys an ERP the system may not match its preferred ways of doing things. Generally IT systems should be *aligned* with the needs/preferences of the people in the organization. But sometimes it makes sense to change the organization in order to be able to adopt the existing software.

A stovepipe application usually does one thing -- it supports one business process, and it usually has it own database. When two or more stovepipe applications in an organization need access to the same data, and they each have their own dedicated database, this can be a serious problem.

Computers and information systems are VERY COMPLEX and should be carefully designed using STARDARDS. If you just "wing it" to assemble an organization's IT systems, you are going to wind up with an expensive mess.

And if you as an administrator decide just to hire an IT person, and you are pretty clueless about IT and cannot communicate well with IT persons, well, the IT persons are likely to make important decisions that you should be making. We are back to CONVERGENT DESIGN.

My courses are a little different each semester. Please study the syllabus in GeorgiaVIEW please study the syllabus. I will be more specific about things as we move forward. I will make it a practice to put speaking notes and links to videos in GeorgiaVIEW.