
Executive Summary: IDSC 6050

Course Name: Information Technologies and Solutions
Course Number: IDSc 6050 **Credits:** 2 credits

Description

The traditional role of Information Technology within a firm has been to increase operational efficiency by becoming a lean-and-mean custodian of standardized business processes. Increasingly, as the pace of global competition accelerates, forward-thinking firms are also looking to the IT function to become a technology-driven provider of innovation capabilities. Over the last decade, dramatic changes in technologies opened new business opportunities both for new high-tech ventures and for the already established companies. Therefore, from a business perspective it is always important to be aware of technological advances and to be able to recognize emerging trends. *This course will provide a comprehensive overview of current and emerging technologies in several different areas, focusing on the needs of the modern Net-enhanced organizations.* While the course will provide a brief overview of the traditional Internet technologies, the focus of the course is on the more recent trends in information technologies, including the developments in advanced Web technologies, Web 2.0 and social media, wireless technologies, cloud computing and Web services, Internet security, IT-driven innovation, etc. The goal of the course is for the students to develop an in-depth understanding of these technologies and explore various opportunities that these technologies can create. The course will provide an in-depth coverage of the advanced technologies and solutions that are critical in the process of evaluating opportunities and creating strategic advantage.

Note on taking IDSC 6040 vs. 6050. This course is one of two menu courses (IDSC 6040 and 6050) that make up the required MIS component of the Part-Time MBA curriculum. Both courses focus on IT; however, 6040 provides much more of a managerial perspective on IT (with some technology-related issues), and 6050 provides much more of a technological perspective on IT (with some business/managerial implications). In other words, IDSc 6040 is well suited for students interested in understanding the business value of IT, management and governance of IT, and in exploiting IT in other functional areas. IDSc 6050 is well suited for students interested in gaining a deeper understanding of current and emerging information and communication technologies, both in terms of their technological capabilities and the possibilities to leverage them in business settings. Both courses are designed to be fairly self-contained, i.e., a comprehensive IT background is not required for either one. So, depending on the students' needs and interests, they should choose the class that complements their background and current expertise the best.

Objectives

1. Provide a comprehensive overview of current and emerging technologies.
2. Provide an in-depth understanding of existing innovative technologies: what problems they can solve, how they work, what their benefits and limitations are, how they are used in business and what their future potential is.
3. Train students to understand and evaluate emerging technologies.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of current trends in the areas of internet and Web technologies, Web 2.0 and social media, wireless technologies, cloud computing and Web services, Internet security, IT-driven innovation, etc.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate an emerging technology by:
 - Collecting and researching the literature on the technology;
 - Writing a comprehensive report describing the technology, including its strengths, weaknesses, business implications, and also identifying business applications for which this technology would be most suitable;
 - Presenting and discussing their findings in the class.