CO2002 Business and Financial Computing

Credits: *10*   **Convenor:** *Dr. G. Koutsoukos*   **Semester:** *2nd*

Prerequisites:	*Essential: CO1003, CO1005, CO1012*		*Desirable: CO1019*
Assessment:	*Coursework: 40%*		*Two hour exam in May/June: 60%*
Lectures:	*15*	*hours*	
Surgeries:	*5*	*hours*	**Private Study:** *55* *hours*

Subject Knowledge

Aims   The aim of this module is to introduce students to the fundamentals of financial and business computing, giving them a clear idea of the financial principles, the business organization and some of the key software applications to support these domains. Moreover, the module will explore some basic information systems concepts and the role of IT departments in such large organizations

Learning Outcomes   At the end of the course the student should be able to: be aware of some of the fundamental concepts, terminology and processes of the business/financial domain; understand the categories and functions of business systems and applications; be aware of the different roles and functions of IT professionals within such organizations.

Methods   Lectures, tutorials and practical sessions together with course notes, recommended reading, worksheets and some additional handouts.

Assessment   Assessed coursework; traditional written exam

Skills

Aims   To help students improve their analytical and problem solving skills.

Learning Outcomes   Students will be able to apply logical thinking in order to solve abstract and concrete problems and make decisions based on available information.

Methods   Class sessions together with worksheets

Course Description   Business organizations are experiencing a number of events that have a significant impact on the way they used to think on and operate their IT systems. These events can be categorized into two interrelated dimensions: business and technology. On the business side, customers more and more require differentiated products and services according to their needs and lifestyle, are better informed and with different life patterns, regulation has intensified, mergers and acquisitions continue, the cost factor becomes even more critical and economy and business are more global and more dynamic. On the technology side, the advent of even more advanced communications technologies with new exciting capabilities, the increasing use of mobility solutions, the popularity of social networks, Open-Source solutions and the Big Data movement among others. All the above are raising new challenges for IT professionals in such organizations. To be able to effectively compete in such an environment, sole technical knowledge and skills no longer suffice. A sound understanding of the fundamental principles according to which business and financial organizations operate, a good grasp of some key business processes and of the relationship between business and IT has become a critical success factor. Taking the above into account, this module is designed to achieve the following: (i) introduce students to the fundamentals of financial and business computing, giving them a clear idea of the financial principles, the business organization and key software applications to support these domains (ii) explore some basic information systems concepts and (iii) provide an overview of the role of IT departments in such large organizations.

Detailed Syllabus   Topics to be covered include: Basic business and financial concepts (definitions and terminology), financial markets and instruments, capital budgeting elements, types of information systems in such organizations and their functional and architectural perspectives, business intelligence systems, IT roles and functions.

Reading List

[B]   , *Business Knowledge for IT in Retail Banking: The Complete Handbook for IT Professionals,* Essvale Corporation Limited; ISBN: 0955412420, 2007 .

Resources   Course notes, web page, study guide, worksheets, handouts, lecture rooms with two OHPs, past examination papers, past tests.

Module Evaluation   Course questionnaires, course review.