
CO4218 Financial Services Information Systems

Credits: 15 **Convenor:** Dr. G. Koutsoukos **Semester:** 2nd

Prerequisites: none

Assessment: Coursework: 40%

Two hour exam in May/June: 60%

Lectures: 25 hours

Surgeries: 8 hours

Private Study: 79.5 hours

Subject Knowledge

Aims

The aim of this course is to explore information systems concepts, technologies and techniques and the role of IT departments in the context of the structure, objectives and business processes of financial services organizations.

Learning Outcomes At the end of the course the student should be able to: understand some of the fundamental concepts, terminology, structure and processes of the financial services domain; be aware of the key organizational units and their respective functions in financial services organizations; differentiate categories of financial systems and applications and be able to comprehend their characteristics and their relationships from different perspectives, namely business, functional, architectural and technological; understand the different roles and functions of IT professionals within financial services.

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 teach students 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.

Explanation of Prerequisites

Course Description Financial services companies are one of the two largest IT consumers worldwide and the IT systems in such companies are critical not only for the continuous operation of the business, but also as transformation and differentiation enablers. In order to be able to manage, develop and operate IT systems effectively in such organizations, IT people not only need to have good technical knowledge and skills but also a sound understanding of the financial services domain and of the relationships between the operating environment, organizational structures, business processes and IT systems. Focusing on the latter, this course will: (i) provide an introduction to the key financial services domain concepts, organizational units, functions and IT systems, (ii) discuss their inter-relationships and, (iii) provide an overview of the different roles and responsibilities of IT professionals in such organizations.

Detailed Syllabus Topics to be covered include: The financial services market, types of financial services organizations, key concepts and terminology (e.g. financial instruments, loans, deposits, risks), key organizational units, functions and processes (e.g. loan origination, securities trading, payments), types of information systems in financial services and their functional and architectural perspectives, banking applications landscape and analysis of key applications, fundamentals of business intelligence systems, application integration, introduction to business process management systems and business rules management systems, IT roles and functions, current industry trends and issues.

Reading List

- [B] Essvale Corporation Limited, *Business Knowledge for IT in Retail Banking: The Complete Handbook for IT Professionals*, ISBN: 0955412420, 2007..
- [B] Essvale Corporation Limited, *Business Knowledge for IT in Investment Banking: The Complete Handbook for IT Professionals*, ISBN: 1906096309, 2008..

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

Module Evaluation Course questionnaires, course review.