Course Information

Welcome to IST 516

The learning objective of the course is to prepare graduate students with a solid background to perform information retrieval and database-related research and development. Through this course, students will learn the various aspects of information retrieval, use, and models for Web and the Internet, database-modeling techniques, emerging needs and approaches to data and information integration. Additional topics will be covered based on the interests of the students in the class, the focus areas of the instructor, and the emerging topics and problems in information retrieval and the World-Wide Web. The course lays a solid foundation for students interested in doing research related to these areas.

About Blackboard Collaborate

What is Blackboard Collaborate?
What is Blackboard (Bb) Collaborate?

Bb Collaborate is a collaborative tool that allows you to communicate synchronously (real-time) with your instructor and classmates. The software package allows real-time voice, document and whiteboard sharing, among other things. It is also possible to record Collaborate sessions for viewing at a later time.

This course provides Collaborate as a tool to meet up with your:

- instructor(s) for office hours and tutoring sessions
- fellow team members for working on team projects, etc.

Please visit the World Campus FAQ [2] for more information.

Requesting your own Bb Collaborate room for team assignments

Click on this link to request a room for your team or for yourself [3] (24-hr turn around).

Bb Collaborate vs. Adobe Connect

You may be familiar with Adobe Connect. Bb Collaborate provides a similar feature set. We have recently switched to Collaborate. One of the reasons we have made a switch to Collaborate is that many other World Campus courses already use this tool. We fully support Collaborate, so please contact your instructor(s) with any questions and the World Campus Helpdesk with any technical problems.

The biggest difference is that you will now apply for your own Collaborate room whereas we would create Adobe Connect spaces for each team in the past. Please use the link above to request your own room.

Have you tried Bb Collaborate yet?
If this is your first time using Collaborate, please visit the website to Test Your Configuration [4]. Collaborate will automatically check your operating system and inform you if you need to download the client. If you need to download the client, follow the steps for first time users.

We also encourage you to access the Online Orientation [5] on this site as well. This will ensure that you are up and running for our online sessions.

**What additional equipment do I need to participate?**

Speakers and a microphone are key in being able to use Collaborate to its fullest. We recommend a headset.

**What are the minimum computer requirements?**

Before you can get started in a Collaborate session, you should ensure that your computer is able to support the needs of the environment. Your computer and browser should meet or exceed these System Requirements, [6]

**Where can you go for more help?**

1. Ask your fellow classmates, team members and faculty team in the Question Cafe (or Class-wide Discussion Board) discussion forum in ANGEL.
3. Go to the source... Blackboard.com [8] for videos and a lot more!
4. Swing by one of the tutoring/open office hour sessions (see above) hosted by your instructor.

**Meet the Instructor: Jim Jansen**

**Bio**

Jim Jansen is an associate professor in the College of Information Sciences and Technology at Penn State. Jansen has more than 200 publications in the area of information technology and systems, with articles appearing in a multi-disciplinary range of journals and conferences. His areas of expertise are keyword advertising, Web searching, sponsored search, and personalization for information searching. He is author of the book Understanding Sponsored Search, author of the book Web Search: Public Searching of the Web and co-editor of the book Handbook of Weblog Analysis. Jansen is a member of the editorial boards of six international journals. He is editor in chief of the journal Internet Research. He has received several awards and honors, including an ACM Research Award and six application development awards, along with other writing, publishing, research, and leadership honors. Several agencies and corporations have supported his research. He is actively involved in teaching both undergraduate and graduate level courses, as well as mentoring students in a variety of research and educational efforts. He also has successfully conducted numerous consulting and expert witnessing projects. Jansen resides in Charlottesville, Virginia.

**Education**

Ph.D., Computer Science, Texas A&M University, 1999

M.CS., Computer Science, Texas A&M University, 1996

M.S., International Relations, Troy State University, 1994
B.S., Computer Science, United States Military Academy, 1985

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Direct Link: [http://youtu.be/axEuNJPqXh8](http://youtu.be/axEuNJPqXh8) [10]

**About ANGEL**

**What is ANGEL?**

ANGEL is a web-based tool to help you access and manage your courses at Penn State. ANGEL enables you to view and save course materials, participate in online discussions and chats, share files, easily communicate with faculty and other students, check your grades and lots more!

**Accessing Your Courses with ANGEL**

- Access ANGEL from any computer with an Internet connection.
- Use Internet Explorer or Firefox to go to [http://cms.psu.edu](http://cms.psu.edu) [11]
- Click <Log On> and enter your Access Account User ID and password
- Your Profile page is displayed with links to tools and to your ANGEL courses and groups.

**Editing Personal Information and Forwarding ANGEL Email**

Edit your ANGEL personal information by clicking <Preferences> from any page in ANGEL. Then, click on <Personal Information> and enter your information.

ANGEL mail is separate from your Penn State email. To make sure you don’t miss any messages, you can set up ANGEL email forwarding by clicking <Preferences>, then <System Settings>. Scroll down, enter your Penn State email address, and change the forwarding settings. Click <Save>. 
Navigating within a Course

- From your Profile page, click on the course you want to work with.
- The Lessons tab will open automatically. This is where most of the course materials are found.
- The Communicate tab provides access to course mail, chat tools, and the roster.
- The Report tab provides information about your ANGEL activity, attendance and grade information.
- The Resources tab provides access to library reserves and other course resources. All items in the library reserves are named exactly as they appear on the Roadmaps and are in ALPHABETICAL order.
- The Calendar and Syllabus tabs are self-explanatory!

Getting Help

Click <Help> from any screen within ANGEL for extensive "how to" information. Access the "Quick Start Guide for Students" from the Help screen by clicking <Student Topics> in the list on the left.

Logging Off

When you are finished using ANGEL, click <Log Off> on the left side of the screen. Logging off ensures that your activity will be accurately logged within ANGEL.

Academic Integrity
Academic Integrity, according to the Penn State Principles and University Code of Conduct, is:

"A basic guiding principle for all academic activity at Penn State University, allowing the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. In according with the University’s Code of Conduct, you must not engage in or tolerate academic dishonesty. This includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person, or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students."

The College of IST is committed to maintaining academic integrity in this and all other courses it offers. IST takes academic integrity matters seriously. Academic integrity - scholarship free of fraud and deception - is an important educational objective of Penn State. Academic dishonesty can lead to a failing grade or referral to the Office of Judicial Affairs [12]. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating
- plagiarism
- fabrication of information or citations
- facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others
- unauthorized prior possession of examinations
- submitting the work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor and securing written approval
- tampering with the academic work of other students

In cases where academic integrity is questioned, Penn State's policy on academic integrity [13] requires that the instructor give the student notice of the charge as well as the recommended sanction. Procedures allow the student to accept or contest the charge through discussions with the instructor. If a student chooses to contest, the case will then be managed by the respective College or Campus Academic Integrity Committee. If a disciplinary sanction also is recommended, the case will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs [12].

All Penn State colleges abide by this Penn State policy, but review procedures vary by college when academic dishonesty is suspected. Information about Penn State's academic integrity policy and college review procedures is included in the information students receive upon enrolling in a course.

Additionally, students enrolled at Penn State are expected to act with civility and personal integrity; respect other students' dignity, rights, and property; and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their own efforts. An environment of academic integrity is requisite to respect for self and others, and a civil community.

For more information on academic integrity at Penn State, please visit one of the following URLs:


http://www.sa.psu.edu/ja/ [12]

Success Outline

Online students face as many challenges as resident students, if not more.

Things to think about with an eye towards success:
Know Thy Course

There is a difference between **wanting** to take a course and **having** to take a course.

- Think about why you are taking the course. What are your objectives and goals? Being specific about your outcomes reinforces your motivation and will help you to learn.
- Conversely, think about what is expected of you as part of the course. How will you be graded or assessed? How much time are you expected to spend on the course? By knowing what is expected of you, you can plan your learning strategy or strategies appropriately.
- The syllabus is your bible. The syllabus should outline all expectations, due dates, and requirements of the course. The syllabus is your map through the course and to your success!
- Do you meet the minimum requirements for the course, and if you do not, can you develop yourself to meet those requirements? Do you want to?

Manage Time Appropriately

Most online courses may take from 5 to 15 hours of your week. To fit this time in, you must plan for it.

- Keep a calendar indicating due dates for assignments and tests and do not turn in anything late.
- Mark up, highlight, and dog-ear your syllabus.
- Set up a study schedule and stick to it! Get your family and friends on board to support you.
- Log-in to your course and check your emails daily to stay on top of potential changes or receive any breaking news.

Participate

You paid for the course, now become a part of it!

- Communicate with your instructor and your peers using email, instant messaging, and any other tools that you feel can aid in becoming part of your course community.
- Check your email frequently.
Be polite and respectful to individuals in your course community.
Ask questions.

If you can't make a deadline or are going to miss an assignment, talk to the instructor!
Attend any online meetings whether you have questions or not.

Learn

• Share your educational, occupational, and life experiences with your peers beyond the classroom.
• Develop your writing skills.
• Be yourSELF--self-motivated, self-disciplined, self-directed.
• Think critically and make informed decisions.
• Share, explore, and discuss ideas.
• Be open.
• Keep up with technology and the tools required by the course.

Enjoy

If you aren't enjoying the time you are spending with your course, then maybe the course is not for you. Or maybe you are not meant to take the course online. Online learning requires a large amount of motivation and dedication by the learner. As an online learner, you must be proactive and make the most of your learning. You paid for it. You might as well make the most of it.

Additional Resources

• If you have any questions or concerns with your course and its content, please contact your instructor.
• If you have any questions or concerns regarding technical issues, contact the World Campus technical support staff.
• Illinois Online Network: Educational Resources [15]

Source URL: https://online.ist.psu.edu/ist516/node/39

Links:
[1] https://meeting.psu.edu/
[7] http://student.worldcampus.psu.edu/technical-support/contact-us