

BMIS 2074

Strategic Information Technology in Global Supply Chains

Course Brief

BMIS 2074 Strategic Information Technology in Global Supply Chains has been designed to provide the student with:

- Strong knowledge of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems and how companies leverage ERP software to manage global supply chains.
- Hands-on experience with the execution of supply chain business processes in SAP, an industry leader in ERP business software.
- Practical skills acquired through experience-based learning activities, which will make you more effective working in a collaborative, global, virtual, business world.

In managing business today, many companies have implemented Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software systems to provide the necessary transactional systems and analytical tools to enable agile business decisions. ERP systems integrate the supply chain, improving both supplier and customer relationships, as well as optimizing their internal operations and the logistical movement of supplies and finished goods. It is vital for today's managers to understand how information technology systems are utilized within the global supply chain; effectively improving real-time collaboration, knowledge exchange, and advance sourcing business decisions.

This course examines the advantages and complexities of ERP software and demonstrates how the system can improve processes and streamline operations as applied towards a global supply chain. ERP systems provide a competitive advantage for a company by allowing the management of different functions and processes in one single corporate information system, providing access to real-time data within the company, enabling greater business agility and strategic decisions.

The University of Pittsburgh is an active member of the SAP University Alliance Program. SAP is the world leader in ERP business solutions. The objective for using the SAP University Alliance Program is to provide the student with a hands-on learning environment to validate key concepts covered in the course that best represents actual situations in business today.

In addition to hands-on work in SAP, the course has been designed to include several experience-based learning activities that allow the student to acquire and apply knowledge, skills, and feelings in an immediate and relevant setting. The exercises and simulations provide for a direct encounter with the topic being studied, rather than merely thinking about the subject matter.

Below are actual comments from former students who were asked, "What aspects of the course were most beneficial to you?"

- Practical hands on experience with SAP.
- Learning how SAP effectively assists and integrates the different business areas of a company.
- I learned a skill that is directly applicable to my career and current job.
- Getting exposure to and learning how to use SAP. Could be very useful in the future for securing employment.
- Good balance between lectures, in-class activities, and guest speakers. Homework was easy to understand and follow while providing enough detail for comprehension.
- Learning how different personality traits can contribute in different ways to a project and how to react and cooperate with these different personalities.
- The SAP homework simulations. I feel like I have actual experience in SAP now that I have been through the tutorials of each section. Also, the homework was not lengthy so they were a perfect amount of time to learn, but not take all day. This professor is beneficial too just because he is very helpful, answers emails right away, really wants everyone to learn and enjoy. He is very fair in grading, his tests are fair. He's one of the best teachers I have ever had.