Information Technology in a Global Society

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

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Course Description

The information technology in a global society (ITGS) course is the study and evaluation of the impact of information technology (IT) on individuals and society. It explores the advantages and disadvantages of the use of digitized information at the local and global level. ITGS provides a framework for the student to make informed judgments and decisions about the use of IT within social contexts.

Although ITGS shares methods of critical investigation and analysis with other social sciences, it also considers ethical questions found in the study of philosophy. Students come into contact with IT on a daily basis because it is so pervasive in the world in which we live. This widespread use of IT inevitably raises important questions about social and ethical issues that shape out society today. ITGS offers an opportunity for a systematic study of these issues, whose range is such that they fall outside the scope of any other single discipline.

Required Texts:

Computer Ethics: A Global Perspective by Giannis Stamatellos

Computer Confluence: Tomorrow's Technology and You by George Beekman and Michael J. Quinn

Objectives

1. Understand and critically examine the global impact of IT developments.

2. Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the social and ethical implications of IT systems and developments at the local, national, and global level.

3. Analyze and evaluate the social and ethical implications of IT developments.

4. Analyze and evaluate relevant examples of the global impact of IT in a portfolio of individually researched studies.

5. Express ideas clearly and coherently with supporting arguments and examples.

6. Design and apply IT solutions to a problem set in a social context through a project.

Aims

1. Develop and understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of new technologies as methods of expanding our knowledge of the world at the local and global level.

2. Promote an understanding of the social significance of information technology for individuals, communities and organizations.

3. Analyze and evaluate the ethical considerations arising from the widespread use of information technology at the local and global level.

4. Recognize that people can hold diverse opinions about the impact of information technology on individuals and society.

Assessments

Student achievement will be assessed through quarterly grades and semester exams for Anne Arundel County using the A,B,C,D,E grading scale. Additionally, IB students will earn grades on a 7-1 scale from the IBO through submission of internal and external assessments.

County Assessments/Grades

Quarterly grades will be earned though the following formulas:

Classwork	60%
Homework	15%
Test/Quizzes	20%
Participation	5%

International Baccalaureate Assessments/Grades

~~See included IB assessment outline, assessment model, and grade descriptors

External Assessment   70%

Written Papers   3 hours

Paper 1   1 hour   25%

Four compulsory short-answer questions that assess in an integrated way sections 1 and 2 of the syllabus: social and ethical issues and IT systems in a social context.

Paper 2   2 hours   45%

Six structured questions that assess in an integrated way sections 1,2, and 3 of the syllabus: social and ethical issues, IT systems in a social context, and areas of impact.

The paper is divided into two parts

Part A: One compulsory question on business and employment

Part B Five questions, one on each of the other areas of impact. Students are required to answer **two** questions from this section, each one on a different area of impact.

Internal Assessment   30%

Project   30%

An IT solution to a problem set in a social context. Students must produce

- A **product** developed through the integration of IT skills

- A written **report** (2,000-2,500 words)

- A **log book**

Goals: To have an organized record of all topics covered in the course so that you can more easily study for the exam. Additionally, keeping an organized ITGS notebook will develop organizational skills for college.

Procedure:

1. Use a 3-ring binder and use dividers for the main sections.

2. Remember that the IB exam will cover the entire course. DO not discard important materials before the exam.

3. Bring your notebook to class with you every day. It is a crucial tool. No one should have to remind you to open it up when necessary.

Organization of Notebook

Section I: Coursebook

Methodologies for analyzing social and ethical considerations

Syllabus Details

Section 1: Social and Ethical Issues

Section 2: IT systems in a social context

Section 3: Area of Impact

Glossary of Command Terms

Section II: Project

Include any handouts or directions for the project that are not already in your coursebook. Your own work on the project should be stored here as well. When it is complete, put a copy of your report in this section so that you have it to take to college with you.

Section III: Technologies

This section should contain handouts, reports, and articles relating to specific technologies we study in class.

Section IV: Areas of Impact

   This section should be organized according to the specific Areas of Impact. The standard level course will include Business and Employment plus two additional Areas of Impact that are chosen from the following:

Areas of Impact

(Business and Employment)

Education

Health

Arts, Entertainment, and Leisure

Science and the Environment

Politics and Government