IS 628: Computer-based Information Systems
Reading Preparation Assignment
Chapter 1
Managing IT in a Digital World

Read Chapter 1 of the text, pp. 1 — 8.

Be prepared for class discussion based on the following questions:

1. Define what is encompassed in the term *information technology*. Compare this to the definition of *information systems*.

2. What are some of the ways that IT has become "pervasive"?

3. What kinds of portable IT help employees work more efficiently and effectively? What may interfere with productivity?

4. What kinds of IT can help support teams when team members work at different locations?

5. How have some businesses used the Internet to compete based on low cost, product/service differentiation, or both?

6. What kind of a business might choose to have low levels of dependence on IT?

7. What three types of IT resources need to be managed well?

8. What are some examples of IT manager roles, and why are they needed today?

9. For what reasons might an IT manager have a reporting relationship with a CIO as well as with a senior business manager?

10. Describe some ways that you personally use information technologies differently than you did just a few years ago.

11. Some organizations purposefully select a CIO that has strong business management backgrounds, not just technical experience. Under what organizational circumstances do you think this might be an effective choice?

12. Describe a new business for which you think a "virtual organization"—which has no physical office or headquarters—could be an effective design. What are some ways that the organization could use IT to help them effectively run their business?

13. Would you like to work as a free agent (contract worker)? Why or why not?

14. Using the Internet, identify what is meant by the term *digital divide*. What actions do you think could be taken to lessen this divide—both within your own country and elsewhere in the world?

15. Identify some Web sites for publications that could be useful supplementary resources for studying some of the IT topics in this textbook.