

About ITEC 455

Business Process and Requirements Analysis

http://auapps.american.edu/~alberto/itec455/about_itec455.pdf

<http://auapps.american.edu/~alberto/itec455/syllabus.html>

<http://auapps.american.edu/~alberto/itec455/schedule.html>

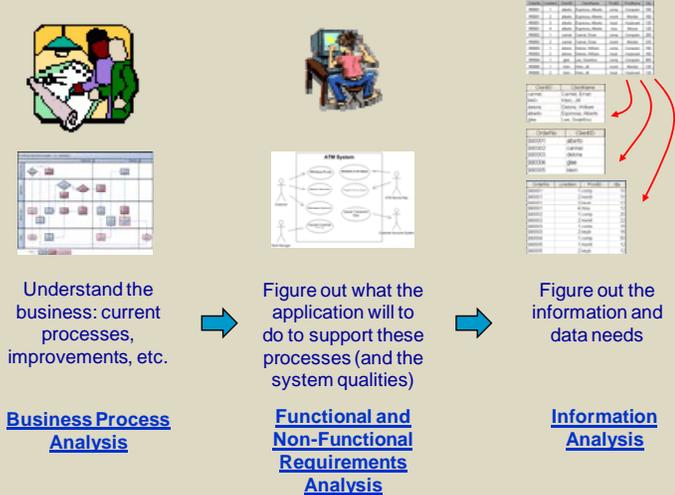
The **objectives** of the course are to provide students with the skills, methods and vocabulary necessary to: discover and document business processes and related application requirements; conceptualize system solutions to address these requirements; and develop an understanding of the basic information requirements to support these solutions.

It is difficult to imagine a business process change effort in today's digital environment, which does not involve some form of a system implementation. This course helps the student understand how to align business process and functional needs with the necessary information technology to support it. The course is particularly useful for any student contemplating business consulting careers. The graphic below illustrates this.

Non-IST students learn how to analyze business process needs and document them in formal specifications that can be used to implement IT-enabled solutions.

Students interested in business consulting learn how to interact with consulting clients to gather accurate requirements and data needs to deliver effective solutions to their problems.

IST students learn how to prepare formal requirements, specifications and data designs that can be used by IT staff to implement effective IT solutions for their clients.



The course is designed to give students **hands-on experience** on these skills and methods. It has the following components:

1. A team **consulting project** in which students work throughout the semester on a real life system implementation to address real business process problems. We work in close collaboration with American University's Office of Information Technology (OIT) on these projects.
2. Class discussions are focused on key practical concepts applicable to most popular business consulting practices - e.g., business requirements elicitation, use case analysis of system functionality, information analysis and data models.
3. Hands-on homework assignments.
4. External speakers to bring the students closer to the IT consulting practice.

The course is taught by Prof. J. Alberto Espinosa (alberto@american.edu, <http://auapps.american.edu/~alberto>) who is an experienced professional with over 18 years of work experience as an IT professional and senior manager in international organizations and an experienced scholar in this field. He completed his Ph.D. in Information Systems from Carnegie Mellon University