**CTCT 3250**

**Information Analysis**

*Spring 2025*

Business/Marketing Education

College of Education

Dr. Chad Springer

[sprinca@auburn.edu](mailto:sprinca@auburn.edu)

Zoom Office Hours:

Tuesday 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Thursday 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Other times by appointment



**Syllabus - CTCT 3250**

**Information Analysis**

| **Office:** 0303A Haley Center Auburn University Phone: 334-844-4418  **Mailing Address:**  5040 Haley Center  Auburn University, AL 36849 | **INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Chad Springer  **E-mail:** sprinca@auburn.edu  **Credit Hours**: 3 Semester Hours (Lecture 3)  **Prerequisite:** None **Office Hours:** Tuesday 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, Thursday 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, Other times by appointment |
| --- | --- |

**TEXTS, RESOURCES and SUPPLIES:**

1. Cengage MindTap – see canvas

* **This is the textbook (New Perspectives Microsoft Office 365 & Office 2021, Comprehensive) for the course and is not included in the All Access bookstore fee. MindTap must be purchased separately. Students must purchase Cengage Unlimited or single class code for access to textbook/MindTap.**

1. Microsoft Excel 365 – Windows version

\*The Office of Information Technology, in a partnership with Microsoft, is giving each currently enrolled student access to full-versions of Microsoft Office and Office Mobile for FREE! This can be installed simultaneously on 5 devices and is available for PC, Mac, iOS, Android, and Windows Mobile. Learn more at <http://www.auburn.edu/oit/365>.

This course will require the use of Canvas. Canvas’s address is [https://Canvas.auburn.edu](https://blackboard.auburn.edu)

Remote Desktop Client:  
[MacBook Install](https://auburn.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0011389&sys_kb_id=dffe246c1b2764109040bbb1cd4bcb5c&spa=1) [MacBook File Saving for Remote Desktop Client](https://auburn.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0011388&sys_kb_id=847aeca01b2764109040bbb1cd4bcb6b&spa=1)  
[Windows Install](https://auburn.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0011387&sys_kb_id=55edeb981bab24109040bbb1cd4bcbab&spa=1) [Windows File Saving for Remote Desktop Client](https://auburn.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0011390&sys_kb_id=cf647b5c1beb24109040bbb1cd4bcb11&spa=1)  
[Chromebook Install](https://auburn.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0011391&sys_kb_id=4b9d73d81b6f24109040bbb1cd4bcb3f&spa=1) [Chromebook File Saving for Remote Desktop Client](https://auburn.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0011392&sys_kb_id=4bb410ec1b2364109040bbb1cd4bcb06&spa=1)

Virtual Labs:   
College of Business: <https://harbert.auburn.edu/about/offices-services/its/virtual-lab.html>  
College of Education: <https://horizon.auburn.edu/>  
AU Library: <https://lib.auburn.edu/remotelab/>

* **This virtual lab contains the Windows version of Microsoft Office. All tasks cannot be completed on the Mac version of Excel; thus this is an option for completing assignments.**
* **GMetrix practice software is located in the Apps folder on the desktop of the COB virtual lab. GMetrix can only be used on computers with the Windows operating system. Mac users should utilize the virtual lab, remote desktop, or GMetrix cloud when using GMetrix.**
* **If you receive an error when signing into the virtual lab, make sure you have accepted the login in your Duo Mobile app – the virtual lab does not use the Duo Mobile call or text features; you must use the push method. If the error persists, you must contact OIT for assistance.** [**Duo Mobile Assistance**](https://auburn.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article_view&sys_kb_id=430dda30dbda720078e3f6e9af961956)
* **In addition to the virtual lab, Lowder 012/013, the Learning Resource Center (Haley Center 3rd Floor), and AU Library Commons have labs available for use.**

**INFORMATION REGARDING CERTIFICATION EXAM**

**The Excel Associate and Excel Expert Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) exams are a requirement of this course.**

**Industry Credential Access Codes – The costs for Access Codes for this course will be $120.95, which gives students access to practice software and industry credential vouchers. See All Access Information link in Canvas for information regarding the Industry Credential Access Codes costs. This fee does not provide access to MindTap.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Decision-making and business problem solving using microcomputer software applications including spreadsheets, database management programs, and operating systems. May count either CTCT 3250 or CTCT 3250 Distance.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain terms associated with spreadsheets and database management software applications.
2. Use spreadsheet software to design, build, and format spreadsheets based upon standard accounting principles, as well as generate output.
3. Identify Excel concepts utilized in business Decision making and apply concepts to perform complex tasks.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of accounting principles and personal and business finance.
5. Utilize Excel functions in data analyses to make informed business Decisions.
6. Successfully pass the Microsoft Office Specialist Exam for Excel Associate and Excel Expert.

\*\* Please note that the below assignments for Excel prepare you for the associate and expert certification exams.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Read each chapter. It is important to understand the concepts in addition to working through the application.
2. Complete and turn in assignments at the assigned time (See Canvas and MindTap) – through MindTap or as assigned in class. **This is a very fast-paced course. You must stay on schedule with assignments.** Late assignments will **only be accepted up to two days late with a 25% penalty. GMetrix assignments, discussions, and group projects do not have a late penalty and will not be accepted late.** All projects will be evaluated on accuracy, completeness, professional appearance, and ability to follow directions. If assignments are not your own individual work, you will receive a “0” for the assignment.
   * **For distance students or those working remote in a blended environment, assignments should be completed in the following order after reading the textbook module:**
     1. **Module Training (use Firefox browser)**
     2. **Complete Module Project B while watching Module Lecture**
     3. **Module Critical Thinking Project C**
3. Complete problem-solving applications and project-based assignments.
4. Complete the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Certification Exam for Excel Associate and Excel Expert 365. All certification exams **must be proctored at a Certiport approved testing Center** if not testing on Auburn University’s campus. This may require additional testing fees. See [www.certiport.com](http://www.certiport.com) for details.
5. Check your Auburn email **daily**. I will communicate with you via Auburn email and you should communicate with me via Auburn email. I do not check Canvas discussion/email unless I am grading, and it is not a good way to contact or communicate with me (unless you are posting information about your assignment). **All emails should contain the course and section in the subject line (Example: CTCT 3250 ###)**.

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

| **Date** | **Assignment(s)** |
| --- | --- |
| Week 1:  Jan. 13 – 17 | 1. Go over Syllabus and get acquainted with MindTap! – **Due Sunday, January 19**  2. Pre-test in Excel (completion grade)  3. Syllabus Quiz  4. Introduction Discussion |
| Week 2:  Jan. 20 – 24 | 1. Module 1: Getting Started with Excel – **Due Thursday, January 23**   * Excel Module 1 Training – Apply * Excel Module 1 Sam Project B * Excel Module 1 Sam Critical Thinking Project C   2: Formatting Workbook Text and Data – **Due Sunday, January 26**   * Excel Module 2 Training – Apply * Excel Module 2 Sam Project B * Excel Module 2 Sam Critical Thinking Project C   **Monday, January 20 – M.L. King, Jr. Day – No Classes** |
| Week 3:  Jan. 27 – 31 | 1. Module 3: Performing Calculations with Formulas and Functions – **Due Thursday, January 30**   * Excel Module 3 Training – Apply * Excel Module 3 Sam Project B * Excel Module 3 Sam Critical Thinking Project C   2. Module 4: Analyzing and Charting Financial Data – **Due Sunday, February 2**   * Excel Module 4 Training – Apply * Excel Module 4 Sam Project B * Excel Module 4 Sam Critical Thinking Project C   3. Group Discussion 1 – **Due Sunday, February 2** |
| Week 4:  Feb. 3 – 7 | 1. Module 5: Generating Reports from Multiple Worksheets & Workbooks - **Due Thursday, February 6**   * Excel Module 5 Training – Apply * Excel Module 5 Sam Project B * Excel Module 5 Sam Critical Thinking Project C   2. Module 6: Managing Data with Data Tools – **Due Sunday, February 9**   * Excel Module 6 Training – Apply * Excel Module 6 Sam Project B * Excel Module 6 Sam Critical Thinking Project C |
| Week 5:  Feb. 10 – 14 | 1. Total Solutions, LLC. Project – **Due Thursday, February 13**  2. GMetrix Practice for Excel Certification Exam – **Due Sunday, February 16**   * Excel Associate Practice Exam 1 – Training Mode * Excel Associate Practice Exam 1 – Testing Mode   3. Group Discussion 2 – **Due Sunday, February 16** |
| Week 6:  Feb. 17 – 21 | 1. GMetrix Practice for Excel Certification Exam   * Excel Associate Practice Exam 2 – Training Mode – **Due Thursday, February 20** * Excel Associate Practice Exam 2 – Testing Mode – **Due Thursday, February 20** * Excel Associate Practice Exam 3 – Training Mode – **Due Sunday, February 23** * Excel Associate Practice Exam 3 – Testing Mode – **Due Sunday, February 23**   \*It is recommended to complete assignments multiple times to prepare for the certification exam. In addition, there are training and testing assignments in MindTap that may assist in preparation for the certification.  \*\*The highest grade for each GMetrix assignment will be used for grading. |
| Week 7:  Feb. 24 – 28 | **Excel Associate Certification**   * Excel Associate Certification Exam – The exam will be given on-campus Monday, February 24 and Tuesday, February 25. Retakes for students who do not pass on the first attempt will be Wednesday, February 26 and Thursday, February 27. * Details on signing up for the exam will be posted two weeks before exam week. |
| Week 8:  Mar. 3 – 7 | 1. Module 7: Summarizing Data with PivotTables – **Due Thursday, March 6**   * Excel Module 7 Training – Apply * Excel Module 7 Sam Project B * Excel Module 7 Sam Critical Thinking Project C   2. Module 8: Performing What-If Analyses – **Due Sunday, March 9**   * Excel Module 8 Training – Apply * Excel Module 8 Sam Project B * Excel Module 8 Sam Critical Thinking Project C   3. Group Discussion 3 – **Due Sunday, March 9** |
| Week 9:  Mar. 10 – 14 | **SPRING BREAK – No Class** |
| Week 10:  Mar. 17 - 21 | 1. Module 9: Exploring Financial Tools and Functions – **Due Thursday, March 20**   * Excel Module 9 Training – Apply * Excel Module 9 Sam Project B * Excel Module 9 Sam Critical Thinking Project C   2. Module 10: Analyzing Data with Business Intelligence Tools **– Due Sunday, March 23**   * Excel Module 10 Training – Apply * Excel Module 10 Sam Project B * Excel Module 10 Sam Critical Thinking Project C |
| Week 11:  Mar. 24 – 28 | 1. Module 11: Exploring PivotTable Design – **Due Thursday, March 27**   * Excel Module 11 Training – Apply * Excel Module 11 Sam Project B * Excel Module 11 Sam Critical Thinking Project C   2. Module 12: Developing an Excel Application – **Due Sunday, March 30**   * Excel Module 12 Training – Apply * Excel Module 12 Sam Project B * Excel Module 12 Sam Critical Thinking Project C   3. Group Discussion 4 – **Due Sunday, March 30** |
| Week 12:  Mar. 31 – Apr. 4 | 1. Widget Works Project – **Due Thursday, April 3**  2. Capstone Project   * Capstone Project Plan – **Due Sunday, April 6** * Capstone Project Workbook * Capstone Project Presentation * Capstone Project Evaluation |
| Week 13:  Apr. 7 – 11 | 1. Capstone Project – **Due Sunday, April 13**   * Capstone Project Workbook * Capstone Project Presentation * Capstone Project Evaluation   2. Group Discussion 5 – **Due Sunday, April 13** |
| Week 14:  Apr. 14 – 18 | 1. GMetrix Practice for Excel Expert Certification Exam   * Excel Expert Practice Exam 1 – Training Mode– **Due Thursday, April 17** * Excel Expert Practice Exam 1 – Testing Mode– **Due Thursday, April 17** * Excel Expert Practice Exam 2 – Training Mode – **Due Thursday, April 17** * Excel Expert Practice Exam 2 – Testing Mode – **Due Sunday, April 20** * Excel Expert Practice Exam 3 – Training Mode – **Due Sunday, April 20** * Excel Expert Practice Exam 3 – Testing Mode – **Due Sunday, April 20**   2. Group Discussion 6 – **Due Sunday, April 20**  \*It is recommended to complete assignments multiple times to prepare for the certification exam. In addition, there are training and testing assignments in MindTap that may assist in preparation for the certification.  \*\*The highest grade for each GMetrix assignment will be used for grading. |
| Week 15:  Apr. 21 – 25 | **Excel Expert Certification**   * Excel Expert Certification Exam – The exam will be given on-campus Wednesday, April 23, Thursday, April 24, and Friday, April 25. Retakes for students who do not pass on the first attempt will be Week 16. * Details on signing up for the exam will be posted two weeks before exam week. |
| Week 16:  Apr. 28 – May 2 | **Excel Expert Certification - Retakes**   * Excel Expert Certification Exam –Retakes for students who do not pass on the first attempt will be Monday, April 28, Tuesday, April 29, and Wednesday, April 30. |
| Final Exams:  May 5 – 9 | **Final Exams Week**   * The Excel Expert Certification Exam in Week 16 is a performance-based exam given in lieu of a final exam. |

**GRADING:**

| **ITEM** | **Percentage** | **DUE DATE** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Excel Associate Weekly Assignments | 20% | Dates vary (see Canvas) |
| Excel Expert Weekly Assignments | 20% | Dates vary (see Canvas) |
| Certification Prep Assignments (GMetrix) | 15% | Dates vary (see Canvas) |
| Capstone Project | 10% | Due Week 12 and Week 13 |
| Excel Associate Certification\* | 20% | Due Week 7 |
| Excel Expert Certification\* | 10% | Due Week 15/16 |
| Attendance/Participation | 5% | Weekly |
| **Total Possible Percentage** | **100%** |  |

The following grading scale will be used:

| **Grade** | **Letter Grade** |
| --- | --- |
| 90% - 100 % | = A |
| 80% - 89.9% | = B |
| 70% - 79.9% | = C |
| 60% - 69.9% | = D |
| Below 60% | = F |

\*Microsoft Office Special Certification exam grades will be assessed as follows:

Passing scores of 700 or more will result in a grade of 100. Failing scores (less than 700) will result in the percentage correct on the exam. For example, a student scoring 650/1000 will receive a grade of 65. Any student who does not pass on the first attempt must retake the exam. Failure to retake the exam will result in a zero being averaged into the certification score. In addition, any student who misses his/her certification exam time must provide a university approved excuse or a zero will be averaged into the certification score. A student with two failing exam scores will have the two scores averaged for the certification grade.

Attendance/Participation – Participation is critical for success in this course. Students will be assessed based on participation in class discussions which allows for collaboration with classmates. Distance students will participate in the course via Canvas group discussions.

**Course Policy Statements:**

1. University Policies will be followed in this class ([https://sites.auburn.edu/admin/universitypolicies/default.aspx](https://cas.auburn.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=d112a881837c43d68bb32f2890a8b3c1&URL=https%3a%2f%2fsites.auburn.edu%2fadmin%2funiversitypolicies%2fdefault.aspx)). Students must attend all class meetings and participate in all classroom exercises. Should students need to be absent for any reasons, please contact the course instructor before missing that class meeting. Students are responsible for initiating arrangements for missed work due to excused absences. Make-up quizzes and exams will be given only for University-approved excuses as outlined in the. Arrangements to take the make-up a quiz or an exam must be made in advance. Students who miss a quiz or an exam because of illness need a doctor’s statement for verification of sickness and should clear the absence with the instructor the day they return to class. Other unavoidable absences from campus must be documented and cleared with the instructor in advance. Unannounced quizzes cannot be made up under any circumstances.
2. [Student Policy eHandbook](https://cas.auburn.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=07369a59c7584cb2ba6b743ce10e2a1e&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.auburn.edu%2fstudent_info%2fstudent_policies%2f) will be followed; the URL is [www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies](https://cas.auburn.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=07369a59c7584cb2ba6b743ce10e2a1e&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.auburn.edu%2fstudentpolicies)
3. Accommodations: Students who need accommodations are asked to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes, or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If you have a conflict with my office hours, an alternate time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please contact me by e-mail. If you have not established accommodations through the PSD office, but need accommodations, make an appointment with The Program for Students with Disabilities, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).
4. Honesty Code: The University Academic Honesty Code and Policies will be followed pertaining to Cheating will apply to this class.
5. Approved proctor necessary for closed resource exams.
6. Professionalism: As faculty, staff, and students interact in professional settings, they are expected to demonstrate professional behaviors as defined in the College’s conceptual framework. These professional commitments or dispositions are listed below:
   1. Engage in responsible and ethical professional practices
   2. Contribute to collaborative learning communities
   3. Demonstrate a commitment to diversity
   4. Model and nurture intellectual vitality
7. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, class requirements, and schedule.
8. Writing Center:  The Miller Writing Center provides free support on any writing you are doing while at Auburn, whether for a course or not. Trained consultants are available to work with you as you plan, draft, and revise your writing. For students in distance courses and students temporarily away from Auburn’s campus, the Miller Writing Center offers synchronous online consultations. Please check the Miller Writing Center website ([www.auburn.edu/writingcenter](http://www.auburn.edu/writingcenter)) for instructions and information about scheduling online appointments. If you have questions about the Miller Writing Center, please email [writctr@auburn.edu](mailto:writctr@auburn.edu) or call 334-844-7475 M-F 7:45am-4:45pm