Important dates:
Last day to add or drop a course with no record: 02/01
Last day to Drop with "W" and select Pass/Fail: 03/03
Spreadsheet exam: 02/23, Database management exam: 04/07, E-Portfolio project due: 04/27
Holidays/No class meetings
  o  Presidents’ day: 02/15
  o  Spring recess: 03/12-03/20
  o  Patriot Day: 04/18

INSTRUCTOR’S INFORMATION
Instructor: Dr. Miah Tran
Office address: 217C Stockbridge Hall
Phone: (413) 575-5723
Office Hours: Monday 3-4pm, Wednesday 9–11am and by appointment
Email address: vanthithetra@umass.edu

Teaching Assistants:
Mannat Sidhu: msidhu@umass.edu
Ashley Sommerville: ansomerv@umass.edu

CLASS INFORMATION
Course ID: RES-ECON 112 - 01
Classroom: Integrative Learning Center S220
Class meetings: TuTh 10:00-11:15am 01/19/2016 - 04/27/2016

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS AND OBJECTIVES
This course focuses on important computing concepts and techniques such as data analysis and modeling using spreadsheets, relational data management and e-portfolio design. On top of the IT learning outcomes, this course will help you train your critical thinking, strengthen your ability to troubleshoot problems, and efficiently work in groups of diverse students. These capabilities will give you a competitive edge in job seeking or pursuing advanced studies. Since this class is designed to create a team-based learning environment, success in this course requires collaboration and cooperation between teammates and participations in class activities and assignments. You will learn how teamwork contributes to individual and collective success. NO FREE RIDER IS ALLOWED! Remember we don’t have “traditional” lectures where I teach you the materials. Instead, you are asked to come
to class prepared while class time is devoted to discussions and class activities. Your performance will be assessed in a variety of means such as projects, in-class assignments, homework, quizzes and exams. It means you must work hard individually as well as in a team. As an instructor, I will support you as much as I can so that you obtain the best experience learning exciting modern computing tools, learning how to work in teams and developing your critical thinking and problem solving skills. You also have several teaching assistants to rely on when you have difficulty. Don’t be afraid to ask!

**TEAM-BASED LEARNING**

Team-based learning is a type of flipped classrooms that are designed to increase students’ in-class interactive engagement and focus on applications of the knowledge. Our class consists of 99 students who will be immediately formed into groups of 9 students on the first day of class. Once you form a group, you will work together for the whole semester. Since each group consists of students of different backgrounds, you will benefit from your teammates’ unique perspectives and experience. So be respectful to your teammates! To be successful in this class, there are three primary steps which should be done by each team member: (1) Preparation outside of class, (2) Active engagement in class and (3) Self-reflection.

- **Preparation outside of class:** The flipped classroom models require you to learn basic concepts outside of class to be further developed in class. You will learn the concepts and techniques of Spreadsheet and Database learning outside of class time. You can learn from any individual resources, tutorials or videos. Some of them might be found in Moodle.
- **Active engagement in class:** Use your class time effectively by interacting with your teammates, your instructor and teaching assistants.
- **Self-reflection:** After each assignment, you should step back and jot down your thoughts over the course of arriving at the solutions. What challenges did you face? How did you overcome them? How did you work with your teammates to reach a common goal? What should you have done better? These reflective assignments will not only reinforce your learning but also help you build up your intellectual strength. The self-reflection training is valuable for your long-term personal and professional development.

**COURSE MATERIALS:** No required textbooks

**Software:** You must obtain access to MS Excel and MS Access. These software packages are free for registered students at UMass. More information will be posted in Moodle.
GRADING

Minimum grade cutoffs

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<th>C+</th>
<th>B-</th>
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CLASSROOM DECORUM

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, I propose certain basic standards of classroom respect be adhered to. Respect does not eliminate appropriate humor, enjoyment, or other indications of a comfortable and pleasant classroom community. However, there is an expectation that all participants in this course will:

- Display respect for all members of the classroom community: your instructor, TAs, your teammates, and fellow students.
- Attend and participate in group discussions, and other classroom activities.
- Avoid unnecessary disruptions during class such as private conversations, reading newspapers, speaking on cell phones, using a laptop for something other than current classroom work, arriving late or leaving early, eating, drinking, and sleeping during class.
- Please wait for the class to be formally dismissed before you start to pack up your things or get up to leave.
• Avoid negative language that is considered racist, sexist, or homophobic or in other ways may exclude members of our campus and classroom community.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY STATEMENT
Since the integrity of the academic enterprise of any institution of higher education requires honesty in scholarship and research, academic honesty is required of all students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in all programs of the University. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and facilitating dishonesty. Appropriate sanctions may be imposed on any student who has committed an act of academic dishonesty. Instructors should take reasonable steps to address academic misconduct. Any person who has reason to believe that a student has committed academic dishonesty should bring such information to the attention of the appropriate course instructor as soon as possible. Instances of academic dishonesty not related to a specific course should be brought to the attention of the appropriate department Head or Chair. The procedures outlined below are intended to provide an efficient and orderly process by which action may be taken if it appears that academic dishonesty has occurred and by which students may appeal such actions. Since students are expected to be familiar with this policy and the commonly accepted standards of academic integrity, ignorance of such standards is not normally sufficient evidence of lack of intent. For more information about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please see the Dean of Students’ website: http://umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/acadhonesty/

DISABILITY STATEMENT
The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to making reasonable, effective and appropriate accommodations to meet the needs of students with disabilities and help create a barrier-free campus. If you are in need of accommodation for a documented disability, register with Disability Services to have an accommodation letter sent to your faculty. It is your responsibility to initiate these services and to communicate with faculty ahead of time to manage accommodations in a timely manner. For more information, consult the Disability Services website at http://www.umass.edu/disability
COURSE CONTENTS AND TENTATIVE TIMELINE

MODULE 1: SPREADSHEET  (Jan 19 – Feb 16)
- Introduction to Excel
- Data analysis
- Modeling
EXAM 1: FEB 23

MODULE 2: DATABASE MANAGEMENT (Feb 23 – Apr 05)
- Introduction to Access
- Physical design
- Query design
- Introduction to SAS
EXAM 2: APR 07

MODULE 3: E-PORTFOLIO (Apr 07 – Apr 27)
- Final project