

THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Course: ITS 1670

Title: Introduction to Information Technology Studies

Instructor: Ron Dries

Time: Saturday Mornings, 8:00 AM - 12:00

Dates: March 29, April 5, 19, 26, May 10, 17, 31

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Office: none

Office Hours: By appointment, before or after class or via Blackboard Virtual Classroom

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Course Description

This course presents an overview of computers and computing. It is intended to provide the student with a level of understanding of computing sufficient to ensure successful completion of subsequent courses. The student learns how to use computers to perform basic functions, develops an appreciation for the various components of a computing system and becomes fluent in the language of computing.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the components of a computer system and describe their function within the system.
These include:
 1. The computer system hardware
 2. Networks to which a computer may be attached, including the Internet.
 3. The typical software components of a computer system.
2. Explain the systems development process from the point of view of the developer and the user.
3. Create a simple web page and understand the mechanisms that make web pages available via the Internet.
4. Appreciate the evolution of the computer over history and understand likely future trends for computing.
5. Demonstrate and discuss the impact of computing on business, organizations and everyday life.

Resource Materials

Textbook:

Discovering Computers 2008: Introductory

By: Gary B. Shelly, Thomas J. Cashman,
Misty E. Vermaat?
ISBN 13: 978-1-4239-1204-0 © 2008
ISBN 10: 1-4239-1204-7
Publish date: February 28, 2007
704 pages
Softcover

e-mail: All e-mail from the instructor as well as official e-mail from The Women's College and DU will be sent to your DU e-mail address. Make sure you know your DU e-mail address and how to access your DU e-mail.

Connectivity: You must have World Wide Web and e-mail access, preferably that you can use from work (if acceptable to your employer, please check) or home. You have free internet access available to you from the University of Denver. An account was established for you when you registered. If you are unsure how to access it, please check with your instructor or call (303) 871-4700 option 0 to clarify your login or password. If you need help, please come to one of the TWC open computer labs to get assistance. A schedule is posted in the ?student services? area of the TWC website (<http://womenscollege.du.edu/academics/tutor.html>).

WebCentral: WebCentral is the central point of access to all DU systems, e-mail, calendars, Blackboard, MyWeb and announcements. To access WebCentral, go to the website <http://webcentral.du.edu> and login with your Student ID number (begins with 87) and your password.

Blackboard: We will make extensive use of the Blackboard system in this course. DU provides a login for all enrolled students. You can access this class Blackboard website via WebCentral. Just go to the Courses tab in WebCentral and click on the link to this course in the list of Courses I'm Taking. You may also access Blackboard directly at <http://blackboard.du.edu>.

You must be able to access WebCentral and Blackboard via the World Wide Web outside of class time. You may do this from:

1. Home, if you have a computer, a modem and a connection to the Internet. You can connect directly to DU, or access Blackboard via any Internet Service Provider such as AOL, Earthlink, Qwest or A T & T.
2. Any DU computer lab. The Pioneer Resource Center in the Chambers Center or the lab in Penrose Library on the main floor may be used.
3. Any public library that allows patron web access.
4. Any cyber cafe.

Grading Policy

Attendance and participation: Attendance is very important in order to keep up with the material presented. Therefore, active participation in class will be part of your evaluation. In-class discussions will be held based on the reading material for the week. Missing class can affect your

grade.

Tests: We will have an online test (via Blackboard) after each week's class that will cover the assigned material for that day. It will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions like those found in the Checkpoint section of the assigned chapters. These will be **open book quizzes**, usually taken on the Blackboard system. There will be six quizzes, in each of the first six classes. The **best five** will count toward your grade. There will be no make-up quizzes possible, so, if you have to miss one, you can drop that quiz score.

Online Discussions: An online discussion will be conducted via Blackboard between classes. Your participation in and contribution to these discussions will be graded and a maximum of 30 points awarded for each week's discussion. The topic will be posted in the Discussion area of the Blackboard site and will cover the material being read or assigned. Credit will be given for participating in these on-line forums with thoughtful original comments and responses to your classmates' and instructor's comments (30 points). The topic or topics will be posted on the Wednesday after class with your response due by the following Wednesday.

Research Project: A final Research Project will be presented to the class on the 7th class meeting. Some may be presented on the 6th class meeting if the schedule and class size requires it, so consider getting your project done early. You must propose a topic for this presentation by the second class meeting and commit to it by the third class. Your topic should be an item concerning computers of particular interest to you that will also interest the class. All topics must be approved by the instructor.

You are encouraged to work with one other student on your project. You must make a presentation before the class on your chosen topic. Your presentation must include citations of at least three sources for your research on the topic. Please make sure you cite your sources appropriately and that presentations are your own. Remember the DU Honor Code and plagiarism (see below). If you use a PowerPoint presentation, you may cite your sources on the slides or on a summary slide at the conclusion of your presentation. If you do not use PowerPoint, plan to turn in a citation sheet of sources used.

Personal Website: You will create a personal website using the web space DU has reserved for you as a student. Much of the work on your web site will be done in class, under the direction of your instructor. You will be given assignments to periodically add information to the web site and upload is to your web space on the Agora web server. As your final part of this project, you will post a one page summary of your research which will be linked to your informational page.

You can use any webpage editor you like but the preferred editor is the NVU editor which may be downloaded at no cost from the NVU website: <http://www.nvu.com/>.

Homework: You will be given homework assignments at each class which will be due the following class. Grade points will be assigned to each assignment appropriate to the length and difficulty of the assignment.

Grading Breakdown:

Activity	Points
In-class participation	20
Participation in on-line discussions (10 points per week, 6 discussions)	60
Weekly Quizzes (best 5 of 6)	50
Research Project Presentation	60
Personal Web Site with research summary	50
Homework assignments	varies
Total Possible	

Grading Scale:

Total Points	% of Total	Grade
380-400	95-100	A
360-379	90-94	A-
345-359	87-89	B+
335-344	84-86	B
320-334	80-83	B-
305-319	77-79	C+
295-304	74-76	C
280-294	70-73	C-
265-279	67-69	D+
255-264	64-66	D
240-254	60-63	D-
0-239	0-59	F

Academic Integrity

The Womens College fully endorses the University of Denver's Honor Code and the procedures put forth by the Office of Citizenship and Community Standards. Academic dishonesty?including plagiarism, cheating, and falsification of data and research?is in violation of the code and will result in a failing grade for the assignment or for the course.

As student members of a community committed to academic integrity and honesty, it is your responsibility to become familiar with the DU Honor Code and its procedures (www.du.edu/honorcode).

Remember: plagiarism is defined as ?To use and pass off as one's own (the ideas or writings of another)? (American Heritage Dictionary).Cutting and pasting information from the internet, without attributing it, is plagiarism.

Tentative Class Schedule

Week	In-Class	Preparation for Class
1. Mar 29	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Getting signed up for and using Blackboard</p> <p>Discussion of Chapters 1, 2.</p> <p>Identify the team member for your research project, discuss topic.</p> <p>Discuss personal website.</p> <p>HTML Tutorial</p> <p>Quiz on Chapters 1, 2</p> <p>Windows file management essentials.</p>	<p>Read: Chapters 1, 2</p> <p>In class discussion topic: Review the Time Line for Computers on pages 52 thru 65. What do you think about the progress that's been made in computing since 1937? What was particularly interesting to you?</p> <p>Think about interesting research topic for your presentation and website.</p> <p>Call University Help Desk and secure an account on the Agora web server.</p>
2. April 5	<p>Web site creation.</p> <p>The FTP process</p> <p>Discuss your Research Topic ideas.</p> <p>PC application exploration</p>	<p>Read: Chapters 3 & 4</p> <p>Online discussion</p> <p>Homework assignment</p>
3. April 19	<p>Dissecting a computer</p> <p>Quiz on Chapters 3,4</p> <p>PC application exploration</p> <p>Commit to research topic and team member.</p>	<p>Read: Chapter 5 & 6</p> <p>Bring your tools for the computer dismantling experience. A flat blade and Phillips head screwdriver and a pair of pliers should work. One set of tools per table is adequate.</p> <p>Homework assignment</p>
4. April 26	<p>Computer applications: comparisons and experiences with various application types.</p> <p>Discussion of Chapters 5 & 6</p> <p>Quiz on Chapters 5 & 6</p>	<p>Read Chapters 7 & 8.</p> <p>Answer online discussion topic.</p> <p>Homework assignment</p>
5. May 10	<p>Discussion of Chapters 7 & 8</p> <p>Blogging, podcasting, online video options</p> <p>Quiz on Chapters 7 & 8</p>	<p>Read Chapters 9 & 10</p> <p>Outline your research topic on Blackboard Discussion Forum</p> <p>Comment on the research outlines posted.</p>

		Answer online discussion topic.
6. May 17	<p>Discussion of Chapters 9 & 10</p> <p>Operating systems demonstrations</p> <p>Quiz on Chapters 9 & 10</p> <p>Research Presentations</p>	<p>Read Chapters 11 & 12</p> <p>Answer online discussion topic.</p>
7. May 31	<p>Research Presentations</p> <p>Discussion of Chapters 11 & 12</p> <p>Quiz on Chapters 11 & 12</p>	