IRLS571 Introduction to Information Technology (Atkinson)

Updated Thu, 12/10/2009 - 10:48

COURSE NAME, NUMBER AND PREREQUISITES:
IRLS 571
Introduction to Information Technology
Instructor: Brian Atkinson

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will cover 5 basic areas:

1) History of information technology
   What are we talking about?  What is information technology?
   Where and when was information technology born?
   From an historical perspective are some of the major issues surrounding information technology?

2) Mechanics of IT
   Does the computer or network have a defined anatomy?
   What are Operating Systems?
   Is online information secure?
   What is encryption?

3) Information Access
   What is Web X.0
   What is Human-Computer Interaction and why is it important?
   What are information-seeking behaviors?
   What is data mining?
   What is 'software as a service'?
   What is cloud computing?

4) Copyright
   Are copyright laws different online?
   Is peer-to-peer networking legal?
   What is the DMCA?
   Who are the RIAA?

5) Social and cultural implications of information technology
What is social networking?
What are wiki's and what role do they play?
Who plays online games?

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Have a solid understanding of the role of information technology including it's history, application, benefits and costs in our organizations and society.
- Be able to make informed decisions regarding the use of information technology.
- Be able to safely utilize information technology to meet organizational goals.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

Various readings and multimedia documents will be provided online. Please ensure that you have access to adequate network connectivity to view online streaming video. Broadband connectivity, such as cable modem, is usually sufficient as is the connectivity in all campus labs and other computing facilities.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Course grades will be determined using:

Project

Presentation (online)

Online discussions

COURSE, SCHOOL, AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic Code of Integrity

Students are expected to abide by the University of Arizona Code of Academic Integrity. 'The guiding principle of academic integrity is that a student's submitted work must be the student's own.' If you have any questions regarding what is acceptable practice under this Code, please ask an Instructor.

Accommodating Disabilities

The University has a Disability Resource Center. If you anticipate the need for reasonable accommodations to meet the requirements of this course, you must register with the Disability Resource Center and request that the DRC send me, the Instructor, official notification of your accommodation needs as soon as possible. Please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

Assignment Policies

Incompletes

The 1997-8 University of Arizona General Academic Manual, p.23 reads

The grade of I may be awarded only at the end of a semester, when all but a minor portion of the course work has been satisfactorily completed. The grade of I is not to be awarded when the student is expected to repeat the course; in such a case the grade of E must be assigned. Students should make arrangements with the instructor to receive an incompete grade before the end of the semester...

While according to UA Policy, if the incomplete is not removed by the instructor within one year the I grade will revert to a failing grade, it is the policy of this instructor to allow for no more than one term to turn in all
coursework associate with an incomplete.

Turnitin.com

Student work may, at the discretion of the instructor, be submitted to turnitin.com (the University-sponsored anti-plagiarism tool) to ensure academic integrity.

GRADING:

Grades are weighted in the following manner:

Project - 50%
Presentation (online) - 30%
Discussions - 20%

A traditional grading scheme will be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89.999</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79.999</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69.999*</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60*</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Since this is a graduate-level course, the expectation is that no one should earn grades at this level, although it is quite possible.

General grading criteria: Grammar, style, or spelling are not emphasized--provided the paper is understandable and the faults are not so severe as to be a distraction. Criteria include:

· Clear articulation of your views and arguments
· Soundness of your argument; ability to respond appropriately to the assignment
· Clear and concise exposition of the points you are making; don't beat a dead horse to fill up the space requirement, especially since it is minimal
· Consideration of intellectual context and relevant literature; citing the readings is useful here

The instructor reserves the right to mark late papers down one grade per day.

PLEASE NOTE: I grade somewhat liberally throughout the term. I TRUNCATE at the end of the term when assigning grades. There is NO exception to this policy under any circumstances. An 89.999 is a 'B'.

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT ADDRESSES:

Please utilize the email system provided by D2L (atkinson@d2l.arizona.edu) to contact me. Do NOT email me assignments outside of D2L. Keeping ALL course-related materials in a similar location are integral to my being able to find them at grading time. Traditional email (esp. from AOL, MSN and HOTMAIL accounts) tends to get misfiled by my
mail program and it can take considerable time for me to discover and reply to these emails.

Given the nature of the subject matter, I am available by telephone (520-626-3909) during normal working hours (approx 8am-5pm, ARIZONA time) M-F. If I don't answer, feel free to leave a voice-mail and I will return your call as soon as I can. Please include the best time to reach you. My typical routine is to check voice-mail before I leave the office in the afternoon and I attempt to return calls before I leave—although this can sometimes occur after 5pm. I encourage you to call me if you need clarification. Email doesn't always provide enough information and can lead to further confusion.

If you are in Tucson, you may also schedule a meeting. Please use the internal D2L email system to contact me for a time.
Guided exploration

Click a term to initiate a search.

Audience
- for Students (92)
- for Faculty (28)
- for Alums (24)
- for Staff (17)
- for Prospective Students (7)

more...

Course
- IRLS417 (2)
- IRLS418 (1)
- IRLS432 (1)
- IRLS470 (2)
- IRLS488 (6)

more...

People
- Adjunct Faculty (152)
- Faculty (150)
- Staff (17)
- Friends (6)

Semester
- Fall 11 (29)
- Summer 11 (27)