COMPUTER SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY
GIT 335, Spring 2009

Nicholas Lindquist, M.S.
Email: Nicholas.lindquist@asu.edu
Department of Technology Management
College of Science and Technology

Course Description:
An introduction to computers and computer-related technology. Includes the Internet, hardware, software, applications, and more.
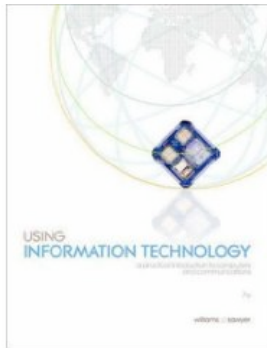
Course Overview:

This course is intended to provide you the student with a primer on the state of computers and computer-related technology in our modern world. Since you are a student in this technology- oriented department, you even more so than others must become comfortable with today's latest technology and knowledgeable in its applications. This course will give you an excellent starting point in doing just that.

Text and Supplies:

The textbook required for this course is:

Using Information Technology: A Practical Introduction to Computers and Communications; 7th edition, Williams and Sawyer

It is available for purchase at the Polytechnic bookstore.

Technical Needs:

Since this is an online course, clearly you will need access to the Internet, preferably a strong (non-dial up) connection. This is important because you will be viewing my lectures online, in streaming video format, and a dial-up

connection will not be fast enough. If you do not have a fast enough connection at home, you will have to view the lectures in a Polytechnic Common Computing site, or make other arrangements.

I will be recording my lectures in the Polytechnic video lab each Thursday afternoon, so look for them to appear Thursday afternoons inside the "Lectures" link on the class homepage. In order to view the lectures, you will need the latest version of Windows Media Player. PC users will need Windows Media Player 11, and Mac users will need Windows Media Player 9 for Mac OS X. Navigate your browser to this link to download the one for you-

http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/download/AllDownloads.aspx

Should you have any problems viewing these lectures, let me know immediately and we'll find a way to fix the problem.

Software Needs:

There are many available methods of online course delivery today, and it is my mission to bring you up to speed on as many as possible. For that reason, you will need iTunes.

http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/

Have you heard of ASU at iTunesU yet? You will be learning plenty about it this semester. For now, download iTunes, head to this URL, and explore. (Your iTunes application will launch automatically- have no fear, this is supposed to happen).

http://Itunes.asu.edu

Just as the name implies, you will need to download this special browser to complete your quizzes and tests this semester.

http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/information.pl?ID=197112001

Can sending a message really get any simpler than an email? It certainly can- welcome to the world of "micro-communication". At the very least, I will use Twitter to offer some extra credit opportunities this semester.

http://twitter.com/

Nuts and Bolts of this Course:

This course is broken down into 14 modules, one each week. You can access these modules inside of the blue "Modules" tab in Blackboard. Each module contains all the material you are responsible for that particular week, such as readings, assignments, quizzes, etc. Make sure you check out the new module first thing each week!

How to ace this course:

Online classes are wonderful because they can accommodate just about anyone's schedule- just do the work when you are free. However, you will not be able to coast through this course; you need to commit yourself to completing the required work if you wish to succeed. Luckily, I can tell you everything you will need to do in order to succeed in just a few short paragraphs. You will ace this course if you commit yourself to these three things:

1) View the lectures! There will be a new lecture posted every Thursday afternoon; I will issue some sort of a notice when they become available. The lectures contain information you will need to pass this course; they are not a rehash of the textbook readings. Having said that:

2) Do the assigned textbook readings! Being familiar with the material in each chapter is important to help you complete the quizzes. Yes, the quizzes are all open-book. However, the quizzes will be strictly timed and you will not be able to finish them if you don't know most of the answers going in to the exam. More about the online quizzes, and the special browser you will need to take them, in the first module and lecture.

3) Participate in the discussion board! New questions will be posted each week. I expect each of you to offer at least one well thought out response to each question posted. If you don't have experience participating in online

forums, this is your chance to get used to them- they are a wealth of information on any subject you can imagine. You will be graded on your participation, so please be aware of that and post actively. Don't be shy- this is an online course! You have nothing to lose and everything to gain by jumping into the discussion board headfirst.

Online Survival-

It is your responsibility to keep your ASU email in working order! This is critical because you and I will communicate predominantly through email. If you are not sending an email to me through the Blackboard interface, you MUST include "GIT 335" in the subject line of the email. I am very diligent about checking and responding to email, however, I am online much more frequently during the week. Please bear that in mind if you need to get in touch with me over the weekend.

You will be submitting your assignments through the Digital Drop Box in the Blackboard interface. Should you have any problems with this feature, with the online discussion board, or with Blackboard in general, you should immediately contact: Myasu-q@asu.edu (they are very good) or visit http://www.asu.edu/it/portalhelp/courses

Beware- myASU servers are down from 2:00am - 4:30am nightly, and Friday nights from 9:00pm - 2:00am. Be aware of that and make plans to take quizzes and submit assignments at other times.

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at his discretion.