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CSCI 105.50C: Computer Fluency

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Department of Applied Computing and Electronics

Spring 2015

CSCI 105 Computer Fluency

Credits 3

MWF 9:10 – 10:00

Rhonda Tabish

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243-7808; Office Location: AD14D

Office Hours: MW 10:00 – 11:00

TR 12:00 – 12:30

Course Description:

Introduces the skills and concepts of information technology, both from practical and a more theoretical point of view. During lectures and interactive computer labs, students will explore a wide range of digital and information technologies, including common PC applications, networking, databases, privacy, and security

Course Overview:

The term “computer literacy” has a connotation involving skills and competency in the use of basic computing applications. Examples of literacy include the use of a word processor or a web browser. Fluency requires a deeper understanding and competency of concepts involving information technology. The term “fluency” was coined by a National Research Council Report led by University of Washington Professor and textbook author, Larry Snyder. Fluency with information technology requires three kinds of knowledge: contemporary skills, foundational concepts, and intellectual capabilities. Contemporary skills, the ability to use today's computer applications, enable people to apply information technology immediately. In the present labor market, skills are an essential component of job readiness. Most importantly, skills provide a store of practical experience on which to build new competence. Foundational concepts, the basic principles and ideas of computers, networks, and information, underpin the technology. Concepts explain the how and why of information technology and they give insight into its opportunities and limitations. Concepts are the raw material for understanding new information technology as it evolves. Intellectual capabilities, the ability to apply information technology in complex and sustained situations, encapsulate higher-level thinking in the context of information technology. Capabilities empower people to manipulate the medium to their advantage and to handle unintended and unexpected problems when they arise. The intellectual capabilities foster more abstract thinking about information and its manipulation.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course a students will:

- Demonstrate proficiency in the use of information technology, file management, and the ability to learn new software.
- Understand the basic operation of a computer, a local network, and the Internet
- Demonstrate proficiency in online learning and research.
- Identify security precautions for protecting personal information.
- Demonstrate concepts involving programming, digitizing, and encoding information.
- Develop general strategies to logically diagnose, troubleshoot, and solve technical problems.

Required Materials:

Pearson Custom Computer Science for CSCI 105 Computer Fluency; Fluency in Information Technology 5th Edition; ISBN: 978-1-269-08706-3 (available from UM Bookstore)

Recommended Materials:

USB Electronic Storage Drive for transporting and backing-up data.

Assessment Procedures:

Assignment Activities	50%
Review Questions	25%
Quizzes	25%

Grading Scale:

90 – 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D

Assignment Activities provide a practical application to reinforce the concept covered in a lesson or chapter. Examples of assignment activity include: write a piece of code, research a topic, create a spreadsheet, complete some calculations, work some problems, etc.

Review Questions are used to reinforce a reading or lecture. Following completion of a reading or lecture review questions will be assigned to assess retention of the material covered.

Quizzes will be given periodically, but usually at the end of a chapter or unit.

No late Assignment Activities, Review Questions, or Quizzes will be accepted.

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 12, 10:10 – 12:10

Be sure to use UMConnect for email communication. Check daily. Attached assignments without a name will be discarded.

Academic Conduct:

Academic honesty is expected of all students. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at:

http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php

Using the Web to research materials and concepts is an integral part of learning in the twenty-first century. Studying with other students is a productive method of learning. A certain amount of collaborating on concepts with other students and using resources found on the Internet in an assignment is recommended. Copy and paste is not acceptable. It is expected that each student will input his/her assignment into the computer, and each student must be able to explain any assignment turned in. Collaboration on exams is strictly forbidden.

Collaboration on Quizzes is strictly prohibited.

Dropping and Adding Courses or Changing Sections, Grading or Credit Status:

University Policy for dropping courses or requesting grading/credit status changes can be found in the catalog: <http://www.umt.edu/catalog/acad/acadpolicy/default.html> Students should become familiar with all academic policies

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS:

Eligible students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course when requested in a timely way. Please contact me after class or in my office. Please be prepared to provide a letter from your DSS Coordinator. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/dss> or call 406.243.2243 (voice/text).

CHANGES TO SYLLABI:

Instructor reserves the right to modify syllabi and assignments as needed based on faculty, student, and/or environmental circumstances. If changes are made to the syllabus, amended copies will be dated and made available to the class.

Learning Management System:

It is the responsibility of the student to access and familiarize herself/himself with the Learning Management System (LMS) for the course (Moodle). Access & training is available through UMLearn <http://umonline.umt.edu>