Dallas County Community College District

ITSC 1401 – Introduction to Computers

Course Syllabus – online classes
Section 23401

You may scroll down to read any or all of this entire document, or jump to a section in the list below by clicking on it's link.

Instructor Information
Important Contacts
Course Description
Course Prerequisites
Student Learning Outcomes
Course Materials
Computer Information
Student Contributions
Grading System
Required Course Work and Late Penalty Information
Withdrawal with a "W"
Americans with Disabilities Policy Statement
Notice for Students on Financial Aid
Incomplete ("I") Grading
Academic Dishonesty
DCCCD Rules

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Li Miao
Phone: 972-860-7444x9127
E-Mail: lmiao@dcccd.edu
Chat Hours: TBA

Important Contacts:

For problems logging in, accessing the web site or other technical issues:
  Technical Support - call 972-669-6402 or http://ecampus.dcccd.edu and look for the Student Technical Assistance area.
General questions about on-line Computer Information Technology courses offered through Brookhaven:
  Ms. Tarrilynn Wall - call 972-860-4746 or E-Mail twall@dcccd.edu or
  Toby Lackey - call 972-860-4567 or E-Mail tlackey@dcccd.edu
The Computer Information Technology Administrative Supervisor for this course is:
  Mary Milligan - call 972-860-4234 or call the Business Studies Division Office at 972-860-4160 or E-Mail mmilligan@dcccd.edu
Course Description:

This course introduces the use of computers in business organizations, professional activities and personal life. The student will develop the ability to use computer-based technology in communicating, acquiring information and solving problems. Additionally, the student will evaluate the effects and implications of information technology on various aspects of society.

Course Prerequisites:

This course does not have a prerequisite.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify and understand the terms used to describe the key components and the relationships between computer hardware, networks, system and application software.
2. Effectively organize, manage, and communicate information using software applications such as word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and database software.
3. Identify ethical, privacy, and security issues related to using computers in society.

Course Materials:

Please read this section COMPLETELY and CAREFULLY before making any purchases.

This course requires you to use 2 items – a text and a website based training and testing tool called SAM 2010 (Skills Assessment Manager).

A new printed book (Introductory Computer Concepts, Ninth Edition by Parsons and Oja, published by Cengage) and a SAM access code card are available in a "combination package". Use ISBN 978-1-2854-8282-8 if you wish to purchase that. Extra material called “CourseMate” is included free for those who purchase new materials only. This material is OPTIONAL and includes items such as learning games, crossword puzzles, reviews and videos to help you master the course topics.

If you choose not to buy the new package because you don’t want a new book, you must at least purchase access to the SAM 2010 website. You may not share SAM access with any other student. For a paper SAM access code card use ISBN: 0-538-75369-2. If you want instant SAM electronic access get ISBN 0-538-46699-5.
During the course, you will be provided with a free set of PowerPoint chapter slide files for use during this course. These slides are COPYRIGHT ©2013 by Cengage Learning, Inc. and are for students' personal use only.

Computer Information:

You will need convenient access to a computer with:

- Microsoft Windows 8, 7, Vista or XP.
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0 or higher. (If you know what the Firefox and Chrome browsers are, be aware they do not always work well with the BlackBoard system.)
- An Internet connection.
- Microsoft Office 2010 (not an earlier version), including Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Options for finding Office 2010 include:
  - Your own home or office computer.
  - If you have a friend or relative that has Office 2010, perhaps they will let you share their computer.
  - If you can get to Brookhaven College, you can use Office 2010 in our K103 lab.
  - If you are near another DCCCD school, they may have Office 2010 in an Open Lab that you can use. (Call and check, though.)
  - If you are near another local College or University, they may have Office 2010 in a Public Lab that you can use.
  - Some libraries have it and will let you work there.
  - You can buy Office 2010 outright but beware - it's quite expensive.

In general, you should have the following computer skills, at a minimum:

- The ability to start up your computer and get to a Windows desktop,
- Knowledge of basic mouse operations such as clicking and double clicking,
- The ability to start a program by double-clicking on its' desktop icon,
- The ability to browse to and within web pages,
- The ability to compose and send an E-Mail

We know this is an Introduction-type course, but since you are taking it on-line you do need to know just a little about using a computer at the outset. Also, if you are planning to work on several different computers, or on a computer that isn't your personal one, you will need a flash drive for your files.

Student Contributions:

Experiences in this course include:

- Reading assignments.
Online attendance. Although this is not a traditional class with specific meetings at given times, your “attendance” is measured by the frequency and quality of your interactions with your instructor.

- Written and hands-on work using Microsoft Office and SAM software.
- Communicating via live chat, a group discussion board and E-Mail.

Grading System:

You will accumulate course points for work done as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Maximum Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 SAM Software Assessments @ 50 points each</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Projects @ 75 points each</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10Homeworks @ 25 points each</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Course Survey</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>820</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your final course grade will be determined as shown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>750-820</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>680-749</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>610-679</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>540-609</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>000-539</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please be aware that the table above is the only method that is used to figure out your final grade. Percentages – like "90% to 100%" earns an "A" – are not used in this course at all.

Point deductions, some severe, will be made if you violate the rules and procedures of this course. Details are noted below.

Extra Credit work is not available in this course.

Required Course Work and Late Penalty Information:

Your first required coursework will be Assignment 0. It is part of the Orientation. It includes a Beginning of Course Survey worth 10 points and some communications exercises. **Students will not have any work graded or accepted for credit until their Assignment 0 is complete.**
This course is divided up into segments called Units. Each Unit contains several activities for you to do and a due date at the end of the Unit. Late work may result in penalties at your Instructors’ discretion.

Within each Unit, you may have items such as:

- **Textbook reading and study**, which includes optional auxiliary material to help you learn the concepts. Your homework is based on this reading.
- **SAM Software Assessments**, which
  - are done on the SAM web site, which is separate from eCampus/BlackBoard.
  - determine if you know how to use the basic features in 5 areas of computing - Windows, Word Processing, Spreadsheet, Database and Presentation Graphics software.
  - each begin by examining your current skills in an area. If you score 85% or better, you have passed and earn points. If you do not pass, you do not get any points – rather, you are provided with training to help you learn the material. You can then re-take the assessment and try to pass it - up to 5 times if needed.
  - should be taken very seriously - failure here in more than one area may cause you to fail the entire course.
  - are to be done on an individual basis only.
- **Projects**, which
  - allow you to demonstrate the use of computer software to solve a specific "real-world" type of problem.
  - are general exercises requiring you to use critical thinking, problem analysis skills and creativity. They do not have set answers, each solution is different.
  - usually have some background material to review and study.
  - may not be submitted more than once for credit (Correcting your mistakes and re-submitting for a higher grade isn’t permitted).
  - might have just one part or possibly several parts submitted in order.
  - are to be done on an individual basis only.
- **Homeworks**, which
  - provide you an opportunity to perform some critical thinking about relevant issues that are part of this course.
  - vary in format – you may have a group discussion, for example, or a quiz or possibly some hands-on work.
  - often use the Internet for research, but must be written in your own words. (Copying results in a score of 0, that’s considered cheating).
  - may not be submitted more than once for credit.
  - are to be done on an individual basis only.

You will also have an **End of Course Survey** included in the last Unit which is worth 10 points.

Detailed instructions for how to do all of these will be provided within the course.

All coursework must be completed by the Last Class Day as shown in your Course Schedule.

Technical difficulties are not an acceptable excuse for failure to complete assigned work, so never wait until the last minute to submit items.
Withdrawal with a "W":

If you are unable to complete this course, YOU must withdraw by the official drop date, as noted in the Course Schedule. If you stop "attending" class and do not withdraw you will receive a performance grade, usually an "F".

STOP BEFORE YOU DROP!

For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time since the fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a "W". Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. For more information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops

Students often drop courses when help is available which would allow them to continue. Please feel free to discuss your plans with your instructor if you are considering a drop.

If you still wish to drop, after having reviewed all of the above, you should:

- Browse to the DCCCD eConnect web site (http://eConnect.dcccd.edu).
- Click the Current Credit Student Menu link.
- Click the Log In link.
- After logging in, find and click the Drop Classes link (look under the Register for Classes area).

Americans with Disabilities Policy Statement:

If you feel the need for an academic adjustment due to any type of physical disability or learning difference, please contact Special Services at 972-860-4847, http://www.brookhavencollege.edu/studentsvcs/special-services) for advisement and counseling. They will be happy to work with you.

Notice for Students on Financial Aid:

If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans, be aware that:

* Your participation in this course must begin on or before the official certification date.
* If you are failing the course, you must participate after the drop date.
* You must check with the Financial Aid Office prior to Dropping/Withdrawing this course.

Violation of any of these rules may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position of repayment for the current semester.

Incomplete ("I") Grading:

Incompletes are only considered in those circumstances where a student has had a documentable crisis or emergency occurring sometime in the last several days of the course, preventing the student from completing the final few items of required work (a last Project or Exam, for example). The "I" is designed only to provide a little extra time to finish up, and is not granted to students who are substantially behind in their work as the end of the course approaches. It is not to be considered as a grade to request should you simply not have the time to get your work done during the semester.

If you feel you meet the qualifications for an "I" and would like to request one, contact your Instructor as soon as possible. Students who do not qualify for an "I" may not complete any coursework for credit after the final Absolute Deadline as shown in the Course Schedule.

Academic Dishonesty:

All work in this course is undertaken with the understanding that academic honesty is the only acceptable behavior for students. Further, it is understood that the Instructor sets the standards of academic honesty in this course, determines when those standards have been violated and determines the consequences of that behavior by the student.

**Students are expected to do their coursework by themselves unless it is specifically noted that group work is allowed for a particular item. Violations of this rule are considered cheating and will be penalized.**

Cheating is defined as collusion, collaboration, providing assistance, access and use of material intended for Instructors only, viewing of another students' work before or after submission for grading, file sharing, password sharing, fabrication or plagiarism. None of these will be tolerated. Excuses such as "It was an accident" or "I didn't know we couldn't work together" will not relieve the student of penalties. There are no acceptable explanations for any of these behaviors.

**For the first offense, a grade of 0 will be issued for the coursework in question. Students then failing to complete all further coursework on their own will receive a score of 0 for the entire related Course Component involved in the second offense.**

Students often share a computer at home or in an office with another student or students who is/are also simultaneously enrolled in this course. Sharing a computer is permitted, provided:
Your Instructor is notified, which you will do as part of completing Assignment 0
AND
You work on the shared computer at a different time from the person(s) you are sharing the computer with
AND
You do not view the monitor while the other person(s) is/are working on the course
AND
You do not at anytime view any printouts or files of the person(s) you are sharing the computer with
AND
Your files are placed in separate folders or on separate storage media from the person(s) you are sharing the computer with. If you do not know how to do that, ask your Instructor.

DCCCD Rules:

All students in this course are expected to abide by the rules and regulations as set forth in both the DCCCD Student Code of Conduct and the DCCCD Rules for Responsible Computing. Failure to comply may result in legal and/or disciplinary action. For more information, visit https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/computer.cfm?loc=DCCCD