

IFSC 1305 – Information Science Freshmen Experience: Techniques for Problem Solving

Fall 2011

Tuesday & Thursday

10:50 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.

EIT 220

Note: This syllabus is subject to modification by the instructor.

Class Information

Course Name: IFSC 1305 – Information Science Freshman Experience
Instructor: Thomas Wallace
Office: EIT 545
Telephone: 501.804.6422
Email: tswallace@ualr.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday / Thursday – 9:00a.m. - 10:30a.m. | By Appointment

Course Materials

All required materials will be available via my website located at <http://ualr.edu/tswallace/courses/1305>

Course Overview and Objectives

This course will cover a range of topics designed to compliment a student's major and minor areas of study and will introduce students to potential career tracks in the field of Information Science. Topics to be mastered are as follows.

- **Soft Skills** – Students will explore and learn skills relating to Interpersonal and Team Communication, Time Management & Goal Setting, Organizing and Presenting Ideas, PowerPoint Best Practices, and Self-Initiated Learning
- **Resource Orientation** – Students will receive an overview of campus-based resources by participating in tasked-based activities across the UALR campus
- **Technical Skills** – Students will be able to demonstrate a working understanding of current approaches to Information Discovery, Information Aggregation, Presentation Software, Web Publishing (Blog), and Data Structures
- **Introduction to Information Science** – Students will gain a broader understanding of the field of Information through applied exercises and an exploration of potential career tracks in Information Science
- **Service Learning Project** – Students will design and participate in service learning projects across campus modeling both the technical and soft skills acquired in the course.

Additional Support

UALR Academic Advising
ROSS HALL 406, PHONE: 569-8688

EIT Student Academic Services
Katie Young, EIT 117, kcyoung@ualr.edu

Course Requirements and Grades

- 10% - Presentations
- 10% - Technical Assignments
- 20% - Class Participation
- 30% - Reflection - Weekly Blog Postings on Assigned Topics
- 30% - Service Learning Project

Attendance

Attendance is critical in mastering the course material. If you must miss class, please send an email to tswallace@ualr.edu **before class begins** explaining the reason for your absence. Excessive absences will negatively affect your class participation grade.

Grading Scale

A (90% - 100%) - Attainable if all required and recommended assignments are thoughtfully completed. All assignments are on time with a quality reflective of study, thought, and planning. Written assignments are proofread with errors corrected, well organized, typed, and of adequate length. The A student asks questions, follows instructions, actively participates in discussions, and spontaneously takes a leadership role.

B (80%-89%) - Attainable if assignments are completed. Assignments are reflective of study, thought, and planning. Written assignments are proofread, corrected, and fairly well organized. The B student participates actively and will take on a leadership role when asked.

C (70%-79%) - Likely if assignments are not completed and skills are not developed through practice. Because the C student merely skims the surface, assignments are incomplete, occasionally late, and/or written hastily. They may contain writing errors, may be too short to cover the material in specificity, and are likely disorganized. The C student seldom participates and avoids leadership. Absences may be a problem

Detailed Schedule

| Session Date | Topic / Activity |
|--------------|--|
| 08/18/11 | Introduction - Review Syllabus and course expectations |
| 08/23/11 | Blog Orientation - Selecting a Theme (T) |

08/25/11 Using Wordpress - Pages vs Posts | Customizing the Sidebar | Widgets (T)

8/30/11 Information Discovery - Advanced Web Searching | Working on the Cloud (T)

09/01/11 Information Aggregation - RSS | Folksonomies (T)

09/06/11 Administer Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) (SS)

09/08/11 Getting to know UALR and EIT - Katie Young (R)

09/13/11 Campus Scavenger Hunt - Meet in Class (R)

09/15/11 MBTI Debrief - Catherine Lowry (SS)

09/20/11 Presentation Technologies - PowerPoint Session 1 - Intro | Slide Master (T)

09/22/11 Presentation Technologies - PowerPoint Session 2 - Best Practices | Audio and Video (T, SS)

09/27/11 Presentation Technologies - PowerPoint Session 3 - Audio and Video | Alternate Presentation Formats (T)

09/29/11 Presentations (T,SS)

10/04/11 Time Management and Goal Setting - Catherine Lowry (SS)

10/06/11 What is Information Science? - Lecture / Discussion (I)

10/11/11 Applied Information Science - Bioinformatics - Steve Jennings (I)

10/13/11 Plan of Study - Overview of the IFSC program and what you'll need to succeed. - Liz Pierce Department Chair (I)

10/18/11 Meet the Faculty 1 - Short Presentations from several of the IFSC Faculty (I)

10/20/11 Meet the Faculty 2 - Short Presentations from several of the IFSC Faculty (I)

10/25/11 Careers in Information Science - Panel Discussion (I)

10/27/11 Applied Information Science - Virtual Reality - Meet in the VRC (ETAS 382) (I)

11/01/11 Working in Teams - Communication strategies for success - Catherine Lowry (SS)

11/03/11 Assign Teams and Outline Requirements for the final project (SS)

11/08/11 What is Service Learning? - Betsy Hart - Office of Community Engagement (SL,R)

11/10/11 It's all about the User! - Universal Design and Accessibility - Melanie Thorton - Associate Director, Disability Resource Center Director, Project PACE

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| | Team Progress Reports (I,SS,T) |
| 11/15/11 | Getting it Write - Effectively communicating technical information to non-technical audiences (SS,R) |
| 11/17/11 | A Student's Perspective - IFSC Alumni Daniel Spillers will discuss his experience in the program and discuss his current role with UALR Computing Services (R,T) Assignment: Blog Post - Reflect on your team experience thus far |
| 11/22/11 | In-class Team Project Work - Team Reports (SS,SL) |
| 11/24/11 | Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class |
| 11/29/11 | In-class Team Project Work - Team Reports (SS,SL) |
| 12/01/11 | Present Projects in DSC (TBD) (SS,SL,T) |
| 12/06/11 | Finals Begin |

SS = Soft Skills | R= Resource Orientation | T= Technical Skills | I = Information Science | SL = Service Learning

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Students with Disabilities: It is the policy of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of achievement-such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos-please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students are also welcome to contact the Disability Resource Center, telephone 501-569-3143 (v/tty). For more information, visit the DRC website at <http://ualr.edu/disability/>.