

LIS508

Introduction to Digital Information Technology

2003–10–14

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Course Description

This course introduces students to fundamental facts and concepts of information technology. The course aims to cover computer hardware, operating systems, and computer networking.

Course objectives

After taking this course students

- they will understand elementary concept of digital information
- they will be able to understand basic concepts related to computer hardware
- they will be able have some idea about about computer software
- they will have rudimentary ideas of networking protocols

Prerequisites

There are no formal prerequisites for this course.

Instructor

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Class structure

Classes will be held in the computer lab in the Palmer School between 18:15 and 20:45. An optional practice session will last until 21:15.

Class details:

0	2003–09–23	introduction to the course
1	2002–09–30	bits bytes and characters
2	2003–10–07	databases and markup languages
3	2003–10–14	computer hardware and input devices
4	2003–10–21	output devices and storage devices
5	2003–10–28	a look at MS Windows
6	2003–11–04	<i>no class</i>
7	2003–11–11	a look at Linux
8	2003–11–18	telecommunication basics
09	2003–11–25	Ethernet, IP and TCP
10	2002–12–02	important internet applications
11	2003–12–09	ethics and privacy
12	2003–12–16	computer and network security

Readings

The lecture's powerpoint slides should be the first port of call for the student. Each slide set will contain reference to the literature used by the instructor to prepare the lecture.

In addition, there are two textbooks that the students may wish to consult. This is Sawyer, Stacey and Brian K. Williams. "Using Information Technology: A Practical Guide to Computers and Communication", McGraw Hill 2003. The other is White, Ron "How computers work", referred to as above. Both books contain many mistakes.

Assessment

Every lecture—except the first two—will contain a quiz of about ten minutes duration. The average of the grades of the quizzes makes for 50% of the course.

The remainder is composed from a essay. It should be brief, i.e. less than five pages, and must be handed in on the day of the last class.

References