

IFSC 1105/ CPSC 1105 – Freshmen Experience: Techniques for Problem Solving

Fall 2013

Monday

3:05 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

EIT 219

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

Class Information

Course Name: IFSC 1105/ CPSC 1105 – Techniques for Problem Solving

Instructor: Thomas Wallace

Office: EIT 547

Telephone: 501.804.6422

Email: tswallace@ualr.edu

Office Hours: Monday / Wednesday – 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. | By Appointment

Course Materials

All required materials will be available via my website located at <http://thomaswallace.net>

Course Overview and Objectives

This course will cover a range 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

Jennifer Moody, EIT 117, jlmoody@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

Schedule

Session Date	Topic / Activity
Week of 08/19/13	Introduction - Review Syllabus and course expectations Blog Orientation - Selecting a Theme (T) Using Wordpress - Pages vs Posts Customizing the Sidebar Widgets (T)
Week of 08/26/13	Information Discovery - Advanced Web Searching Working on the Cloud (T) Information Aggregation - RSS Folksonomies (T) Getting to know UALR and EIT - Jennifer Moody (R)
Week of 09/03/13	Labor Day No Classes
Week of 09/09/13	Campus Scavenger Hunt - Meet in Class [®] Administer Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) (SS)
Week of 09/16/13	Presentation Technologies - PowerPoint Session 1 - Intro Slide Master (T) Presentation Technologies - PowerPoint Session 2 - Best Practices Audio and Video (T, SS)
Week of 9/23/13	Presentation Technologies - PowerPoint Session 3 - Audio and Video Alternate Presentation Formats (T) Presentations (T,SS)
Week of 9/30/13	Time Management and Goal Setting - Catherine Lowry (SS) MBTI Debrief - Catherine Lowry (SS) What is Information Science? - Lecture / Discussion (I)
Week of 10/07/13	Applied Information Science - Bioinformatics - Steve Jennings (I) Plan of Study - Overview of the IFSC program and what you'll need to succeed. - Liz Pierce Department Chair (I)
Week of 10/14/13	Fall Break
Week of 10/21/13	Careers in Information Science - Panel Discussion (I) Applied Information Science - Virtual Reality - Meet in the VRC (ETAS 382) (I)
Week of 10/28/13	Working in Teams - Communication strategies for success - Catherine Lowry (SS) Assign Teams and Outline Requirements for the final project (SS)
Week of 11/04/13	What is Service Learning? - Betsy Hart - Office of Community Engagement (SL,R)

	It's all about the User! - Universal Design and Accessibility Team Progress Reports (I,SS,T)
Week of 11/11/13	Getting it Write - Effectively communicating technical information to non-technical audiences - Aaron Baker - Meet in the UALR Writing Lab (SS,R) Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class
Week of 11/18/13	In-class Team Project Work - Team Reports (SS,SL) A Student's Perspective - IFSC Alumni Daniel Spillers will discuss his experience in the program and discuss his current role with UALR Information Technology Services (R,T)
Week of 11/25/13	In-class Team Project Work - Team Reports (SS,SL) - Complete SL Project
Week of 12/2/13	In-class Team Project Work - Team Reports (SS,SL) - Complete SL Project
Week of 12/09/13	Last Day of Class

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

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Your success in this class is important to me, and it is the policy and practice of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to create inclusive learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have a documented disability (or need to have a disability documented), and need an accommodation, please contact me privately as soon as possible, so that we can discuss with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) how to meet your specific needs and the requirements of the course. The DRC offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process among you, your instructor(s) and the DRC. Thus, if you have a disability, please contact me and/or the DRC, at 501-569-3143 (V/TTY) or 501-683-7629 (VP). For more information, please visit the DRC website at ualr.edu/disability.