

# IS101

## Introduction to Informatics I

Faculty of the Department of Computing  
School of Business & Management, Norwich University

### Course Description

IS101 is the first of the two-course sequence providing a survey in computing issues especially designed for computer majors within the School of Business and Management. The course focus is to provide a broad-based understanding of concepts and concerns across information technology. Discussions regarding security and computing ethics are included throughout. Permission is required for non-Computer Science and non-Computer Security majors.

### Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to discuss the following issues at an introductory level:

- What does it mean to be “computer literate” in today’s society?
- How did personal computers develop in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century?
- What are the components of personal computers?
- How did the Internet develop? How does it work? How can you use it effectively?
- What is application software? How are the different types of applications obtained and used?
- What is system software? How do operating system features help users work effectively?
- How does one evaluate computer hardware to be sure that components meet user needs?

### Course Schedule & Location

- Tuesdays and Thursdays in Dewey 309 from 10:50:03 to 12:04:57.
- The Thursday session will usually last only 15 minutes – used for weekly quizzes; Thursday will also be used for one-hour mid-term and final exams.

### Text

Evans, A. K. Martin, & M. A. Poatsy (2009). *Technology in Action*, Sixth Edition. Prentice Hall / Pearson (ISBN 978-0-13-504624-1). Also used for IS102.

### Methods of Assessment

- Weekly quizzes (50% of final grade)
  - There is a 10 minute quiz on the week’s lecture and readings every Thursday.
- Mid-term exam (25% of final grade)
  - Scheduled for Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of October.
  - Covers material of Weeks 1-7
  - Full class period
- Final exam (25% of final grade)
  - Scheduled for Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December.
  - Full class period

- Extra Work:
  - Students may submit extra work by permission of an instructor for extra points on their final grade.
  - Students must ask for permission of a specific instructor who will agree to grade their work before writing and submitting any extra work.
  - For example, instructors can agree to accept suitable short essays such as summaries of interesting articles or books relevant to the course materials.
  - The rate granted for extra work is up to 1 point added to the final grade for 250 words of good writing. Thus a 1,000 word essay with suitable references could improve the final grade by up to 4 points. The number of points depends on the quality of the research and writing.
  - Other projects for more advanced students can include programming demonstrations, hardware configurations, network-related demonstrations, and so on. Discuss these ideas with your professors.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

Students are graded on an individual basis and must therefore complete their own work. Students are reminded of the University's Policy against cheating and plagiarism (see p 78 ff of the PDF version of the *Academic Regulations* available online at < <http://tinyurl.com/nuar2009> >). Ignorance of the University's Rules is not a valid defense against accusations of academic dishonesty. If in doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism, ask before submitting assignments. Instances of cheating and of plagiarism will be reported to the Academic Integrity Committee. Penalties include expulsion from the University.

### **Attendance Policy – no more than 2 unexcused absences**

University regulations stipulate that “Unless stated otherwise, the maximum number of permitted absences is the number of times the course meets per week. When the student has reached the maximum number of permitted absences, the faculty member will warn the student of impending dismissal from class with a grade of ‘F.’ This warning letter will include the course number and section and dates(s) of absence(s). The letter will state that any future unexcused absences may result in recommendation to the Vice President of Academic Affairs through the course School Dean that the student be dismissed from the class with a grade of ‘F.’ A copy of the warning letter will go to the student's academic advisor and to the Commandant and Vice President of Student Affairs.” (See pp 69-70 of the PDF version of the *Academic Regulations* available online at < <http://tinyurl.com/nuar2009> >.)

### **Notes**

- There will be no *grading on a curve*. There are no predetermined numbers of final letter grades.
- Advanced students are encouraged to help other students and to contribute actively during lectures.
- Students are encouraged to study together but may not collaborate during exams. Students are individually responsible for all assigned readings, lecture, and discussion material, unless otherwise noted.
- The pass mark for this course for students intending to continue in their computer-related major is a B- (80%). Students who pass the course with less than 80% will have to retake the course to complete their major (with a maximum of two attempts).

