

SYLLABUS

CLARENDON COLLEGE
CLARENDON CAMPUS
Division of Business and Technology
Course Name: COSC 1301 Microcomputer Applications
Credit Hours: 3

Fall 2011
Classroom Location: Pampa Center, Room 103

Section 231 (6:00 – 8:50 p.m. Tuesday)

Instructor Information

Instructor: Mrs. Pam Denney
Phone: Home number: 806-874-2389
Email: Use your Student Portal email to email me.

Office Hours :

Clarendon Campus (Instructional Center, Room 201 or 203):

Tuesday and Thursday: 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday: 1-2 p.m.

Pampa Center (Room MKBC 103):

Tuesday: 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

General Course Information

Course Description:

Overview of computer information systems. Introduces computer hardware, software, and procedures and explores their integration and application in many segments of our society. Emphasizes the use of application software and the Internet to develop technological skills in the areas of personal productivity, communication, and research. The fundamentals of computer problem solving and programming may be discussed and applied.

Course Purposes:

Improve your ability and increase your desire to acquire new computer-related skills and knowledge.
Improve your personal productivity skills through the use of operating system, word processing, and spreadsheet software.
Improve your communication skills through on-line discussions, email, and developing and delivering a narrated slideshow.
Improve your research skills through the use of the Internet for information resources.

This course partially satisfies the requirements for the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree, and is designed for transfer to a senior college or university.

Required Instructional Materials, Supplies, and Software:

- ◆ **Course Textbook**
Gaskin, **Go! With Microsoft Excel**, Pearson - Prentice Hall, 2010.
- ◆ **Headphones**
- ◆ **USB flash drive** to use as a means of accessing, saving, and downloading files you work with during the course.

Course Objectives:

As a result of this course, you should be able to meet the objectives and learning outcomes listed below. *(You should expect to meet these outcomes only if you honor all course policies, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, and meet all other course expectations of you as a student).*

Objective: Utilize appropriate computer-based technology to interpret, model and solve contemporary real-world problems.

Learning Outcomes:

- Use appropriate computer programs to solve contemporary real-world problems.
- Integrate appropriate features from several commonly used application programs to generate documents that solve a contemporary real-world problem.
- Identify the best methods for safeguarding a computer system from current security threats.

Objective: Understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving, and technical proficiency in solving problems.

Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate proper file management techniques to manipulate files and folders in a networked environment.
- Apply proper formatting techniques to a document draft so that it models a previously formatted document.

Objective: Understand and demonstrate oral and visual communication through technology using invention, evaluation, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.

Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate the effective use of search engines to find reliable and relevant internet resources.
- Evaluate, organize, draft, revise, and edit information in a timely manner.
- Demonstrate effective oral presentation skills by creating an effective narrated slideshow

Objective: Demonstrate organizational skills and responsibility for your own learning.

Learning Outcomes:

- Complete all assigned tasks by their due dates.
- Contact me before a due date if special arrangements need to be made because of an emergency.

Course Policies

Academic Integrity and Dishonest Behavior.

College Policy:

Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense.

Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to: (1) obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion; (2) discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given; (3) observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination; (4) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment; (5) entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain unfair advantage; (6) taking an examination for another person; (7) completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; (8) altering grade records; (9) using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise; and/or, (10) plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.)

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, the associate dean, and/or dean. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall him/herself be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty. Additionally, any student who reports him/herself in violation of this code before it is likely that another might consider this possibility will be understood as repentant and acting in good faith. Though the confession will not excuse the student for the violation, the confession will be considered and the violation should not result in suspension from school except in the most extreme cases.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or laboratory. Faculty who discover or suspect a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to the Dean of Students, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported by the faculty member, in writing, to the Dean of Students. If the Dean of Students observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Dean is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved, for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Dean of Students is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken.

Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision involving academic integrity or acts of academic dishonesty may do so through the Student Appeals and Grievance Procedure.

My Personal Policies:

I adhere to a strict policy regarding academic honesty. Anyone who is dishonest in any way will receive a zero on that portion of the course grade. If a student is dishonest more than once, a grade of zero for the entire course occurs.

Examples of Consequences for Academic Dishonesty:

- A student cheats on a graded assignment. That student receives a zero for his/her graded assignment grade (15% of course grade).
- A student cheats on an exam. That student receives a zero for his/her exam grade.
- A student cheats on the career project. That student receives a zero for his/her career project grade (35% of course grade).

It is your responsibility to protect your electronically saved files. If someone else turns in an assignment as if it were that student's work but it is work that you completed or partially completed, I will have to assume that you allowed it to happen, and you will receive the same punishment as the person who used your files. Therefore, make sure your saved files are kept in a place where others cannot copy them.

Examples of Dishonest Behavior:

- Obtaining or giving another student answers to exam questions in any way.
- Using notes or other devices to obtain exam answers.
- Although it is okay to help someone else on an activity (graded assignment, or career project) by explaining to that person how to complete a task, it is dishonest for you to complete part or all of the work for that person or to let that person copy part or all of your work. It is also dishonest for a person to use someone else's work and submit it as if it were his/her own work.

Classroom Conduct

I will show you the respect you deserve as a student. I, in return, expect respectful behavior from you. Because the **following actions cause disruption** in the classroom and therefore affect the ability of students to learn, I have strict policies concerning them. Points will be deducted from your class attendance grade if these are not observed.

- **Using electronic devices.** If you bring a cell phone or other electronic device (mp3 player, i-pod, etc.) to class, it must be turned off and put out of sight, not left on the desk. If you have a special situation that requires you to leave your cell phone on (in vibrate mode) during class, you must discuss the situation with me before class. If you have to take a call during class for that situation, quietly leave the classroom and handle the situation. Do not return to class after the call to further disrupt other students.
- **Browsing the internet, using email, accessing social networking sites, or working on homework.** Except for the times I ask you to perform some of these activities during class, you will not engage in them during class time. You may, however, come to class early and use the time before class begins to do any of these activities.
- **Demonstrating unacceptable behavior.** I expect you to dress and talk decently and appropriately for an educational setting. I also expect you to follow the school policy regarding not using any tobacco product. You will be asked to leave the classroom if you choose to participate in unacceptable behavior.

Your Personal Responsibilities

Class Attendance and Class Activities.

Since it is very important that you attend all classes if you want to be successful, ten percent of your course grade comes from class activities. Realistically, of course, you may need to miss a few classes. If you have an absence for **any** reason (excused or unexcused), you are still responsible for making up the material covered in class or you will lose class activity points.

On most class days, you will have a **class activity** to complete. If you are absent you may turn the work in by the next class period after your absence and generally receive the same points as those who were in class. There are a few classes that cannot be made up due to the nature of the class activities. In those cases, you will lose the class activities points if you are absent.

When you are absent, the best way to know what we discussed in class and to know what work you need to complete is to check the **Homework and Class Activities** document in the Course Documents section for this course in your Student Portal. Many of the class lectures are even available in the form of narrated slideshows available at this same link. Generally, the link is updated on the same day as the class.

Due Dates and Late Submission Policy.

Graded Assignments, unless otherwise indicated, are due by the beginning of class on the due date. Due dates and instructions will be clearly given in class, on the Course Schedule, or at the Homework and Class Activities link in your Student Portal. If you are going to be absent (excused or unexcused) when an assignment is due, it is your responsibility to get the assignment to me by the due date. No work will be accepted late unless you have discussed the situation with me before the due date and have a legitimate reason for not completing the work on time. The only exception to this policy is in the case of an emergency that makes it impossible for you to contact me before the due date.

Exams. If you are going to be absent on the day of an exam for any reason (excused or unexcused), it is your responsibility to make arrangements before the exam day for an alternative day/time to take the exam. If you miss an exam without having discussed your absence with me before the exam, you will receive a grade of zero on the exam. The only exception to this policy is in the case of an emergency that makes it impossible for you to contact me before the due date.

Final Exam.

Your final exam will be given during Finals week. According to the college catalog, "no student is excused from any final examination for any reason. No final examination may be given other than on the regularly scheduled date, unless approved by the Dean of Instruction. . . . Absence from a final examination without a valid reason may result in a grade of 'F' for the course."

Since dates and times for final exams are available at the college website, make your travel and end of semester plans accordingly. In case of an emergency situation, you may apply to the Dean to take a final exam early. To do so, you must obtain an Early Final Exams form from the Dean's office, fill it out, and have it signed by the appropriate personnel.

Withdrawing from (Dropping) the Course

If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a “W” on your transcript instead. (The last day to drop a course is **November 18**.) Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that you must initiate. If you do not go through the formal withdrawal procedure, you will receive whatever grade you have earned.

Whether to drop a class or not requires a lot of thought. According to Texas state law a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she will be charged triple the tuition amount for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop a total of 6 courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. After the 6th dropped class, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

If you think you need to drop this course, please talk with me about it first. It is possible that there is something you can do to still pass the course. Don't hurt your chances for a passing grade in the course by not turning in assignments or missing exams before we have discussed your situation.

Career Project

A major portion of your final grade (35%) will be obtained through your completion of a Career Project. You will work on this project in phases at different times during this course.

The main objective of the Career Project is for you to learn a lot about the career you are considering pursuing while learning how to use many common features in the different Microsoft Office programs. You will also learn to plan, organize, draft, revise, edit, and complete a large project on time. Generally in order for a large project to be completed by a specified deadline in the “real work world,” a timeline is given that designates when certain parts of the project need to be completed so you can successfully meet the final deadline for the entire project.

You will have five deadlines to meet for this project. Below is a general description of each phase of the project. A due date for each phase is given on your Course Schedule. You will receive specific instructions for each phase of the project in class as well as in your Student Portal.

- Phase 1 – Select the career you wish to research and find web pages to use for your research.
- Phase 2–Decide on the main points you wish to discuss about your career. Begin developing your slideshow by creating the required slides and placing data on the appropriate slides.
- Phase 3 –Type the first draft of the script you will use to narrate your slideshow. The script will be typed using MLA formatting guidelines.
- Phase 4 –Create the slides for the content portion of your speech. Revise your script so the narration coordinates with the slideshow.
- Phase 5 – Complete your slideshow by adding animation to the objects and by completing other listed requirements. Create the narrated version of your slideshow from your typed script.

Grading Policies

The final grade in this course will be determined by the following weighted categories:

Exam 1: 10%
Exam 2: 10%
Final Exam: 20%
Career Project: 35%
Average of Graded Assignments: 15%
Class Activities and Attendance: 10%

Your final course grade will be figured as set in the current catalog:

90 to 100..... A
80 to 89..... B
70 to 79..... C
60 to 69..... D
59 and below..... F

Grades are rounded (Example: 89.5 = A). If you have shown remarkable effort throughout the course, have submitted tasks on time, taken all exams, and shown good improvement in your computer literacy, I have the prerogative to add additional points to your grade.

Accommodations Statement

Clarendon College provides reasonable accommodations for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities. Should you require special accommodations, notify the Dean of Student Services. We will work with you to make whatever accommodations we need to make.

Tentative Course Schedule

A detailed **Course Schedule** is available in the Course Documents section in your Student Portal. It lists tentative due dates for all graded assignments and extra credit projects. It also lists tentative exam dates.

Basic Computer Skills Needed

The following list includes basic computer skills I assume you already have before beginning this course. If you are not already very familiar with these topics, discuss your situation with me. It is possible you may need to learn these skills before taking this course.

- Start/close programs
- Resize/move windows
- Use menus and toolbars
- Use dialog boxes
- Use scroll bars
- Use on-line help systems
- Save a file to a designated location and find the file at a later time
- Navigate the internet with a web browser
- Move backward and forward through internet hyperlinks
- Use email to communicate
- Attach files to email message