



A division of St. Francis Methodist School

Curriculum Description for St. Francis Baccalaureate

Computer, Brain & Society - LAS 165

Catalog description: Investigations into the impact of the computer on society and its role in performing functions associated with human intelligence. Credit 3 hours

Text: none

Supplies required: None. However, back up everything you do. If “the computer ate your disk,” you’d better have a back up.

Teaching methodology: Lecture, reading, hands-on experience, research, demonstration and presentation.

Objectives: To examine the relationship between the individual, the computer, and society; to explore the usefulness of computers and computer applications; to examine computer-related societal problems; and to explore the relationship between humans and the computer.

Procedures: To explore computer-mediated relationships, students will engage in an anonymous chatroom conversation with a classmate as well as with someone outside of the school community. Students will also be required to explore the impact of computers on individuals and society, and to report their findings by way of Web logs (Blogs) and group presentations.

Grading:

25% -- Web log group presentations

25% -- Web log individual contribution

25% -- Chat experience summaries

10% -- Discussion participation

15% -- Final paper (Conclusions about the impact of computers on individuals and society as discovered through class experiences).

Instructors reserve the right to reduce grades for late assignments by 10% each day.

Communication: Each student is required to have an email account. Assignments may be communicated by email. Not having an email account or not checking said account is not an excuse.

Attendance policy: Because of the nature of this class, it is strongly suggested you be at each meeting of the class. The instructors reserve the right to count tardiness as being absent. If you are going to be absent, send an email to your instructor before the absence. Those of you in activities should plan to make up your work before the planned absence.

Do all written assignments on a computer: No handwritten work will be accepted.

Laptop policy: The classroom learning environment at Southwestern College should be one of mutual respect and responsibility. Restricting the use of laptops to class-related activities and restricting usage of physical distraction results are within the prerogative of individual faculty/instructors. Laptops may be used to refer to materials connected with this course, take notes for this class or to project presentational supports. Use of MSN, email or any non-class materials related uses are prohibited, unless allowed by the instructor. Violations will be subject to grade penalties. *(Adapted from policy written by Mary Gill of Buena Vista University)*

Possible discussion issues

- How has/does/will the computer impact the job market?
- The virtual shut-in
- Personal relationships
- The right to privacy
- Freedom of speech
- Child pornography/virtual child
- The death of distance
- Impaired people
- Law enforcement - entrapment?
- Identity theft
- World economics
- Fine art or not?
- Creating multiple personas for chat rooms

ACTIVITY

Intro to class/Blackboard Demo. Chat 1 work begins.
ALL -- Topic discussion: Impact of computers on the individual
ALL -- Topic discussion: Impact of computers on the individual
ALL -- Topic discussion: Impact of computers on the individual
Small group (7 each) creation, topic discussion
Topic discussion. Group emails two paragraphs on its presentation topic by end of class
Chat progress reports.
BROG work.
BROG Work. Chat progress reports.
BROG Work
Final BROG work before presentation. Individual BROG results due via email.
ALL -- Presentations. Random chat reports. Chat 1 summary due.
ALL -- Presentations. Random chat reports.
ALL -- Presentations. Random chat reports.
ALL -- Presentations. Random chat reports.
ALL -- Topic discussion: Impact of computers on society. Chat 2 work begins
ALL -- Topic discussion: Impact of computers on society
ALL -- Topic discussion: Impact of computers on society
Small group (7 each) creation, topic discussion
Topic discussion. Group emails two paragraphs on its presentation topic by end of class
BROG work. Chat progress reports.
BROG Work
BROG work. Chat progress reports.
Final BROG work before presentation. Individual BROG results due via email.
Final BROG work before presentation. Individual BROG results due via email.
ALL -- Presentations. Random chat reports. Chat 2 summary due.
ALL -- Presentations. Random chat reports.
ALL -- Presentations. Random chat reports.
ALL -- Presentations. Random chat reports.
Final Exam -- 1:10 - 3 p.m. in Mossman 101