

SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO



Sault College

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Computer Applications

CODE NO. : CSA112 **SEMESTER:** ANY

PROGRAM: Liberal Studies, General Arts and Science, and other programs

AUTHOR: Frank Turco/Cindy Trainor

DATE: Jun 2008 **PREVIOUS OUTLINE DATED:** Sept 2007

APPROVED:

	_____	_____
	DEAN	DATE

TOTAL CREDITS: 4

PREREQUISITE(S): None

HOURS/WEEK: 4

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*For additional information, please contact Brian Punch, Chair
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides a survey of computer concepts and applications at an introductory level. The theory component includes an introduction to computer architecture, computer components, operating system concepts, word processing, database management, spreadsheets, presentation software, web page development, multimedia and networking. The course also develops hands-on skills in the use of the operating systems and applications studied.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Understand PC basics, hardware and software fundamentals.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Describe the fundamental PC hardware and software basics.
- Identify computers in perspective: past, present and future trends.
- Define in detail the hardware components inside the box as well as a variety of peripherals.
- Describe the essential characteristics of a variety of software applications such as word processors, desktop publishing, spreadsheets, database management systems, presentation software and web site development.
- Utilize email services and features.
- Utilize and practice advanced features in word processing.

2. Work with and learn basic office application software as well as integrating the different applications.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Learn and use the various characteristics of desktop publishing software.
- Use presentation software.
- Work with and learn the various features of spreadsheets.

- Work with and learn the various features of database management software.
 - Discuss the implications that office applications have on society.
 - Produce mail merged documents that incorporate word processing, spreadsheets and databases.
 - Produce a term paper that incorporates the practiced office software tools and techniques.
3. Work with and differentiate operating systems, network architecture and the internet.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Define and work in the Unix based environment.
 - Develop a personal web site.
 - Practice and work in the Windows environment.
 - Describe the various network architectures.
 - Work with file transfer protocol.
 - Describe the historical context of the internet and its future.
 - Integrate office application documents with web pages.
 - Develop a web-based term paper.
4. Appreciate the complexities and the issues and implications of technology in society.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Define the different forms of viruses.
- Describe the variety of computer risks that exist today.
- Describe how our privacy diminishes with technology.
- Define the different categories of computer criminals.
- Appreciate the delicate balance between convenience and privacy.
- Define the issues related to software piracy, ethics, the evolving internet.

III. TOPICS:

1. PC Basics, Hardware and Software Fundamentals.
2. Office Application Software.
3. Operating Systems, Network Architecture and the Internet.
4. Issues and implications of Technology and Society.

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:

“Tomorrow’s Technology and You – Eighth Edition”

Introductory Edition

by Goerge Beekman and Michael J. Quinn

Pearson Prentice Hall Publishing ISBN 0-13-229721-3

1 USB Drive

Notes provided by instructor

Internet Resources and assigned Internet Readings

Lab Material and Study Notes will be posted on the instructor’s web site

V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:

Tests and quizzes 40%

Assignments and Lab Work 60%

The tentative breakdown is as follows but is subject to change when deemed appropriate:

10	Quizzes (best 10 of 12 or more)	2%	Each
13	Labs	2%	Each
1	Mid Term Paper	15%	Each
1	Mid Term Test	10%	Each
1	Final Practical Test	10%	Each
1	Final Test	15%	Each
	Attendance	4%	
	Bonus Work	5%	

Some minor modifications to the above percentages may be necessary. The professor reserves the right to adjust the mark up or down 5% based on attendance, participation, leadership, creativity and whether there is an improving trend.

The professor reserves the right to adjust the number of tests, practical tests and quizzes based on unforeseen circumstances. The students will be given sufficient notice to any changes and the reasons thereof.

- Successful completion of this course is greatly improved with a disciplined approach and consistent attendance to both the lab and lecture / theory classes.
- Students must complete and pass both the test and assignment portion of the course in order to pass the entire courses.
- All Assignments must be completed satisfactorily to complete the course. Late hand in penalties will be 5% per day. Assignments will not be accepted past one week late unless there are extenuating and legitimate circumstances. It is not acceptable to miss classes and / or labs without a reasonable explanation.
- There will likely be 1 or 2 quizzes each and every week in one of the lecture periods. Those not attending will receive a zero grade for that quiz.
- There will also be a lab exercise each and every week that will be due during that lab period. In the event that it cannot be completed during lab time, you will be allowed to complete it as a homework exercise and demonstrate it the following lab with no penalty.

A student who is absent for 3 or more times without any valid reason or effort to resolve the problem will result in action taken.

NOTE: If action is to be taken, it will range from marks being deducted to a maximum of removal from the course.

The following semester grades will be assigned to students:

Grade	<u>Definition</u>	<i>Grade Point Equivalent</i>
A+	90 – 100%	4.00
A	80 – 89%	3.00
B	70 - 79%	2.00
C	60 - 69%	1.00
D	50 – 59%	0.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

VI. SPECIAL NOTES:

Special Needs:

If you are a student with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your professor and/or the Special Needs office. Visit Room E1101 or call Extension 703 so that support services can be arranged for you.

Retention of Course Outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

Communication:

The College considers **WebCT/LMS** as the primary channel of communication for each course. Regularly checking this software platform is critical as it will keep you directly connected with faculty and current course information. Success in this course may be directly related to your willingness to take advantage of the **Learning Management System** communication tool.

The professor reserves the right to use other tools and / or techniques that may be more applicable. These other tools and / or techniques for effective communication will be discussed, identified and presented throughout the delivery of the course content.

Plagiarism:

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in *Student Code of Conduct*. Students who engage in academic dishonesty will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or such other penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course/program, as may be decided by the professor/dean. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

Course Outline Amendments:

The professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

Special Notes:

1. In order to pass this course the student must obtain an overall **test/quiz** average of 50% or better.
2. Assignments must be submitted by the due date according to the specifications of the instructor. Late assignments will normally be given a mark of zero. Late assignments will only be marked at the discretion of the instructor in cases where there were extenuating circumstances. Ask for permission from your instructor to hand assignments in late **before** the due date.

VII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT:

Students who wish to apply for advanced credit in the course should consult the professor. Credit for prior learning will be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

VIII. DIRECT CREDIT TRANSFERS:

Students who wish to apply for direct credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain a direct credit transfer form from the Dean's secretary. Students will be required to provide a transcript and course outline related to the course in question.