LIS508

Introduction to Digital Information Technology

2002–09–26

See http://openlib.org/home/krichel/courses/lis508p02a for the latest online version of this file.

Course Description
This course introduces students to fundamental facts and concepts of information technology. The course aims to cover computer hardware, operating systems, and computer networking. In addition, the course will be provide an introduction to information technologies that are completely hardware independent, such as XML and Unicode.

Course objectives
After taking this course students

- they will be able to understand extremly basic concepts related to computer hardware

- they will be able have some vague ideas about how to manipulate a computer

- they will have rudimentary ideas of networking protocols

Prerequisites
There are no other formal prerequisites for this course.

Instructor
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Class structure
Classes will be held in the computer lab in the Palmer School between 18:40 and 20:30. A hands-on session will be held after that and will go on until 21:00.
Class details:

0	2002–09–09	introduction to the course
1	2002–09–23	character sets
2	2002–09–30	characters to textual documents
3	2002–10–06	looking at a desktop computer
4	2002–10–13	input devices to a desktop computer
5	2002–10–21	storage devices
6	2002–10–28	graphics and the monitor
7	2002–11–04	a look at MS Windows
8	2002–11–11	a look at Linux
9	2002–11–18	networking basics
10	2002–11–25	Ethernet, IP and TCP
11	2002–12–02	TPC/IP and DNS
12	2002–12–09	email, email lists and http
13	2002–12–16	computer and network security

Readings

The lecture's powerpoint slides should be the first port of call for the student. Each slide set will contain reference to the literature used by the instructor to prepare the lecture.

Assessment

Every lecture—except the first two—will contain a quiz of about ten minutes duration. The average of the grades of the quizzes makes for 50% of the course.

The remainder is composed from a essay. It should be brief, i.e. less than five pages, and must be handed in on the day of the last class, in printed form, because the instructor will read it on the airplane home.

References