



PSU17 First Year Seminar

Spring 2008 – Section 101

Tuesday, 1:25 – 3:20 p.m. (Jan. 15 – Feb. 12), Room IST210

Course Syllabus



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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to help you to learn how to be successful in the College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST) and at Penn State University. This involves two elements. The first is how to be successful in college, in general. The second is learning what the field of information sciences and technology is all about and what is expected of you in the College of IST. In this course, you will learn through class discussions, assignments, guest presentations, and group projects.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Over the 5-week timeframe of this course we will select elements of specific problems that you will be required to work in teams. You will also be completing individual assignments that will enhance your opportunities for internships and part-time employment. Through your work in this course, we hope to introduce you to:

- The intellectual and professional field of information sciences and technology
- IST Internships and ISTechTRAK
- What professionalism means in IST
- The culture and environment of IST and Penn State
- Search and research skills
- Team skills

More broadly, this course is centered on learning: learning about IST in general, learning about what it means to be a student in IST, and learning about learning as it applies to your life as a student at Penn State.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required textbook:

There is no required textbook in this course. However, you may find IST's Learning Initiatives site useful for working in teams: <http://pbl.ist.psu.edu/teamwork>.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Because PSU 017 course is highly concentrated (approximately 2 hours per session over a 5-week period), it is very important for you to attend each class. I expect you to be prompt as we begin the class. From a teaching and learning perspective, equally important is that you are an active participant, engaged with your team on team projects and engaged with the course material during class discussions and on individual assignments. Use this course to explore, be creative, and participate.

I will be giving team & individual assignments found in the Lessons tab in Angel. You will complete some of these assignments during class time, although some outside work will be needed as well. My role (along with other expert participants) will be that of coach, guide, or facilitator.

Each of you will receive a class participation grade based on:

- Attendance
- Preparation and involvement in class activities
- Assignments

Please see the Grading Policy for a break down of assignments and grades. There will be no final exam for this course.

GRADING

- **Class attendance and participation** **25%**
- **Scavenger Hunt assignment** **10%**
- **Personal resume approved by Internship Office** **10%**
- **Student organization assignment** **10%**
 - Option#1: Paper on contribution of student organizations to undergraduate education**
 - Option#2: Participation in Student Organization Fair**
- **Team Project**
 - **Individual research assignment** **20%**
 - **Team project** **20%**
 - **Team presentation** **5%**

GRADING SCALE

Grade	Criteria	Grade	Criteria	Grade	Criteria
A	95%-100%	A-	90%-94%		
B+	87%-89%	B	83%-86%	B-	80%-82%
C+	75%-79%	C	70%-74%		
D	60%-69%				
F	< 60%				

COURSE POLICY

- **Submission policy.** I ask that you submit most of the deliverables through ANGEL dropboxes. Students are encouraged to cc: group members for possible future verification. **The submission deadline is at midnight on the due date.**
- **Late submission.** Late submission is subject to 10% penalty of the grade for the first two days after the due date. After the first two days, 20% penalty is deducted from the grade for each late day until no grade is available.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: According to the Penn State Principles and University Code of Conduct: *Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at Penn State University, allowing the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. In according with the University's Code of Conduct, you must not engage in or tolerate academic dishonesty. This includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person, or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.*

Any violation of academic integrity will be investigated, and where warranted, punitive action will be taken. For every incident when a penalty of any kind is assessed, a report must be filed. This form is used for both undergraduate and graduate courses. This report must be signed by both the instructor and the student, and then submitted to the Senior Associate Dean.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION & SEXUAL HARRASMENT: The Pennsylvania State University is committed to a policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by Commonwealth or Federal authorities. Penn State does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, gender, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Direct all inquiries to the Affirmative Action Office, 211 Willard Building.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: IST welcomes persons with disabilities to all of its classes, programs, and events. If you need accommodations, or have questions about access to buildings where IST activities are held, please contact us in advance of your participation or visit. If you need assistance during a class, program, or event, please contact the member of our staff or faculty in charge. Access to IST courses should be arranged by contacting the Office of the Senior Associate Dean, 332G Information Sciences and Technology Building, (814) 865-4457.

AN INVITATION TO STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES: It is Penn State's policy to not discriminate against qualified students with documented disabilities in its educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for modifications in your testing or learning situation, your instructor should be notified during the first week of classes so that your needs can be accommodated. You will be asked to present documentation from the Office of Disability Services (located in 116 Boucke Building, 863-1807) that describes the nature of your disability and the recommended remedy. You may refer to the Nondiscrimination Policy in the Student Guide to University Policies and Rules.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Module	Topics/Activities	Assignment Out	Assignment Due
#1: Jan. 15	Welcome to IST and PSU17	Introduction, Course syllabus		
		Getting to know each other (People Bingo)		
		Team formation		
		Team project	Research project	
		Scavenger hunt	Scavenger hunt assignment	
#2: Jan. 22	IST Technology Tour	Introduction to the tour		Scavenger hunt deliverables
		Taking the tour in IST building		
		Discussion		
		Project time		
#3: Jan. 29	Professionalism and Exploring Professions	Introduction	Resume assignment	Individual research assignment
		Internship presentation and discussion		
		Project time		
#4: Feb. 5	Academic Advising and Choosing a Major	Introduction		Resume deliverable
		Advising presentation and discussion		
		Project time		
#5: Feb. 12	Project Presentation	Group presentation		Student organization paper
		Course wrap up		Team project