

COURSE SYLLABUS

Computer Fundamentals

Winter 2011

INSTRUCTOR: Robert Tillotson

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PREREQUISITE(S): Successfully Demonstrated Knowledge and/or
Successful
Completion of the Following Course(s):
None

CLASS LOCATION: Coronado Center, Room 5

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This Course is a hardware familiarization for beginning computer users or those who want to know more about how their computers work. It covers the uses and construction of computers with emphasis on how the parts work and work together and how to actually get them to work. The course will provide a basis for better understanding for follow-on computing courses. While it doesn't cover much in the way of operation of the computer it will allow the student to: make better decisions when purchasing a computer; more easily understand terminology when talking to salesmen, support technicians, and instructors; and make informed decisions about what they need in a computer. It is heavily oriented toward answering questions from the participants about how things work.

B. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

Lecture, discussion, question and answer, demonstration

C. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1: Students will be able to identify types of computers
- Objective 2: Students will be able to explain and discuss components of computers
- Objective 3: Students will discuss computer peripherals and their use and connection to the computer system.
- Objective 4: Students will be able to discuss the hardware, software and connections necessary to access the internet

D. Course Outline

- **Instructor Qualification**

- Masters in Computer Science
- 20 years corporate experience heading IT/MIS department
- 3 years teaching Graduate and Undergraduate Computer Science courses for University of New Haven.

- **Why do I need a computer?**

- Email
- Photos, movies and other media
- There's always games
- Everything else

- **What kind of computer do I need** – the various options for computers tailored to your needs and budget

- Desktop
- Notebook or laptop
- Netbook class
- Others

- **What is inside a Computer** – all the bits and pieces explained with a live video tour

- Motherboard
- CPU

- RAM
 - Hard drive
 - CD-ROM, DVD, or Blu-ray Drive
 - Modem
 - Video Card
 - Audio Card
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- **What do I need to go with it** – the extra hardware that might be needed
 - Monitor
 - Keyboard
 - Mouse
 - Modem
 - External Hard drive
 - Router
 - Wireless access point
 - Broadband modem
 - Printer
 - Scanner
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- **How do I get on the internet**
 - Get an ISP account
 - Broadband
 - Cable
 - DSL

- Others
 - Dialup
 - Get the right hardware
 - Email accounts
 - WiFi and WiMax – internet on the go, sometimes free
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- **Turning the computer on and basic use**
 - Power Switch
 - Basic mouse use
 - Logging in
 - Turning the computer off
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- **Basic Maintenance and protection**
 - Cleaning – Dust is the enemy
 - Surge protection or UPS