

Computer Histories -- First Year Seminar 420:029:012 -- Fall 2013 Syllabus – Final Version 09/09/13

Professor - Michael P. D'Alessandro, M.D. michael-dalessandro@uiowa.edu

Office Hours – Noon - 1 pm Wednesdays in Old Capitol Mall Food Court across from “Wraps and Rolls” and by appointment at 3879 John Colloton Pavilion (JCP)

Physical Location - E226 Alder Journalism + Mass Communication Building (AJB)

Time - 8:30A - 9:20A Mondays

Credits – 1

Online Location – Web site at <http://www.computerhistories.org>, Secret Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/computerhistories/> and **Twitter hashtag** - #computerhistories

Textbook Required – Computing A Concise History by Paul Ceruzzi (at Amazon.com) and Computer Histories – <http://www.computerhistories.org>

Textbook Supplementary – D is for Digital by Brian Kernighan (at Amazon.com)

Startup Simulation – MIT App Inventor site - <http://appinventor.mit.edu/> and online tutorial at <http://www.appinventor.org/>

Educational Philosophy

I wish to challenge you, make you responsible for your own learning, and encourage engagement amongst you

I support the Iowa Challenge – Excel ~ Stretch ~ Engage ~ Choose ~ Serve

There is no such thing as a bad question

Goal of the Course

Equip you with an intellectual toolkit for the multi-disciplinary study of computing that will allow you to:

Understand the history of computing from the micro to the macro levels - from the chip to the Internet

Undertake meaningful discussion and debate as computing plays an ever more crucial role in society and our lives

Embark upon a course of lifelong learning regarding computing and its role in society

As a survey course, it is designed to encourage broad horizontal thinking across the discipline of computing rather than vertical (silo) thinking

Learning Objectives of This Course

What is the history of computing?

What is the future of computing?

What lessons can we learn from computing's past that will help guide us in determining computing's future?

What you need to do to succeed in this course – What are my expectations for you

I have high expectations for you as students in this course. By the end of this course I expect you to accomplish the Goal of This Course. To do so I expect you to do the following:

Attend every class

Come to class caffeinated

Come to class prepared to discuss the day's topic(s) by reading the assigned chapter(s) of Computing A Concise History and topic(s) in Computer Histories and viewing the assigned videos before class

Participate in class in a challenging yet respectful manner

Participate online in discussions and the simulation in a challenging yet respectful manner

Turn in assignments on time

Grading – Plus and minus grades will be used

Student's attendance – 10%

Participation in class and online– 30%

Simulation participation - 30%

Short essays – 10% each x 3 = 30%

Assignments are due by 11:59 pm of the due date. You may hand them to me in class or email them to me. Do not skip class to work on assignments

Administrivia

Amount of homework should be 2 hours per week

Administrative home of the course is the University College

Laptop policy – You are free to use laptops or mobile devices during class as long as they are being used to access course-related information

I would like to hear from anyone who has a disability which may require seating modifications or testing accommodations or accommodations of other class requirements, so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Please contact me privately.

Please contact me at any time with any feedback, problems, or questions about the course