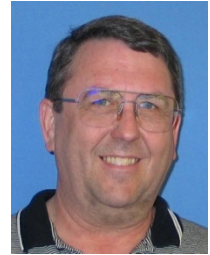


SYLLABUS – Seattle Pacific University
USEM 1000 University Seminar – Fall 2011

21st-Century Technology for 21st-Century People

Professor: Dr. Mike Tindall
Office: OMH 240 **Office Phone:** 206.281.2945
Email: mht@spu.edu
Website: Blackboard. (Check <http://myhome.spu.edu/mht> as an alternate)
Office hours: Monday, Wednesday **1:30 – 2:30** *Other times by*
Friday **11:00 – noon** *appointment*



I read my Email several times each day Monday through Friday and occasionally at other times.
If you have questions, this is the best way to reach me.

COURSE DESCRIPTION and LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This seminar introduces first-time college freshmen to the liberal arts at a Christian University by looking at innovative applications of modern computing technology in people's lives. What are the best personal uses of computing technology today? Explore different types of computing and technology, such as useful gadgets, your personal computer, mobile technology, websites, social networking and your web presence, blogs, search engines, eCommerce, adaptive and assistive computing for the disabled, robotics, and pervasive computing. Consider the implications of the expanding use of computing and technology in people's lives. How are computing and technology changing the way people communicate and interact? Is good technology always good? Is there any information privacy left?

This course is for you! It serves as a port of entry into SPU and college life, as well as exposing you to some of the technologies that enrich our lives today. The transition from high school to college involves leaving a familiar, perhaps comfortable, environment to one that is unfamiliar, and perhaps less certain. It is also involves new and exciting discoveries about the world, yourself, and others. We are here to help facilitate your transition in a way that is healthy and supportive. We will have the chance to explore these things together as we learn and practice basic skills and knowledge that will help prepare you for success in college and life in general.

After successfully completing this University Seminar course, the student will:

- Have a broad perspective of a number of important computing technologies
- Know how to use library and internet resources to do college-level research
- Communicate more effectively in written and oral form
- Be better prepared to process information and approach issues with analytical thought
- Be better prepared to do college level writing and academic work. Note taking. How to study.
- Be better prepared in time management skills and sleep management skills (not in class!!)
- Have an appreciation for how the Christian worldview intersects with a technological society
- Have had some fun getting to know some interesting people and new friends!

Students will experience numerous opportunities for personal growth in intellectual skills, analytical skills, written and oral communication skills, research skills, and social skills. This will be accomplished through several of the following activities:

- Talking about how to write papers, take notes, take tests, etc.
- Participating in prepared and impromptu class discussions
- Library and internet research tutorials
- Analyzing and reflecting on computing and technology information from a variety of sources
- Reflecting on the Day of Common Learning address
- Writing different kinds of papers (report, theme, thesis) on aspects of modern computing and technology
- Small group activities, such as panel discussions or debates

MENTOR

Isaac Halstrom is assisting as a student mentor for this USEM section. He will be glad to try to answer any questions that you may have about campus expectations and activities, academic resources, or adjusting to your life as a student here at SPU. Isaac will frequently attend our class sessions, and he may sometimes also be available at other times to meet with students from the class. Feel free to contact and interact with either Isaac or your instructor regarding all aspects related to this course or your involvements at SPU.



Isaac Halstrom
halstromi@spu.edu

MEETING DATES, TIME and PLACE

September 26 – December 2, 2011. 9:30am – 10:50am Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Room: OMH-246.

Wednesday, October 19: SPU Day Of Common Learning. 10:00am Brougham Pavilion

No class: Friday, November 11: Veterans Day holiday

No class: Friday, November 25: Thanksgiving holiday

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 6, 2011, 8:00am – 10:00am, OMH-246.

RECOMMENDED TEXT

The Everyday Writer, by Andrea Lunsford, Bedford/St. Martin’s Press, (latest edition).

GRADING

Though imperfect, grading provides a valuable measure for assessing and motivating our academic performance. In this course a variety of factors will be used to determine the final result as listed here:

Attendance	10%
Class Participation	10%
Analytical Experiences	80%
Papers, reports, panel discussions, final exam	
Total Score	100%

Your total score will represent a weighted sum of all of your work for the quarter.

Roughly, the weighted scores will translate into a letter grade as follows; however, the instructor reserves the right to adjust the grade based on other subjective criteria based on the how the course went overall.

<u>Weighted Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
94-100	A
90-93	A-
86-89	B+
82-85	B
80-81	B-
77-79	C+
72-76	C
68-71	C-
65-67	D+
62-64	D
< 62	E

More on Grading

Each **paper** will be evaluated on two broad categories:

(1) **Writing traits** have to do with how the writer crafts the structure and flow of the message of the paper, and include the following:

- **Completeness/Development:** How complete is the development of the message? In one extreme it may be incomplete to the point of incomprehension, or it may be fully developed.
- **Organization/Coherence:** How well organized is it? This varies from fully coherent to completely disorganized
- **Purpose:** Is the purpose of the writing fully evidenced in the content? Is it so obscure that it appears to be lacking any discernable purpose?
- **Accuracy:** To what extent is it accurate in its content? Does it get its facts right? To what extent are their uncorrected untrue statements?
- **Economy:** How efficiently does it accomplish its purpose and express its ideas. To what extent does it have redundant or unnecessary, distracting content?
- **Audience:** Is it written in the proper way to match its intended audience?
- **Voice:** This is what most people have in their speech but lack in their writing. It is the choice of words that authentically reflect your personhood, the kinds of things you naturally project to others when in conversation. Effective voice is how well you capture this essence in you written words via word choice, expressiveness, and tailoring of your sentences. Voice can make or break a paper’s effectiveness with the reader. Is your writing wooden and artificial or does it richly project your personhood in an engaging way?
- **Tone:** "'tone' is the attitude of the speaker or writer as revealed in the choice of vocabulary or the intonation of speech.. Tone is used to convey an attitude, and may be done consciously or unconsciously." (Buzzin Learning <http://www.buzzin.net/english/tone.htm>). Is the tone artificial, inappropriate, or authentic?

(2) **Writing mechanics** have to do with spelling, grammar, sentence and paragraph structure and coherence. These kinds of topics are covered in our the excellent reference book *The Everyday Writer* (Lunsford) and reflected in “FAQs about Errors” chapter, including the Twenty Most Common Errors made by college students.

Grade	Meaning
A 4.0	Excellent writing mechanics and traits – perhaps some minor error(s)
A- 3.7	Overall excellent writing mechanics and traits, but some mechanical errors or some noted weakness in a trait, though not significant
B+ 3.3	Generally solid writing mechanics and traits, but either some notable traits and/or mechanics problem(s)
B 3.0	Solid writing but both mechanics and traits problems, though not major
B- 2.7	Like a B except weakened with more errors of either kind
C+ 2.3	Writing traits can have some notable weakness(es) and writing mechanics problems, but not excessive
C 2.0	Acceptable, but needs work to make it solid college level writing
C- 1.7	Lacks traits and mechanics integrity although it may present some good ideas
D+ 1.3	Shows work, but largely inadequate for college level writing
D 1.0	Gets some credit, but is in serious need of remediation
E 0.0	Totally unacceptable

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

One primary goal of the University Seminar is to help you establish the disciplines and practices that allow you to be successful in your college experience and beyond. The richest and most rewarding results come from a sense of **mutual commitment** and **dependency** on the part of the instructor and the student. We are indeed privileged. God has given us the intellectual and economic resources to be here and to apply ourselves for maximum growth and fulfillment. We have enough to eat, a comfortable place to sleep, an encouraging environment, and enough security to be free to maximize our potential. Family and friends have invested love and labor into our lives. Many in our world do not have these same blessings.

Let's show our gratefulness by approaching this course with mutual respect. Let's approach this experience maturely and responsibly. It is very possible that one day you may like to have me (or another professor) write a letter of recommendation for you for a scholarship, an internship, or graduate school. In these circumstances character definitely counts! By deciding now to establish good behavior habits for yourself you will be laying the foundation for many future successes. Proverbs 22:1 says "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold." (NIV)

FOR STUDENTS:

- Punctual attendance. Absences will not be excused without documented legitimate cause.
- Preparation for and participation in class discussions. Your instructor needs you! ☺
- Be civil, involved, and respectful of others
- Turn in all assignments and take exams on time. Notify us *in advance* of foreseeable difficulties. Late or missed work without notification can be made up only via proper documentation or testimony. Missing class exercises due to illness requires verification (e.g. signed note from Health Clinic)
- Respect for others through your actions and attitudes.
 - Cell Phones OFF or SILENT-MODE. It is never appropriate to talk or text on the phone in a class.
 - During class, use of classroom or personal computers (if allowed by instructor at all – yes, you should ask) is restricted to actions related to class activity (e.g., taking notes, following lecture outlines, etc.). It is inappropriate to use for email, instant messaging, web browsing, or game play.
 - Food or drink is not allowed in computer classrooms.
- Complete honesty and integrity. Aside from being intrinsically right, it is also the best way to learn. Cheating on an assignment or exam will earn a zero grade for the first offense. A second offense could lead to failure in the class
- "Plagiarism" is cheating and is defined as stealing and passing off the ideas or words of another as one's own (according to Webster's Dictionary). This means putting printed material into one's paper without referencing the source and copying sections of text that you yourself have not composed.

Stay personally connected. Let us know if you are having difficulties that are preventing you from doing your best.

FOR INSTRUCTOR:

- Punctual attendance
- Provide an encouraging atmosphere for learning and discovery
- Provide a variety of materials and experiences that will expand student's appreciation for and understanding of computing technologies
- Challenge students to relate the Christian worldview to issues involving the use of computing and technology in society
- Come prepared
- Be impartial in grading
- Provide useful help for making the transition to college life

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Please contact Disabled Student Services in the Center for Learning to request academic accommodations. Disabled Student Services sends Disability Verification Letters to your professors indicating the appropriate accommodations for the classroom based on your disability.

SCHOOL CLOSURE POLICY

SPU will begin classes late or close the campus if weather mandates such a decision. A “late start” notification indicates that the campus offices and classes will open at 9:30 a.m. Classes beginning 8:00 a.m. will be canceled. If a chapel is scheduled it will be held as planned. “Closure” means all classes and offices are closed. The library, Campus Dining Services and the SUB will be operational on a limited schedule. For more information, call the Snow Closure Hotline at (206) 281-2800 or listen to KIRO 710 AM or KCMS 105.3 FM or TV stations KIRO, KOMO, or KING.

EMERGENCY PLAN INFORMATION

At the beginning of the quarter, for each of your classes, identify a classmate to be your buddy during the class period in the event of an emergency. Once you have a buddy, both students please send your instructor an email message notification before the second class session.

If evacuation of the classroom is necessary, the buddy system will help faculty account for students. Each day in class, mentally note whether or not your buddy is in attendance.

If evacuation is required, assemble in the **Alumni Center Parking Lot** adjacent south to OMH, next to the Metro bus stop on Nickerson. If it is clear that this assembly location is not safe, assemble instead at the southwest corner of the **Ross Parking Lot** at 3rd Ave. W & W. Cremona St.

ATTENDANCE IF YOU ARE ILL

In order to minimize the impact of the influenza (or other illness) season at SPU we ask that students who are experiencing the following symptoms DO NOT attend class:

Sudden fever accompanied by any of the following:

- chills
- headache
- sore throat
- muscle aches
- cough
- vomiting
- diarrhea

You may return to class once your fever is gone for 24 hours without the use of medication. A note from your physician or student health is not required; simply notify the instructor by email prior to missing class. Students who miss class will not be penalized and compensatory assignments will be provided for any work missed. Thank you for your help protecting our community.