Welcome to FIT100
(CSE100 and INFO100)
Fluency with Information Technology

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About This Class

Fluency with Information Technology
--FIT for short--is the state-of-the-art IT class for non-techies

• FIT goes beyond computer literacy
• FITness concept from NSF/NRC study
• FITness teaches how to use IT today and how to learn IT throughout life

UW was first in the US with a FIT class

Video

• Background and History

Being Fluent

FIT100 teaches you to be Fluent with IT
What does that mean for you?

• Using IT freely and easily
• Making technology your friend
• Recovering from bugs, errors, or unexpected situations
• Being in control and confident ...
... now and in the future

Becoming Fluent is no small feat!

The Content

FIT100 helps you become Fluent by teaching ...

• Skills, like spreadsheets, databases, ...
• Concepts, like how networks work, building Web pages with HTML, ...
• Capabilities, like how to find accurate information on the WWW, debugging, ...
• Integrates content by using projects

Video

• Skills, Concepts, and Capabilities
Lifetime of Learning

Why is lifelong learning emphasized?
• Consider a college education as a “product” with a 50-year “useful life”
  • What did the class of 1957 need to know about technology to be still employed today?

Bye Career

What did the class of 1957 learn about technology?
• The first computers were developed in the 1940s
• First packet sent on the “Internet” in 1969
• PC as the personal computer was used ~1980
• WWW was developed in 1994

No fixed set of topics is “everything” you need

CSE100/INFO 100

FIT100 is offered by Computer Science & Engineering Department (CSE100) and the Information School (Info100)
• It doesn’t matter which you registered for
• FIT100 has no prerequisites except being a student at UW
• FIT100 is for “non technical” students
• If you are a “techie” e.g. plan to major in science, engineering, architecture, ... take CSE142

Is FIT100 for You?
Take FIT100 if you want to...
• learn applications & the science of IT
• prepare for a lifetime of expanding your use of IT
• think and study intensively
• attend all lectures and labs
• devote “5 credits” of study time this term
FIT100 is worth it ... you’ll use this class for a lifetime

But, Maybe Not

Do not take FIT100 if you
• want to learn only a few skills like word processing, email, Web, etc.
• don’t have time to attend class, lab
• want a good grade with little work...
• FIT100 doesn’t repeat classes you’ve had
• expect someone else to do the work
FIT100 is offered every term ... take it later

Some Stats
Looking at the numbers ...
• 2.0-4.0 GPA Students who passed came to all classes, prepared for quizzes, read book, came to all labs, took all exams
• 0.0-1.9 GPA Students who did poorly skipped classes and so missed quizzes, skipped labs, didn’t attempt parts of projects ...
• 9 Students in recent quarter sent to Conduct Committee and got Academic Probation

www.washington.edu/computing/catalog/gen/Catalog.html
Taking FIT Is Worth It

Previous students said ...

“FIT100 was very valuable, even though it involved a lot of work (and I do mean a LOT)”
“FIT100 expanded and brought precision to my thinking”

• If you can commit to FIT -- Welcome
• If this isn’t the term, withdraw so some other student can have a chance

Class Mechanics

Textbooks
Fluency with Information Technology, L. Snyder, Addison-Wesley

QuickStart with JavaScript, F. Lin, Addison-Wesley

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Grading [All details are in the syllabus]
• 13 Labs and Homework Assignments
• 3 Projects (each with 2 parts)
• 10 pop Quizzes: online during lab
• 10 pop Quick-Writes: during lecture

FIT100 Announcements

6 announcements that affect YOU
• TAs and Office Hours
• Computer Basics Lab
• FIT100 Web site
• Calendar gives you control!
• Readings
• An Assignment

Teaching Assistants

FIT100 Has 3 Great TAs ...
• Marilyn Ostergren (AE and AF)
• Kelly Smith (AB and AD)
• Marc Dupuis (AA and AC)

Extra help when you need it:
• Drop-in labs (MGH 430—a computer classroom)
• TA’s office hours (MGH 3300)
• Instructor’s office hours (MGH 330J)
Many students come to FIT100 knowing email, WWW, word processing.
But, if you have never used a PC ...
  - Do not fear FIT100!
  - Expect a steep learning curve
  - Come to the drop-in labs for more one-on-one time

FIT100 maximizes computers & Internet
  - Class Web site ... memorize it!
  - Everything you need to know will be on the site, espec. announcements
    - Always check the Web page first!

The Calendar
The Calendar gives you control ...

We will follow Fluency with Information Technology (FIT) closely
  - Readings are assigned for each class
  - Reading the material before class will ...
   - make the lectures much more useful
   - prepare you for the unannounced quizzes and Quick-Writes
  
  For next class read Chapter 1

Homework 1 is a Treasure Hunt
  - Find the FIT100 web page
  - Locate HW1
  - Using the syllabus, answer the questions
  - Turn it in Monday before Noon

Label a piece of paper at the top with:
  - Your name
  - FIT100
  - Today’s date: 3/31/2008

Choose one of these topics:
  - Describe your previous experience with technology.
  - Describe your first encounter with technology.

Write two paragraphs Starting now...
Summary

FIT100 is a serious class that requires effort, but it delivers knowledge you can use now and throughout your life

- FIT100 is Skills, Concepts, Capabilities
- Good study habits are key to success
- Have no time? Want an easy class? Skip FIT!
- Teaching staff is here to help you learn
  - Marilyn, Marc, Kelly, and D.A.

FIT100 may be the coolest class you ever take!