Introduction To Computers For The Sciences

ENV 1020 Course Syllabus – Fall 2009

Instructor: Leslie Kanat, Ph.D.

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Course web page: http://kanat.jsc.vsc.edu/

Office hours: Scheduled office hours are from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday through Thursday, otherwise, stop in anytime or schedule an appointment. Office location: 307 Bentley.

Sessions: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 to 1:50 in LLC 216

Texts: Appropriate manuals for relevant software can be borrowed from the instructor.

Assessment: 75%: Weekly assignments (all due dates will be posted online)
25%: Final exam: 10:30 a.m., Thursday, 17 December 2009.

Objectives:
Introduction to Computers in the Sciences will expose you, the student, to software that is commonly used in the workplace. Our goal is to learn how to use and integrate select software and hardware in order to produce professional presentations, allow you to be productive in future classes at JSC, and give you skills necessary to be productive in the workplace.

This course will focus on the use of the following software: WebMail (email), Windows Explorer® (file management), Word® (word processing), Excel® (spreadsheet, database, graphics, and curve fitting), Internet Explorer® (searching and downloading data and images), PowerPoint® (presentations), Illustrator® (figures and posters), and Photoshop® (image editing).

You will also learn how to use the following hardware: flatbed scanners, film scanners, film recorders, video capture card, digitizers, and standard computer hardware.

Some weekly activities and projects will be aligned with assignments given by other instructors in other courses. For example, we could produce graphs for the data collected in a chemistry laboratory experiment, or plot a graph for exponential growth that reflects population dynamics as taught in an environmental problems course, or produce a paper with figures as assigned in most courses.

Comments:
- It is expected that you will attend all class sessions.
- No grades are dropped.
- All material submitted for assessment must be well written and presented in professional form.
- All email must be well written and presented in professional form.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period – otherwise they are late.
- For each calendar day (24-hour period) an assignment is late it is down graded by 10 percent.
- All referencing of electronic sources will follow a slightly modified style presented by: American Psychological Association, 2009. *How do you reference a web page that lists no author?* Retrieved 1 July 2009, from http://www.apastyle.org/learn/faqs/web-page-no-author.aspx.
- Students at Johnson State College are expected to be honest in all their academic work. You are responsible for knowing what specific acts constitute plagiarism. If you are unsure, then consult me, or read the Undergraduate Catalogue. Academic dishonesty in any form is prohibited and unacceptable.

(topics to be covered can be found on a separate sheet)