INFO 300
Intellectual Foundations of Informatics

COURSE SYLLABUS
Autumn 2002

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Class Meetings: T TH 10:30-11:50 a.m., 228 Mary Gates Hall
Lab: F 9:30-11:20 a.m., 430 Mary Gates Hall

Class Web Site: http://courses.washington.edu/i300au02/
E-Reserve: https://eres.lib.washington.edu/coursepage.asp?cid=1369
Class Listserv: info300a_au02@u.washington.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Informatics refers to the study of information systems - the people, the information, and the information technology. But what is information? How can it be supported by technology? And what is the relationship between human activity, information, and information technology? In this course, we take up these questions and more. We begin by examining the definition and scope of information. We study how it can be represented, manipulated, and classified. Next we turn our attention toward information technology, with an emphasis on modern technologies. We investigate interfaces, interactive design, the Internet, augmented reality and ubiquitous computing. Then drawing on our understandings of information and information technology, we explore the implications of information systems for human values and human activity. We conclude with consideration of cutting edge information systems that link biology, information and computation.

CLASS LIST SERV
Important messages regarding assignments and class work will be distributed via the listserv that has been set up for the class. You are automatically subscribed to the list by virtue of enrolling in the class. To send a message to the listserv, simply send an email to: info300a_au02@u.washington.edu
LABS
The lab for this course meets once a week on Friday from 9:30-11:20 a.m. in the computer classroom, 430 Mary Gates Hall. The lab is required and counts for 15% of the final grade. While I anticipate that many of the labs can be completed during the scheduled lab time (one or two require work outside of lab), I recognize that individuals work at different paces. The purpose of the lab is not to test your speed but to provide you with an opportunity for meaningful hands-on experiences. Thus while many of you will complete the labs in the scheduled time, the lab write-ups are not officially due until the beginning of the following lab session. Note: No lab on Friday, November 29 (Thanksgiving Holiday).

Lab write-ups should be turned in as finished documents. In other words, write-ups should be well organized, written clearly and concisely, and without spelling or grammatical errors. Labs will be graded either √, √+, or √-. Labs will earn a √ if the specific requirements for that lab are met, materials are turned in on time, and the write-up demonstrates thoughtful consideration of the subject. A grade of √+ will be reserved for work which is exceptional in its treatment and presentation of the material. Unsatisfactory work will earn a √-. In general, graded labs will be returned in lab the week after the due date.

WRITING AND ISCHOOL WRITING CENTER
The iSchool expects students to tailor writing assignments to the audience intended for each assignment. In order to aid students in excelling at their writing, the School offers an extensive writing resource in collaboration with the College of Engineering, the Engineering and iSchool Writing Center (EiWC).

Schedule an appointment at the EiWC in any of the ways listed below and talk to a peer writing consultant one-on-one.

1. Call (206) 221-4184 during the EiWC's hours or leave a voicemail with your contact information
2. Email eiwc@u.washington.edu
3. Take your chances and drop in to Engineering Annex Room 304 or Mary Gates Hall 091

DISABILITY
This course follows the UW guidelines for disability. Please see the UW Website at:
http://www.washington.edu/admin/eoo/eoost.html

ACADEMIC HONESTY
This course follows the UW guidelines for academic honesty. Please see the UW Website at:
http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm

GRADING
15% Project 1: Due Tuesday, November 12 at the beginning of class.
25% Midterm: Thursday, November 14.
15% Project 2: Due Tuesday, November 26 at beginning of class.
20% Project 3: Topic due Tuesday, November 26; project due Tuesday, December 10 at beginning of lab.
15% Lab
10% Class Participation and short writing assignments.

Grading criteria follow UW guidelines and can be found at:

REQUIRED TEXT
TOPICS AND READINGS

1. Informatics – Definition and Scope

*What Will Be*, Preface (pp. xv – xvi), and The five pillars of information (pp. 51-54).


*What Will Be*, Vision (pp. 3-24).


2. The History of the Internet

*What Will Be*, Chapter 2: The revolution unfolds (pp. 25-51) and Chapter 4: New Tools (pp. 81-98).


3. Representation


*What Will Be*, Appendix 1 & 2 (pp. 350-354).

4. Manipulation


5. Classification


6. Interfaces and Interactive Design


What Will Be. Chapter 3: Where person meets machine (pp. 55-80).


### 7. Containers: Documents, Augmented Reality, and Ubiquitous Computing


### 8. Human Values: Privacy, Security, and Property


*What Will Be*, Chapter 4: Computer security schemes (pp. 98-107).


9. Globalization, Community, and Cultural Diversity Online


*What Will Be*, Chapter 9: Business and Organizations (pp. 191-214).

10. Biology, Information and Computation


