

ITSC 1325

Personal Computer Hardware

Spring 2020

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Course Name: ITSC 1325.001 PC Hardware

Course Description and Outcomes

Description: Current personal computer hardware including assembly, upgrading, setup, configuration, and troubleshooting.

Outcomes: Assemble/setup and upgrade personal computer systems; diagnose and isolate faulty components; optimize system performance; and install/connect peripherals

Hybrid

This is a hybrid format class. This means we will meet for class once a week, and the remaining part of the course will be online. You must check Blackboard regularly for updates, otherwise you may miss an important announcement. Our in-class meeting will be a mix between in class labs and lectures.

Textbook and Hardware Requirements

There will be two books required in this course. First, this course will be using the CompTIA A+ Guide to IT Technical Support (10th Edition) by Jean Andrews, Joy Dark and Jill West. Second, we will be using TestOut for this course. You will need to purchase these items from the SPC bookstore or online. Once you activate TestOut, you will need to enroll in the course mentioned below. TestOut will provide you with a virtual environment that we will use for labs, homework assignments and exams. It will also provide you with a wealth of information, reading materials, and videos to aid in your learning experience. You will also need a simple PC toolkit.

Main Textbook:

CompTIA A+ Guide to IT Technical Support, 10th Edition, Cengage, ISBN: 9780357108369

- I highly recommend getting the physical textbook, but an eText version is acceptable.

TestOut:

Promo Code: 14-232TA
Course Product: TestOut PC Pro A+ 220-1001 and 220-1002
School Name: South Plains College
Instructor Name: Michael Slaughter
Course Name: ITSC1325.001.SP2020

Toolkit: You will need a simple PC toolkit. Suggestions will be posted in Blackboard.

Software Requirements

Because some of the assignments will be done and submitted outside of class, you will need access to the following programs outside of the classroom:

- Google Chrome Web Browser
- TestOut account

Assumed Knowledge

It is assumed that you possess basic computer skills relating to using the internet, applications and other basic computing tasks. It is also assumed that if you run into content you do not understand; you will research that content on your own as well as ask the instructor for assistance.

Communication

Communication for this class will be conducted through SPC email. All students will be required to check their SPC student email accounts regularly for course updates and announcements.

Please include your name, course name, and section number in all email communication. Other important announcements may be given during in class meetings, so attendance is key for complete communication.

Attendance Policy

You will be **dropped** from the course with an “X” or an “F” after **three** absences, or if I feel the objectives cannot be met due to excessive absence. If you are not sure how many absences you have accumulated, please be sure to notify me so that I can provide you with an absentee count.

If you are absent, you are still required to complete the assigned work by the indicated due date. You’ll want to be sure to ask a classmate what material you missed on the day you were absent so that you’ll be caught up when you return. I will not repeat the information you missed when you return. Tardiness may result in an absence.

Reading/Study Assignments

Mandatory, assigned reading is a requirement for this course. Reading assignments includes all material in the book chapter and TestOut course content that is assigned for a given week. Study assignments include all lectures in TestOut, demonstrations in TestOut, notes taken from your in-class lectures, and other content presented throughout the course. **Although reading/study assignments are not taken for a grade, they are required to be successful in this course.**

Assignments and Lab Projects

Procrastination will not serve you well in this course. Most assignments will be available through the TestOut software. Each chapter will have several small assignments and labs that will count toward your homework grade. For the TestOut section assigned, all labs and exams are pulled for homework grades.

There will also small homework assignments and projects that will be assigned periodically throughout the semester. These assignments and/or projects will be announced in class and available in Blackboard. **NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED!** In-class labs will also be

completed throughout this course. It is expected that you take care of all equipment and check that equipment in/out with the instructor.

Exams

There will be four exams given in this class including a comprehensive final exam. If an exam is missed, you have two days to reschedule a time with the instructor. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions, simulations labs and in-class labs (when necessary). Exam grades are final. No extra credit will be given and no retakes will be considered.

Grades

Grades will be calculated as follows:

	Possible Points
Assignments/Lab Projects	20%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Final Exam	35%

All assignments are mandatory. **I reserve the right to drop or fail you if homework assignments are frequently missed or incomplete.**

Grades will be available through TestOut (Homework/Exam Grades) and Blackboard. Blackboard grades will show a running average of how you are performing throughout the semester. Blackboard grades will be updated regularly throughout the semester.

Certifications

Two certification exams will be taken at the end of this course. The TestOut PC Pro exam and the CompTIA A+ 220-1001 exam. The TestOut PC Pro exam will be taken in class. The CompTIA A+ 220-1001 exam will be taken at a Pearson testing center and must be scheduled during the last two weeks of the semester.

- A passing grade the CompTIA A+ 220-1001 certification will result in a 100% on the final exam

Instructional and Outside Course Time Estimation:

In-Class Instructional/Lab/Quiz Time: $3.3\text{hrs/wk} \times 16\text{wks} = 53\text{ hrs}$

Reading and TestOut Course Time: $6.9\text{ hrs/wk} \times 16\text{wks} = 110\text{ hrs}$

Exam Study Time: 20 hrs

PC Pro Cert Exam: $2\text{hrs} \times 1 = 2\text{ hrs}$

A+ 220-901 Cert Exam Study Time: 20 hrs

A+ 220-901 Cert Exam: 2 hrs

Exam Time: $2\text{hrs/exam} \times 4 = 8\text{ hrs}$

Total Course Time = 215 hrs

Total Time Per Week = 13.5 hrs (9.5 hrs outside class)

In-Class Computer, Cell Phone and iPod Use

Students will **not** be allowed to surf the web, check their personal e-mail or social media accounts, or do work for any other course while class is in session. **Students will not be allowed to use their cell phones during class.** If the student is found using social media, surfing the web, or using their cell phone, they will be asked to leave the class and they will be counted absent for that day. If the incident reoccurs, they will be reported to the dean of students. In cases of emergency, the student is asked to leave the classroom to use their cell phone. **If a student has a cell phone or other device out during an exam, they will be asked to leave and will get a zero for that exam.**

Food and Drinks

No food or drinks are allowed in the lab area. Do not bring those to class. If you do, you will be asked to leave class and counted as absent. If this happens more than once you may be dropped from the class.

Drop Policy

You may be dropped from this course for the following reasons:

- Attendance
 - You have three or more absences
- Participation, completion of homework, exams, and team project
 - You have missed 2-3 classes and several homework assignments
 - You have missed several homework assignments
 - You have missed two or more exams without rescheduling with the instructor
- Academic Integrity
 - Cheating, plagiarism, or sharing your work with others

Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty at South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences and possible suspension. Please refer to the SPC General Catalog regarding consequences for cheating and plagiarism. **I reserve the right to administratively drop with an “F” any student whom I suspect of academic dishonesty.**

****Do not, under any circumstances, turn in another student’s file as your own. Do not, under any circumstances, give your file to anyone else to turn in as their own. Both situations are representative of academic dishonesty and will be treated as such.****

Disclaimer

Because we will use Blackboard to conduct a portion of this class, please note that the materials you may be accessing in chat rooms, bulletin boards or unofficial web pages are not officially sponsored by South Plains College. The United States Constitution rights of free speech apply to all members of our community regardless of the medium used. We disclaim all liability for data, information or opinions expressed in these forums.

Diversity Statement

In this course, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should be and can be.

Special Services

4.1.1.2 Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office through the Guidance and Counseling Centers at Reese Center (Building 8) 716-4606, or Levelland (Student Services Building) 716-2577.

Counseling

If at any point in the semester you find yourself having trouble with stress or feel depressed please stop in and see a counselor. Counseling services are available at all campuses. The number for the counseling office is 806-716-2366. Below is a link to SPC's personal counseling services.

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/health/mentalhealthresources.php>