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02/16/05
MIT 515
Dr. Summerville

Course Development
(Work-in-Progress)

At this point in the development stage, the shell items I have created thus far are placeholders for the content. As I continue to progress throughout process, each shell item will begin to develop. I will briefly explain the expected content for each area of the course:

Homepage (Beginning of Course – February 21)

- The homepage will not change much as far as the content is concerned. The description of the course is there for immediate understanding of the areas touched on throughout the course. The description will also be present on the syllabus for reiteration.
- I am searching now for my own unique icons to go on the homepage for links to each section, but if not, I don't think the current ones are too bad. It would be nice to spice it up a little.
- The Daily announcements will be updated regularly once the course is completely developed. During the development stages, I plan to put updated remarks there pertaining to the progress of development.

Syllabus (Beginning of Course – February 23)

- The syllabus needs to be more thorough. The basic idea is there now, but I will elaborate on it much more because I believe in using the syllabus as the blueprint (as you do) to eliminate confusion.

Course Calendar (Ongoing)

- The course calendar will allow students to remain up-to-date with any scheduled chats, assignment due dates, events, and so forth. It will also allow me as the instructor, to stay on my toes.

Assignments (Beginning of course – March 1)

- This section will be where each weekly assignment is posted for students to review or print.
- There will be homework that will act as a pre-cursor to the discussion in class (i.e. students will be exposed to the topic before coming to class)
- Within this section will be links from each assignment to presentations which serve as topic overviews (lessons/lectures) to guide the students in their tasks so that they are aware of the areas of focus for each assignment (These presentations will be housed in their own section as well)
- Also, each assignment will have a link to tutorials that can be used to refresh or increase knowledge of certain computer application skills; there will also be some articles available for additional resources, but will not be mandatory because the main focus is application (they will be recommended though)

Weekly Presentations (Beginning of Course – April 1)
- This section will house the weekly lessons/lectures/presentations for each weekly topic
- As mentioned above, this page can be linked from each weekly assignment and can be attained through the 'weekly presentations' icon (hopefully students will come here before visiting the assignments page, but they have the option)
- These presentations will be in PowerPoint Format

Group Assignments (Updated Bi-Weekly; to be posted by April 1)
- This course will rely heavily on group interaction because of the importance of collaboration, and since many of the students in this course will be teachers of similar disciplines, it will allow the opportunity for them to share resources that can benefit their disciplines. (I think I will have to wait to see what types of students I have before deciding whether to group by similar disciplines or not; I would like them to intermingle some, but I think they would benefit more from sharing with persons of common interest for this course, since the focus is on increasing computer/technology use for instruction)
- Each week, group assignments will posted (case study or small project related to the new computer application or weekly topic) in which the group members will need to work together and create a product (computer application, essay, etc.)
- The discussion are will be a great resource for different groups to share ideas and discuss the topic each week

Discussions (New topic each week)
- As is expected, this section is the "let it all hang out" section where discussions can be shared for each topic, or any issues that may arise
- There will be a different topic each week pertaining to the lessons where ideas can be shared
- There will also be a discussion topic titled "Bright Ideas" where each student can post new findings that they discover and want to share with other students such as short cuts during applications, neat ways to use certain tools for a particular lesson or content area, links to web resources, etc.
- Discussions will be mandatory each week to remain in constant collaboration (similar to the way you arranged it, but I will make it unique)

Chat
- This section is a resource for group members if they want to have a simultaneous discussion
- I don't plan to utilize this area as much since the course will be instructor-led and this shell is for enhancement
- If for some reason, I can't make it to class because I am sick or something, I will schedule a chat at the time of class from time to time, but very seldom.

Assessments (posted no later than 48 hours after submission)
- I plan to use this section for quizzes. Most quizzes will be "take-home" because I don't want to spend too much class time taking quizzes when it can be used for learning, but there will be some quizzes taken in-house.   The good thing about the tool is that I can retrieve each quiz without having to grade hard-copies
- Often times there will be a quiz to follow each homework assignment prior to the discussion, and then a quiz that follows the discussion to assure understanding

My Grades (updated weekly)
- This is where students can monitor their grades and see where they stand
- The grades will listed in an excel spreadsheet, and calculated every time a grade is posted
- Students will be able to compare what they have to what I have to make sure we are on the same page (but of course I will always be right)

Search Course
- This will allow students to find certain sections or topics whenever necessary

Tips and Tutorials (All present by April 1)
- This will be where I will post tips to achieving certain tasks
- Tutorials for certain tools will be available (FrontPage, burning CD's, MS Office, etc.)
- Suggestions for working online collaboratively will also be here
- Any suggestions or tips that I have will go here to make sure everyone enjoys ease of use