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Re: MSCD 650 Course Introduction and Expectations

May 5th, 2008

Hello!

I want to give you some important information and set some reasonable expectations for our next eight weeks of study together.

Supporting Documents:

MSCD650_Course_Syllabus

MSCD650_Assignment1

MSCD650_Assignment2

MSCD650_Assignment3

MSCD650_Course_Project

The Class:

Greetings! **Welcome to the MSCD 650 PL/SQL Programming class.** I will be setting my student and course expectations with this document, **please print it out** and keep it handy. This class is going to present you with some challenges that you will need to work through, so I am going to be flexible with the technology and the software. So please relax, learn and enjoy the experience. You will be using some current thin-client/server technology over the web to access your Oracle account in our Virtual Lab (V-Lab).

The WorldClass platform (the new learning management system) will drive the content for the course! Supplemental materials for the course may be available on various web sites as noted during the course.

If anything about the course is unclear, please email me directly at:
dmartin@regis.edu.

Your first assignment is to download this document and send it to me via email (so that way I know you have read it). Any questions.... please post them in the forum in the **"FACILITATORS NOTES"** area.

Please read all discussion forum postings! This will be very important!!

We will be using discussion "threads" in the forum. You will be graded on your participation in the discussion forum. I will run threads on various discussion questions and topics...you will see the organization of the discussion threads in each week.

Here are Guidelines for how you should participate in the Threaded Discussion Forums:

Online class participation is a very important part of the learning process (as well as an important part of your grade). Your online contribution is essential for several reasons:

- 1) It is critical not only for your personal learning, but also for the learning of your fellow classmates. Your posts or messages help to construct the learning community where we engage the topics of the course. When you share your thinking, and you reply directly to each other's comments, we build thinking together over time. The total classroom exists only when the members participate online.
- 2) Online, your existence is announced by the messages you send. So this context is different than a regular classroom where you can be "seen but not heard." In the online environment, if you don't post, you are not a fully participating member of the class! Therefore, online participation is not just a key to success, but is essential to establishing your online presence.
- 3) Not every student is comfortable with the same level of participation. Some people "talk" more than others. Each of you has a unique background and set of experiences you bring to this class. Each of you will have a different interpretation of the readings. Each of you will have a valuable contribution to make to this learning community.

GENERAL DISCUSSION FORUM PROCEDURES

The course will include graded discussion threads for 8 weeks. The threads for a particular week open on the day class begins (Monday), and close the following week before the next class (Sunday). No credit will be given for postings made outside of that period.

Please respond to the topic questions as posed, subject to any modification by me as the week goes along. Use logic and reasoning supported by examples if they apply. Your responses should be concise but meaningful – i.e., the responses do not have to be lengthy.

A key objective of the online discussion is learning from each other. I will serve as facilitator, coach, and moderator to keep the topic moving in productive directions. However, I will not always make comments in the online discussion, though be assured I am checking in every day and reading what is said.

Using the Discussion Forum... You will see the following links in the Discussion Forum. Please follow these general guidelines:

FACILITATOR NOTES –use this area to post any questions you have about the course, technology used, etc. This way everyone in the class can read the answer, because they may have the same question.

INTRODUCTION –use the area to provide your personal introductions and any bio that you want the class to know.

Week # - use this area to answer the forum discussions and interact with fellow students regarding their answers. **Please post any lab questions in the weekly discussion forum (labs are detailed in assignment 2).**

DISCUSSION FORUM GRADING

Here is an explanation of how your online participation grade will be scored.

We look for both quality and quantity of online discussion posts / responses. We particularly value contributions/comments that add value to the themes of that week. Quality comments are either baseline, generative, or collaborative.

Characterization of Response	Quality Level
Single entry, no interaction with other participants' postings evident. Also, rambling, lengthy posts that show no signs of having been re-read and refined before posting. (Show respect for your readers and cut your rambling writing to just a few finished paragraphs for each entry.)	LOW
The response builds on the ideas of another one or two participants, and digs deeper into assignment questions or issues.	MEDIUM
The response integrates multiple views and/or shows value as a seed for reflection by other participants' responses in its thread. Alternatively, the response contributes language, a metaphor or	HIGH

a study tool that serves to deepen the dialogue.	
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Keep in mind that credit can be given only for comments that add value to the discussion. Side comments that are off-topic, though potentially interesting, and brief “I agree” or “I disagree” statements do not count. You can agree or disagree with someone, **but you must explain why**. To restate what has been said already, you may support the position by further logic and reasoning. Or you may pose an example or counter-example that sheds light on the issue. Again, just answering the questions will not suffice. I encourage everyone to interact and learn from each other.

The virtual learning environment is a new and exciting place to learn and express yourself, so please bear in mind the following:

You should treat this course as you would if you were taking this class on campus.

Expressing yourself:

Please respect others. We won’t accept any unprofessional/abusive emails or discussion forum postings to me or to any other student. Be professional! If we find out that this behavior is going on, you will be asked to leave the course and you will have to speak with the department administration.

Communication:

The best way to reach us is through email. My email address is (dmartin@regis.edu).

I will be checking my account daily. Please set your expectations that I will respond within 48 hours to your email. If I respond to you sooner, then that is all the better.

Please make sure that you always put “MSCD 650” in the subject line on all your correspondence with me!! I run filters on my email to route it quickly!! Put the subject line EXACTLY as specified, nothing more or less, and then you will be ensured of getting a quick reply and no assignments will be lost. (If you do not understand email filters, let me know and I will explain)

If for some reason you want to speak directly to me over the phone, please call me at the number listed below:

816.377.5082

Finally, please plan to use only one email account. I will be developing a distribution list for the class. If students use more than one email account and important information is sent to an email account that they do not check regularly, then subsequently this information could affect a grade.

Due dates:

Please reference the course syllabus and assignments 1-3 for due dates.

Software:

You will be accessing your Oracle account over the Internet. Go <http://citrix.arn.regis.edu> to download the Citrix client on your computer. I will be giving everyone usernames/<password> in the first week to logon to Oracle via Citrix over the Internet. **You will be able to do all of your lab work on your Oracle account over the web.**

Grades:

I will follow the basic Regis grade model for earning an A, B, C, etc. listed in the course module. All assignments listed in the course will be graded as a complete or incomplete.

There will be the final exam. The final exam process will be discussed later in the class. The Final exam will be given in Week 8 and due approximately one week after handout.

Your grade for this class will be determined by the following scale:

Activity	Grade Points
Participation in Discussion Forum	20%
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	25%
Assignment 3	10%
Course Project	20%
Final Exam	15%
TOTAL:	100%

This is going to be a really informational and fun course. If you have trouble with any of the technology, that is OK, we will get you through it. I have a lot of success teaching students this material online.

You will be providing your introductions and brief bios in the Discussion Forum under the "Introduction" link.

Now don't forget...email this document back to me as receipt that you have read it and understand it!

I look forward to seeing you online!

Daniel Martin, Affiliate Professor
Regis University MSCIT Program
Database Technologies Emphasis