

Syllabus: Service-Learning Lab (1 credit) Spring 2011

HLSTD 497 / ITM 497SL -- Teaching Computers to Seniors

Professor: Dr. Rob Anson with Meredith St. Clair and Dr. Sarah Toevs

COURSE CATALOG STATEMENT:

HLSTD 497 / ITM 497 SL TEACHING COMPUTER LITERACY TO SENIORS: SERVICE LEARNING LAB (1-0-1)(S). Participate as a teacher and tutor in a course teaching basic computer and internet skills to older adults. Will learn principles of how older adults learn, then apply these skills in developing and implementing instruction in a course for older adults. PREREQ: Permission of Instructor

WHEN: Friday afternoons from 1:00-4:00 on 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

COURSE OVERVIEW:

One of the largest issues facing our society is how individuals, businesses, and community organizations will adjust to the increasing numbers of older adults. Society will rely upon intergenerational collaboration and awareness. In this class students will gain hands on experience in effectively supporting this older generation in adopting computer related skills, and together reflect upon this experience.

You will participate as a teacher and tutor in a course teaching older adults to develop basic computer skills. There are essentially four parts to the course. First you will learn about how older adults learn. Second, you will work in small teams to develop instruction in a particular area of computer/internet skills. Third, you will deliver your instruction in one course session. Fourth, you will provide tutoring assistance in at least two of the other course sessions.

You will be teaching a "short course" offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Boise State. (<http://www.boisestate.edu/osher/>) The course title and description are shown below.

Computer Literacy for Seniors: An Experiment in Inter-Generational Learning ***Friday, 2:00 – 4:00, March 4, 11, 18, and 25***

Increasingly, computer use and, especially, internet access are a part of modern life. For those of us who are just starting out, or wanting to increase our skills with the computer, this is a unique hands-on opportunity. Such diverse topics as "the parts of a computer", "communicating with email", "buying and selling on Ebay and Craigslist", "managing digital photos", and "research using the internet" will be taught by BSU undergraduates who are majoring in information technology management, and are learning inter-generational communication. Each participant will work directly at a computer and will be assisted one-on-one by BSU students and Osher members. We will actively solicit specific topic requests from course attendees, and will add those features to the course that our Osher members most need. Class size is limited to 24.

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES:

- Permission of instructor (Fill out the ITM497 Course Permission Form and send it to me)
- Extensive understanding and experience with using the internet and common internet applications (email, photo software, search engines, etc)
- Time and commitment to work in a small team of students and faculty to teach computer skills
- Interest in teaching older adults

OBJECTIVES OF SERVICE LEARNING:

- Reflect upon the importance of intergenerational collaboration and learning in our society, in our workplace, and in our community.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation of the promises and difficulties associated with learning computer skills among older adults.
- Gain experience in preparing teaching materials and delivering instruction.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- This course will require between 30 and 40 hours of involvement during February and March. Most of the time will be spent working together on the eight Friday afternoons.
- In a small team, prepare and deliver instruction for one two-hour Osher course session
- With other students, assist as a tutor in two, two-hour Osher course sessions.
- Participate in learning about, and reflecting on, teaching aging adults. This will include:
 - Complete a Pre and Post test on attitudes and knowledge about aging adults.
 - Read a few articles on aging adults/ learning styles/technology
 - Respond to a discussion board question regarding articles
 - Maintain a log/journal with entries on the orientation, the class the student teaches, and the classes the student mentors.

GRADING:

This course will be offered Pass/Fail. A passing grade will require that students participate in all areas of the course.

WHERE and WHEN:

HSR 200 is a computer classroom in the Health Science Riverside building. A short walk from the Business Building on the Greenbelt, just to the west of 9th Ave.

We will have orientation and prepare teaching materials on Friday afternoons during February—2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25--from about 1:00 to 4:00. The actual class instruction will take place from 1:00 to 3:00 on Friday afternoons during March —3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25