FS 102: Persuasive Communication  
Section 19: “Computing and the Mind”  
Spring 2008  
Bob Roos  

Course home page: http://cs.allegheny.edu/wiki/fs102RS2008

Course Description and Non-Syllabus

Office Hours: My office is in Alden 105, extension 2883. My hours are Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Wednesday 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., and by appointment. The best way to schedule an appointment is to send me an e-mail.


My current plan is to ask you to read one other book this semester; I will be compiling a list from which you may choose. This part of the course is still being developed!

Grading: (All percentages are approximate!)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>approx. 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in discussions</td>
<td>approx. 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two research papers</td>
<td>approx. 20% each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two oral presentations</td>
<td>approx. 10% each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assignments (short papers, Web, quizzes, etc.)</td>
<td>approx. 10%</td>
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Policies:

E-mail.

“The use of email is a primary method of communication on campus. . . . All students are provided with a campus email account and address while enrolled at Allegheny and are expected to check the account on a regular basis.” [The Compass, 2007–2008, p. 5]

I will sometimes need to send out announcements to the class about things such as clarifications to assignments, changes in the class schedule, or other matters. I will use your Allegheny College e-mail account to do this. It is your responsibility to check your e-mail at least once a day, and to make certain that your e-mail is working correctly (able to send and receive messages).

Attendance and Participation. It is expected that students in this course will attend every class. Attendance will be taken periodically and a portion (roughly 10%) of the final grade will be determined by attendance. You are expected to be present in mind as well as body, so an additional 20% of your grade is allotted to participation in class discussions, asking questions of other student speakers during their oral presentations, and so on.

Some of you may have figured out that failure to attend class puts you in “double jeopardy” — you lose points for attendance and for class participation. That’s how it goes . . . .
Whenever possible, advise me of legitimately excusable absences (such as illness, death in the family, or certain College sponsored activities) prior to the class you will be missing. (For instance, if you are ill on Tuesday evening and are fairly certain you will be unable to attend Wednesday’s class, send me an e-mail or phone me to let me know the night before if at all possible.)

Here are examples of excuses that are not valid: “I’m going home for the weekend and my parents are picking me up at 10 on Friday.” “My alarm didn’t go off and my roommate didn’t wake me up.” “I have two exams on Monday and I need to study for them.” “I didn’t prepare my oral presentation so there’s no point in showing up.” (I could list many more examples!)

If you know in advance of specific conflicts due to athletic events or other College-related reasons, please have the coach or other college official provide me with a list of dates and reasons as soon as possible so I can avoid problems in scheduling discussions, oral presentations, etc.

**Late Policy.** Every assignment will have a given due date and time (usually the time will be “at the beginning of class” on the due date). If the assignment is handed in after that, there will be a late penalty (minimum of 15% of the grade, increasing as more time passes). No assignment will be accepted more than one week after the due date. In this course, writing assignments will be followed by a “peer review” in which you will look at some of your classmates’ papers. Failure to hand in a paper on time will be very disruptive to this process (and will also negatively affect your grade for “peer reviewing”).

**Special Needs and Disabilities** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Learning Commons at 332-2898.

**Collaboration, Plagiarism, and the Honor Code.** You are encouraged to periodically review the specifics of the Honor Code as stated in the College Catalogue and elsewhere. No collaboration with others is permitted unless specifically provided for as part of the assignment. All assignments must consist of your own, original work. Whenever specific phrases and sentences or, more generally, non-trivial ideas from outside sources are used, they must be clearly and unambiguously identified. Taking someone else’s ideas and simply paraphrasing them is not enough to avoid charges of plagiarism — you must cite the sources of ideas other than your own.

**Schedule**

(Still under construction!)