

# Syllabus

## INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to SS 384: Computers & Social Science Development, a course offered for three semester hours of credit by Lewis-Clark State College. Your instructor for this class is Dr. Deb Lish of Rathdrum, Idaho. If you have any questions regarding this class, please feel free to call me at (208) 687-9314 or use WebCT course mail.

## SS 385 Computers & Social Science Development

This course is an introduction to some of the issues and concerns surrounding technologies as well as some of the affects of applications and uses of various computer technologies. Specifically, the course will examine technologies used by business, government, and others to that affect the privacy and freedom of individuals as well as the concepts of cyber crime, forensic practices, and laws emerging to protect citizens and prevent illegitimate computer applications and uses.

## Course Objectives

In order to meet this broad goal, the course has been designed to achieve several specific objectives:

1. The ability to present logical and/or analytical concepts through written assignments.
2. A beginning understanding of the issues surrounding cyber crime and various laws addressing computer crimes.
3. A beginning understanding of how various businesses, governments, and others use computer technology to gather information on individual citizens and the outcomes or potential outcomes of using that information.

## Course Texts

- Simson Garfinkel. *Database Nation*
- Marjie T. Britz. *Computer Forensic and Cyber Crime: An Introduction*

# Grading

## Assignments and Grading

Internet courses are different from correspondence courses, for example, in that they are not really self-paced. This is mainly because of the interactive aspect of Internet courses mandated by Lewis-Clark State College and other supervising authorities. It is obvious that a student could do a significant percentage of the work in this course whenever he or she wished. This may not always be wise, however, since such actions might make interaction difficult. That is, reading and other assignments have a tendency to get stale pretty quickly. I shall try to accommodate reasonable requests for variations in timing; but I cannot do much about the timing of the forums, as I am sure all of you will appreciate.

**Discussions:** You are to answer the question to each week's discussion, and respond to other students answers. (at least five other students)

**Assignments:** Use submit assignments to turn your assignments in. Please do not use the Discussion or Private Mail to submit your assignment, I will not give you a grade if submitted that way. The assignments have due dates and if you submit your assignment late I will deduct 5 points per day. **NO EXCUSES!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**Student Paper:** Having completed the readings for this course you should have become familiar with what Bruce Berkowitz (2003) calls the dark side of the information revolution. Included in that dark side is cyber crime, information warfare and other potential ways individuals might bring harm to individuals through the use of various technological applications. In no more than 10 pages develop a brief discussion addressing this "dark side," attempts to make cyberspace more secure and what you see as the greatest threats to your personal privacy as well as to broader arenas ( e.g. education, national security, professional practice such as medical or attorney, etc).

Note: with my prior approval a research paper may be submitted for this essay paper.

### Grading criteria:

- Concepts/questions are addressed in a manner demonstrating the student has read and given critical thought to the materials
- Paper is well organized and flows logically
- Paper is grammatically correct and all words are spelled correctly

q Appropriate references and citations are applied. For help with citing click on [CITING SOURCES](#).

**Each student's grade will be determined by his or her performance on the following:**

		Net Points
<b>2 examinations</b>	150 points	300
<b>15 assignments</b>	20 points	300
<b>15 discussions</b>	10 points	150
<b>1 essay paper</b>	100 points	100
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>850</b>