



# COSC 1301 – Introduction to Computers

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## Instructor contact information

**Instructor:** Bruce Caraway

**Office Phone:** 281-401-5394

**Office:** UP NRB Bldg, Rm 209P

**Office Hours:** Tue 3:30-4:30p  
Wed 10:30a-Noon  
Thu 1-2p  
or by appointment

(or hours of availability)

**E-mail:** [bruce.caraway@lonestar.edu](mailto:bruce.caraway@lonestar.edu)

**Website:** [carawayclass.com](http://carawayclass.com)

## Welcome to

**Course Title:** Introduction to Computers

**Term and Year:** Fall 2016

**Course Subject:** COSC 1301

**Course Section:** 6301/6302

**Class Days & Times:** TTh 8-10:15a

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Lecture Hours:** 2

**Class Room Location:** UP 13.715  
(for face to face sections)

**Lab Hours:** 3

**Total Contact Hours:** 80

**Instructor:** Bruce Caraway  
**Email:** [bruce.e.caraway@lonestar.edu](mailto:bruce.e.caraway@lonestar.edu)  
**Office Phone:** 281-401-5394  
**Office Location:** University Park, NRB Bldg, Rm 209P  
**Office Hours:** Tue 3:30-4:30p  
Wed 10:30a-Noon  
Thu 1-2p  
or by appointment

## COSC 1301 - Introduction to Computers: Fall 2016

### Syllabus for section 6301

Credit Hours: 3

#### Course Description

This course is designed to help students (1) learn the concepts and (2) develop the skills required to understand and use computers while at Lone Star College (LSC) and in their lives and careers beyond LSC. Generally (and per the course catalog), this course provides an overview of computer systems – hardware, operating systems, the Internet, and application software including word processing, spreadsheets, presentation graphics, and databases. Current topics such as the effect of computers on society, and the history and use of computers in business, educational, and other interdisciplinary settings are also studied. This course is not intended to count toward a student's major field of study in business or computer science.

#### Syllabus Fast Facts

- Check the D2L calendar and content module **each week** for scheduled assignments and exams.
- Email is the best way to reach your instructor: [bruce.e.caraway@lonestar.edu](mailto:bruce.e.caraway@lonestar.edu).
- For emails received *between Monday and Friday noon*, I will reply by 5pm, the following day.
- For emails received *between Friday noon and Sunday or on holidays*, I will reply by 5pm, the following Monday.
- Call OTS (832-813-6600) for technical issues with D2L or your student email.
- Call the McGraw-Hill support line (**1-800-331-5094**) for issues with **SIMnet** or **Connect**. Be sure to get a case number when you contact them.
- **Connect** is the online McGraw-Hill (MH) service that you will use to complete the Concepts-based assignments of our class. *You must purchase a Connect license to complete and pass the class.*
- **SIMnet** is the online service that you will use to complete a majority of the Skills-based assignments of our class. *You must purchase a SIMnet license to complete and pass the class.*
- *Work is to be submitted by the Due Date. **Late work may be declined or subject to penalty.***
- In our classroom, sleeping is prohibited. This includes "putting your head down on your desk".
- Technical issues with your personal computer or home internet do not exempt you from turning your assignments in on-time.
- *For my **face-to-face students**, you may bring your own laptop into class and use that on regular assignments. Personal computers cannot be used for proctored Exams.*
- *For my **online students**, you will be required to take our exams at an LSC Testing Center. Check the schedule of your nearest LSC Testing Center here: [Testing Center webpage](#).*

- *Even though most of our class assignments can be completed on a Mac, **there are specific SIMnet assignments that require the Windows (PC) version of Office 2016.** If you do not have Office 2016 (for Windows) at home, you can use the general use PCs at any LSC campus.*

## Student Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

- Describe the fundamentals of computing infrastructure components: hardware, application software, operating systems, and data communications systems.
- Delineate and discuss societal issues related to computing, including the guiding principles of professional and ethical behavior.
- Demonstrate the ability to create and use documents, spreadsheets, presentations and databases in order to communicate and store information as well as to support problem solving.
- Describe the need and ways to maintain security in a computing environment.

## Prerequisites

None.

## Required Materials

To be successful in this class, the student must register for access to the McGraw-Hill Connect & SIMnet environments. The course eText and ISBN that we will be using is:

**O'LEARY | LSC LONE STAR COLLEGE CONNECT AC CMPTG ESS 2017 | SIMNET OFF 2016**  
2016 © McGraw-Hill, Inc.  
ISBN: [978-1260076219](#)

## Instructor Guidelines and Policies

### Communication

Email is the best way to contact your instructor. Your instructor's email address is listed at the top of the syllabus. You are certainly welcome to contact your instructor via a phone call, but email is preferred for those times when I am out of the office. Plus, an email creates an electronic record of communications between faculty and student. This can be very beneficial if something needs to be verified in the future.

### How To Email Your Instructor

When you email your instructor, be sure to include your name, course name, and course number in the email. Keep the body of your message brief, and to-the-point. Here is an example of a good email:

*Professor Caraway:*

*I am Angela Ford from your COSC 1301(Intro to Computers, Section 6003, TTh afternoon class), and I have a question about this week's assignment. I thought that we needed to complete both sections, am I correct? Can you please help me?*

*Angela Ford*

## Using Your LSCS Email Account To Send The Email

Since emails can contain viruses, your instructor may only open emails that are sent from a valid lonestar.edu email account. Emails sent from your personal account may not be opened.

My goal is to answer all weekday (Mon thru Friday, noon) email within 24 hours. As a general rule, expect that email sent after 5pm will likely not be viewed until the following morning. Please do not expect a response from me on Saturday, Sunday or holidays - I will reply by 5pm the following Monday (or next non-holiday).

## Office Visits

Please feel free to drop by my office for help during my office hours (listed at the top of this document) but it is best to let me know you are coming as I may have meetings or other appointments already scheduled. I am available by appointment if you cannot visit during office hours. Email me with a requested day and time and I will do what I can to accommodate.

## Attendance

**For my face-to-face students**, your attendance is expected each day. Roll will be taken within the first 5 minutes of class. You are considered tardy if you are not there when roll is taken but arrive in the first 15 minutes of class. If you arrive after the 20 minute mark you will be marked absent. *10% of your overall grade is based on your attendance.*

**For my online students**, we do not formally meet so no attendance is taken. I do reserve the right to assign tasks that may require your participation in online Discussion board or Chat. It is your responsibility to keep up with the material and check the class D2L page regularly for updates, assignment due dates, and potential schedule changes.

Should you anticipate that you will not be able to log on and participate in class for an extended period, please notify me in advance by email: [bruce.e.caraway@lonestar.edu](mailto:bruce.e.caraway@lonestar.edu). Not logging in to the online class at a regular interval will severely hinder successful completion of this course.

## Class Participation

The college classroom is a place for adult men and women to meet with a common purpose of improving their intellectual and academic skills. This applies to both face-to-face and online classes. When engaging your instructor and fellow students, you will be expected to treat everyone with respect and in a professional manner. The use of profanity, derogatory terms, and threats in any class-related forum will not be tolerated. If a student violates this rule, they will be asked to leave the classroom (in a face-to-face section) or their access to the class will be blocked (in an online section).

The violating student will not be allowed to return to class or regain access until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference.

## Civility Statement

Members of the Lone Star College, which includes faculty, staff, and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Lone Star College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect, and demonstrates concern for personal dignity, rights, and freedom of

every member of the College community, including respect for the College property and the physical and intellectual property of others.

### **Assignments**

All assignments are to be completed and submitted to the instructor by the scheduled due date. Most assignments will be submitted electronically through Connect, SIMnet, or, in rare cases, D2L.

Computer concepts will be presented and assessed in the Connect system. There are three types of concept-focused grade items:

- **LearnSmart Reading Assignments:** For the chapters we cover in the Connect (Computing Essentials 2017) eText, you will receive a score for completing the reading assignment by the due date using LearnSmart/SmartBook. The average of these will make up 10% of your final grade for my face-to-face students.
- **Concepts Quizzes:** For the chapters we cover in the Connect (Computing Essentials 2017) eText, you will have a Quiz to take after reading the chapter content. You will be allowed to retake each quiz as many times as you like and you can take these any time (before the due date) and any place - in other words, they are not proctored quizzes. The average of these will make up 10% of your final grade.
- **Concepts Exams:** Four objective exams will cover the information covered in the chapters of the Connect eText. The average of these will make up 15% of your final grade.

MS Office Skills will be presented and assessed in the SIMnet system. There are three types of skill-focused grade items:

- **SIMnet SIMbook Assignments:** For each of the Office applications: Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Access, you will complete a reading assignment in the "Microsoft Office 2016 In Practice" eText. You will receive a score for completing the SIMbook reading. The average of these assignments will make up 10% of your final grade for my face-to-face students.
- **SIMnet Projects:** For each of the Office applications, you will complete a series of auto-graded projects. These projects will allow you to learn, practice and master each application. You will be able to resubmit these projects for grading as many times as you like up until the due date. The average of these will make up 15% of your final grade.
- **SIMnet Exams:** For each of the four Office applications, there will be a corresponding "skill" exam that covers the information and practice of using that application. The average of these will make up 15% of your final grade.

**Semester Project:** A semester project will serve as the "generally comprehensive" assessment of of the Office skills and key concepts learned during our course. This will be 15% of your final grade.

*For my face-to-face classes, **10% of your overall grade is based on your attendance.***

## Grades Determination

<b>Evaluation will be based on the following grade components:</b>	<b>Total Points</b>
Concepts LearnSmart Reading Assignments : 10%	240
Concepts Quizzes (taken in Connect) : 10%	240
Concepts Exams (taken in Connect) : 15%	360
SIMnet SIMbook Assignments : 10%	240
SIMnet Projects : 15%	360
SIMnet Exams : 15%	360
Semester Project : 15%	360
Attendance : 10%	240
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2400</b>

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Final Average in Percent</b>
A	2160 - 2400
B	1920 - 2159
C	1680 - 1919
D	1440 - 1679
F	<1440

## Online Gradebook

Because our class uses multiple systems (Connect, SIMnet, and D2L) and each has its own electronic gradebook, we will use the D2L gradebook as our final and complete grading system of record.

## Tentative Schedule Fall 2016

<b>Week</b>	<b>Concepts: Connect</b>	<b>Skills: SIMnet</b>
1 8/29	Class Introduction Connect Registration Ch. 1 Information Technology, the Internet and You (Smartbook reading and Quiz)	SIMnet Registration MS Office Ch. 1 (SIMBook reading) Word Ch. 1 (SIMBook reading and SIMnet Projects)
2 9/5	Ch. 2 The Internet, the Web, and Electronic Commerce (Smartbook reading and Quiz)	Word Ch. 2 (SimBook reading and SIMnet Projects)
3 9/12	Ch. 3 Application Software (Smartbook reading and Quiz)	Word Ch. 3 (SimBook reading and SIMnet Projects)
4 9/19	Ch. 4 System Software (Smartbook reading and Quiz) Review Connect Practice Exam	Word Ch. 4 (SimBook reading and SIMnet Projects) Review SIMnet Practice Exam
5 9/26	<b>Connect Exam 1 (Ch. 1 - 4)</b>	<b>SIMnet Exam 1 (Word Ch. 1 - 4)</b> Excel Ch. 1 (SimBook reading and SIMnet Projects)
6 10/3	Ch. 5 The System Unit (Smartbook reading and Quiz)	Excel Ch. 2 (SimBook reading and SIMnet Projects)
7 10/10	Ch. 6 Input and Output (Smartbook reading and Quiz)	Excel Ch. 3 (SimBook reading and SIMnet Projects)
8 10/17	Ch. 7 Secondary Storage (Smartbook reading and Quiz)	Excel Ch. 4 (SimBook reading and SIMnet Projects)
9 10/24	Review Ch. 8 Communications and Networks (Smartbook reading and Quiz) Connect Practice Exam	Review SIMnet Practice Exam
10 10/31	<b>Connect Exam 2 (Ch. 5 - 8)</b>	<b>SIMnet Exam 2 (Excel Ch. 1 - 4)</b> PowerPoint Ch. 1 (SimBook reading and SIMnet Projects)
11 11/7	Ch. 9 Privacy, Security, and Ethics (Smartbook reading and Quiz)	PowerPoint Ch. 2 (SimBook reading and SIMnet Projects)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Concepts: Connect</b>	<b>Skills: SIMnet</b>
12 11/14	Ch. 10 Information Systems (Smartbook reading and Quiz) Review Connect Practice Exam	PowerPoint Ch. 3 (SimBook reading and SIMnet Projects) Review SIMnet Practice Exam
13 11/21	<b>Connect Exam 3 (Ch. 9 - 10)</b> Ch. 11 Databases (Smartbook reading and Quiz)	<b>SIMnet Exam 3 (PowerPoint)</b> Access Ch. 1 (SimBook reading and SIMnet Projects)
14 11/28	Ch. 13 Programming and Languages (Smartbook reading and Quiz)	Access Ch. 2 (SimBook reading and SIMnet Projects)
15 12/5	Review Connect Practice Exam Semester Project	Access Ch. 3 (SimBook reading and SIMnet Projects) Review SIMnet Practice Exam
16 12/12	FINALS WEEK <b>Connect Exam 4 (Ch. 11 &amp; 13)</b>	<b>SIMnet Exam 4 (Access)</b>

### Department/Division Contact

If you have any issues in our classroom, the course content or with me, I would ask that you first address the issue directly with me. If you feel that the issue remains unresolved even after speaking with me, you may contact the following individuals to whom I report.

- Department Chair: Gina Sprowl, 281-290-3755, [gina.m.sprowl@lonestar.edu](mailto:gina.m.sprowl@lonestar.edu)
- Dean: Steven Kahla, 281-655-3788, [steven.c.kahla@lonestar.edu](mailto:steven.c.kahla@lonestar.edu)

### Non Attendance at Start of Semester

If you have not attended class for Face-to-Face sections or if you have not logged into D2L for Online sections by to the Official Day of Record, I reserve the right to drop you from my class roster.

### Withdrawal Policy

Withdrawal from the course after the Official Day of Record and prior to “W” Day (Friday, November 11th, 2016) will result in a final grade of “W” on your transcript. Instructor approval is necessary if you want to withdraw after the Official Day. No credit will be awarded for a course earning a “W.” If you stop participating in the online class, you must withdraw at the registration office prior to “W” day.

*If you stop attending class and do not officially withdraw, you will receive an “F” for the course.*

### Incompletes

An ‘I’ or Incomplete will be considered only in extreme cases of illness or emergency. An Incomplete will only be considered for those students who have completed at least 75% of the course material and



have a passing average (70 or better) for those assignments that they have completed. *Granting an Incomplete is fully at the discretion of your instructor.*

A student who receives an "I" does not re-register for the course and must complete the course no later than the set due date not to exceed the end of the following fall or spring semester. The instructor must submit a signed "I" contract to the appropriate division; students will receive a copy of the contract following approval by the Dean or designee.

### **Early Alert**

Early Alert is a student success effort designed to help students reach their full educational potential and successfully complete their classes. By requesting Early Alert for a student, a faculty member sends a message to the advising/counseling team, who will then contact the student and schedule a meeting to discuss support options. Students may be referred to Early Alert for many reasons, including poor academic performance, lack of basic study skills, attendance, persistent tardiness, and personal or financial issues that interfere with class performance.

### **Six Drop Rule**

Students who enrolled in Texas public institutions of higher education as first-time college students during the Fall 2007 term or later are subject to section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code, which states that an institution of higher education may not permit a student to drop (withdraw with a grade of "W") from more than six courses, including courses that a transfer student has previously dropped at other Texas public institutions of higher education that have already been counted against their six drop limit. Each student should fully understand this drop limit before you drop any course. Please see a Counselor or Advisor in our Student Services area for additional information and assistance. **This policy does not affect developmental or ESOL students.**

### **Lone Star College-University Park Learning Center is committed to your success**

#### **Your success is our primary concern!**

If you are experiencing challenges achieving your academic goals, please contact your instructor or an advisor. We can provide assistance with academic needs, ADA accommodations, classroom difficulties, financial concerns, and other issues.

**Tutoring:** For all disciplines, please visit <http://www.lonestar.edu/up-tutoring.htm> for information on hours and location. The tutoring lab, reading/writing lab, and math lab can be found within the learning center in building 12 on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor.

#### **Counseling Services**

Counseling services are available to students who are experiencing difficulty with academic issues, selection of college major, career planning, disability accommodations, or personal issues. Students may contact Counseling, Career, and Disability Services at (281) 401-5370, or in Building 13, Suite 200.

#### **The Assistive Technology Lab**

The Assistive Technology Lab is available for students who benefit from its various technologies to convert text to speech, magnify items, convert text to Braille, etc. For further information, please call 281-290-2672 or email [UPAssistiveTech@LoneStar.edu](mailto:UPAssistiveTech@LoneStar.edu).

## **Student Learning Resource Center (SLRC) aka the Library**

The Lone Star College-University Park SLRC is located in building 12, on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor and contains information resources for both college students and community members. Librarians are available to assist with research. To contact a reference librarian, email [uplibrary-ref@lonestar.edu](mailto:uplibrary-ref@lonestar.edu). For Library hours and contact information, please visit <http://www.lonestar.edu/library>.

## **Assessment Center**

The Lone Star College-University Park Assessment Center is located in Building 13, room 240. See link for all testing center hours: <http://www.lonestar.edu/testing-centers.htm>

## **Lone Star College-University Park Campus and System Policies**

### **Academic Integrity**

The Lone Star College System upholds the core values of learning: honesty, respect, fairness, and accountability. The system promotes the importance of personal and academic honesty. The system embraces the belief that all learners – students, faculty, staff and administrators – will act with integrity and honesty and must produce their own work and give appropriate credit to the work of others. Fabrication of sources, cheating, or unauthorized collaboration is not permitted on any work submitted within the system.

The consequences for academic dishonesty are determined by the professor, or the professor and academic dean, or the professor and chief student services officer and can include but are not limited to:

1. Having additional class requirements imposed,
2. Receiving a grade of zero or “F” for an exam or assignment,
3. Receiving a grade of “F” for the course,
4. Being withdrawn from the course or program,
5. Being expelled from the college system.

### **Student Behavior Expectations**

Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately while on College property or in an online environment. Students may receive disciplinary action up to and including suspension, if they violate System or College rules, disrupt classes, or interfere with the opportunity of others to obtain an education. Students who pose a threat to the safety of others will be subject to immediate withdrawal from the classroom, campus environment, and/or online environment, as well as face subsequent criminal charges, as appropriate. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct located online at <http://www.lonestar.edu/student-responsibilities.htm> for additional information.

Sleeping (or laying your head on your desk) is not allowed in the classroom. On the first occurrence, you will be asked to refrain from sleeping. On a second occurrence, you will be asked to leave the room.

Lone Star College - University Park is a smoking-free campus. *The use of e-cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, vapor cigarettes, pipes, vapes, etc. is strictly prohibited throughout campus.*

## **Lone Star College Assistive Facilities**

Lone Star College is very committed to equal access in educational opportunities and provides assistance through disability services. Each main campus has an assistive technology lab to assist students with disabilities. These centers offer a wide range of educational technology tools, such as screen readers, for example, to assist students with their educational needs. Information specific to your campus' Assistive Services is located online at <http://www.lonestar.edu/19287.htm>.

## **Americans with Disabilities Act Statement**

Lone Star College-University Park is dedicated to providing the least restrictive environment for all students. We promote equity in academic access through the implementation of reasonable accommodations as required by the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) which will enable students with disabilities to participate in and benefit from all post-secondary educational activities.

Disability Services is located on the LSC University Park campus in Building 13, Suite 200. You may contact Disability Services at the following number: (281) 401-5370. Additional information may be accessed online at the following URL: <http://www.lonestar.edu/disability-services.htm>

## **Campus Safety and Security**

Lone Star College System is committed to maintaining the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and guests while visiting one of our campuses. See <http://www.lonestar.edu/safety.htm> for details. Register at <http://www.lonestar.edu/12803.htm> to receive emergency notifications. In the event of an emergency, contact the police at 5911.

## **Computer Virus Protection**

Computer viruses are, unfortunately, a fact of life. Using flash drives on more than one computer creates the possibility of infecting additional computers and flash drives with computer viruses. This exposes college computers, personal computers, and any other computers to potentially damaging viruses. The college has aggressive anti-virus procedures in place to protect its computers, but cannot guarantee that a virus might not temporarily infect one of its machines. It is your responsibility to protect all computers under your control and use and ensure that each flash drive you use, wherever you use it, has been scanned with anti-virus software.

## **Equal Opportunity Statement**

It is the policy of the Lone Star College System to provide equal employment, admission and educational opportunities without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, veteran's status, sexual orientation, or disability. Lone Star Colleges strive to provide an excellent learning environment free from harassment or intimidation directed at any person's race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, veteran's status, sexual orientation, or disability. Any form of harassment will not be tolerated.

## **FERPA**

The academic, financial, and non-directory information on your student account is confidential and protected by the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA). LSCS cannot release certain information to another person without your written authorization. The Authorization to Release Student Educational Records can be found at [http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/generalcounsel/OGC-S-2009-03\\_-\\_Authorization\\_To\\_Release\\_Educational\\_Records.pdf](http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/generalcounsel/OGC-S-2009-03_-_Authorization_To_Release_Educational_Records.pdf).

**Internet and E-mail**

LSCS provides computing and network resources. You are encouraged to use the computers, software packages, and electronic mail (e-mail) for educational or System-related activities and to facilitate the efficient exchange of useful information. The equipment, software, and network capacities provided through the district computer services are the property of the System. Use of the equipment and networks is to comport with the policies and procedures of the System and access may be denied to any student who fails to comply with the System's policies and procedures regarding its use.

Access to the System's e-mail and similar electronic communications systems are a privilege and certain responsibilities accompany that privilege. All users are expected to demonstrate the same level of ethical and professional manner, as is required in face-to-face or written communications. Threatening, anonymous, or forged messages will be treated as a violation of this policy.

**Software Piracy**

Law strictly prohibits unauthorized copying of software purchased by Lone Star College-University Park for use in laboratories. Lone Star College-University Park administration will take appropriate disciplinary action against anyone violating copyright laws.

**Evaluation of Instruction**

Lone Star College-University Park is committed to student success. As part of its institutional effectiveness efforts, our instructors are assessed in several ways. For the continuous improvement of our instruction, all students are required to provide input for each course they take each semester using the Course Evaluations Questionnaire, which can be accessed online for each course. This occurs approximately half way through your course and your instructor will provide you more information on this process. Once you evaluate your course, print and turn in the receipt of completion to your instructor. The college deans review these evaluations each semester. The deans and/or department chairs may visit each instructor's class at some time during the semester to observe the instructional environment being provided and complete an assessment of the instructor.