Course Orientation

This class is an online course with no face to face meetings with the instructor. Please realize that online classes are HARDER, not easier, than face to face classes.

Course Orientation:

Each week we will cover a learning module on the blackboard website. An announcement will be posted each week by Monday noting the week we are in, what chapter we are covering and reminding you of due dates and times.

Each week, except the midterm and final week, you will be required to do the following:

1. Read a chapter(s) from the required text to give you a foundation for the material we will focus on that week.
2. View a narrated slideshow(s) for the chapter(s).
3. Review instructor notes posted on BB. These instructor notes will serve as a supplement to the text providing additional sample problems, practice problems, and highlights of important concepts.
4. Complete an online quiz to assess your learning. (Due each week Sunday by 9:00 pm pacific time)
5. A helpful additional thing you can do each week is the suggested practice problems from each chapter of the text. These are not to be turned in or graded. The solutions to all end of chapter problems are posted under course documents.

The Quizzes:

The quizzes can be accessed multiple times but only submitted for a grade once. You must hit the submit button to turn in your answers. Clicking “save” does not submit your assignment nor is it automatically submitted at the due time. You really must hit the submit button. You will get immediate grade results. You may want to print a copy of the answers you submit as you will not be able to view them. Solutions for the quizzes will appear under course documents after the due date and time. See the syllabus for grade details.

Questions and the Discussion Board:

Questions on course material should be posted on the discussion board for the chapter. There is a link to the discussion board in each weekly learning module as well as from the course menu on the left hand side of the page. If you have a question, you should first read the discussion board for the chapter to see if it has already been answered. The discussion board is not graded and you do not have to participate on it.

You can subscribe to each discussion board by clicking on the topic then clicking subscribe. By subscribing, you will receive an email whenever there is a post to the discussion board. You would need to do this for each topic to which you would like to subscribe.
This brings us to an important point: be very thoughtful about your posts to the discussion board. Keep in mind that when you make a post, as many as 48 other people are going to receive an email, and log onto the site to read what you have written. Thoughtful, professional, respectful, questions and comments are most welcome. Random, unnecessary comments like “thanks”, “I agree”, and “me too” are less welcome. Please spell check your writing, do not use any abbreviations, and consider the “front page test”. The “front page test” is considering how you would feel if your comment ended up on the front page of the newspaper. Again, questions are welcome, and there are no stupid questions, just be sure they are well written. I reserve the right to drop your grade by half a letter grade if you do not abide by these rules.

Now what?

From here, you should read the syllabus, the week 1 announcement on the announcements page, and be sure to complete the week 1 learning module.

You have a graded quiz due Sunday at 9:00 pm as well as a student introduction assignment. You also need to go to http://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/ and click “get your test taker id” and complete the online test taking introduction at by Sunday. Also be sure you note the details in the syllabus that you are responsible for setting an exam appointment before the midterm and final due dates (you can’t do this yet, just be aware that you will have to do it).

I hope you have a great term and enjoy this online class!