Course Readings Resource Overview for IT7723

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## Required “Textbook” and Materials

This term the IT7723 course will use cost-free (and/or low-cost) materials. These and other materials might be embedded in the course modules and might have restricted use in this class. Please consult any restrictions or copyright associated with the materials for further details. PLEASE NOTE THE MATERIALS INCLUDING THE TEXTS CURRENTLY IN THE LEARNING MODULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

In general, the materials will have a copyright allowing your cost-free (to you) use of them in the course under a community license, such as a Creative Commons Public License- see:

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

Although your use is cost-free to you, there are sometimes restrictions on what you can do with the documents linked to, e.g., editing, copying, distributing, etc. that you must abide by.

A potential disadvantage of this approach is the materials are separate and do not appear in a textbook. Textbooks have a common style, put the information in a sequence, and have all information in one location; in short, textbooks have the advantage of being more “whole.”

Please ask the instructor if you have questions.

## Course Designer’s Choice- Focus on Materials from the US Government, Wikipedia and EDUCAUSE

There are many sources of cost-free materials for this course. To discover that on your own, merely enter a search for any topic. The quality and objectivity of those materials ranges widely. To ensure a greater likelihood of sufficient quality and a reasonable objectivity, the course designer has chosen to focus on materials from three sources:

Many sites from the U.S. government, e.g., <https://www.nist.gov/> (the National Institute for Standards and Technology) or <https://www.dau.edu/> (the Defense Acquisition University). These sites will have a .gov or a .mil extension and provide trustable information for IT that is in the public domain and therefore cost-free.

<https://www.wikipedia.org/>-

Provides crowd-sourced and generic information about IT and the computing professions. Many academics question the use of Wikipedia as a source. I have found a page with answers to those questions: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reliability_of_Wikipedia>. This page along with my own experience with Wikipedia has led me to conclude that Wikipedia is a trustworthy source, which is also cost-free. (I regularly donate to Wikipedia and present that as an option to you for consideration in doing your part to maintain this resource for the IT profession.)

<https://www.educause.edu/->

“EDUCAUSE is a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education through the use of information technology” (<https://www.educause.edu/about/mission-and-organization>). (My university, Kennesaw State, is a member of EDUCAUSE.) EDUCAUSE provides many resources including publications, ongoing surveys and reports, that inform the IT profession applied to higher education. Other organizations do this for other subject-matter domains of IT; we chose EDUCAUSE because it makes a wide range of trustworthy materials available through the Creative Commons open resources licenses, which is not always the case in the other organizations, where materials are restricted and often require payment of a fee. Although you might not practice IT in higher education, you are probably aware of the IT used in higher education and that the IT issues faced there (security, access, currency, resilience, etc.) are the same everywhere IT runs. We recommend that you supplement the EDUCAUSE materials with those you find from your application area of IT.

Within the IT profession, these two information sources embody the open resource philosophy and cover in enough depth a wide range of the IT body of knowledge (BOK). We have chosen them to be our foundational sources. Although your needs probably will require expanding beyond these two sources, we suggest they provide a sufficient grounding to learn the outcomes in this course, and perform your own expanding research.

Please ask the instructor if you have questions.

## Links to much of the copyrighted material in this course are provided by permission as described in the following:

### EDUCAUSE Links (educause.edu)

Copyright:

<https://www.educause.edu/copyright>

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/1.0/legalcode>

Terms of Use: <https://www.educause.edu/terms-of-use>

### US Government Works (Many urls with .gov extension)

<https://www.usa.gov/government-works>

### Wikipedia Links (Wikipedia.org)

Copyright:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Text_of_Creative_Commons_Attribution-ShareAlike_3.0_Unported_License>

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