

Classroom Computer Use Policy

The classroom constitutes a shared space for one purpose: learning. As a result, it is a common space and our activities in the classroom are not private. To sit in the classroom is to commit oneself to this common learning.

I know from past experience that a few students misuse the classroom for their own private activities. Years ago, those private activities involved conversations with friends, or reading books or newspapers unrelated to the class—things obvious to the instructor. Most students recognize that these activities are not appropriate and are disrespectful of the instructor and one's fellow students.

Laptop computers change this situation. One can read the newspaper on line, converse with friends via IM, or browse Web sites unrelated to the class, such as Facebook—all of which activities are hidden from the instructor although distracting to those sitting around the one misusing the computer in the classroom.

Therefore, I ask each student who wants to use a laptop in class to agree to the following..

STUDENTS USING COMPUTERS IN RELI 30723-010, SPRING 2011, MAY HAVE ONLY ONE PROGRAM OPEN ON THEIR DESKTOPS: THE PROGRAM THEY USE TO TAKE NOTES. (IF ACCESSING CLASS MATERIALS THEY MAY ALSO HAVE THOSE MATERIALS OPEN ON THEIR DESKTOPS.) NO OTHER PROGRAMS SHALL BE OPEN, INCLUDING PROGRAMS MINIMIZED OR RUNNING IN A SIDEBAR. THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO INSPECT COMPUTERS AT ANY TIME IN CLASS TO CONFIRM COMPLIANCE WITH THIS POLICY AND THE AUTHORITY TO REVOKE PERMISSION FOR USING A COMPUTER IN CLASS.

Dr. Grant,

I agree that I have only one program open on my computer desktop during class—my word processor that I use to take notes.(I may also have class materials open if using my laptop to access those materials.) I will have no other programs open on my computer, including programs minimized or running in a sidebar. I understand that you reserve the right to inspect my computer during class at any time to confirm that I am in compliance with this policy and that the privilege of using a computer in the classroom can be revoked.

Name: _____ (Please print)

Date: _____

Signature: _____