

# Computer Science Technology Department Houston Community College

Last Updated: 12/27/2010

## COSC 1437 – Programming Fundamentals II

### Orientation Welcome Message

#### Semester – Spring 2011

Professor: Alireza Nikzad - Phone 713-718-5546 (Leave a Voice Message)  
Regular E-mail: [alireza.nikzad@hccs.edu](mailto:alireza.nikzad@hccs.edu)  
Faculty Web Page: <http://tc3.hccs.edu/nikzada>  
To Course BBVista: <http://hccs.blackboard.com/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct>  
Office Hours: By appointment as needed

**WELCOME** – Welcome to COSC1347. This orientation (this welcome message and the syllabus) is primarily to get you comfortable with some basics of this course and then to go through a basic understanding of how to use Blackboard Vista. There are five areas to click on:

- *Welcome* (Basic info for class)
- *Course Syllabus* (Basic info for class)
- *Blackboard Vista*
- *DE Information* (Some info for Distance Ed)
- *DE Data Form* (A form for you to fill out)

**I SUGGEST PRINTING THIS DOCUMENT** – Most of this orientation is to help you understand some basic Blackboard Vista concepts. Once you log into our course there will be more information regarding our specific class. Please print out anything that you think you might need in the future.

**A LITTLE ABOUT MYSELF** – My name is Alireza Nikzad. If you ever have any questions please feel free to give me a call, at 713-718-5546 and leave me a message, or drop me an Mail message inside of Blackboard Vista (or if you are having problems with Blackboard Vista, you can use my HCCS email: [alireza.nikzad@hccs.edu](mailto:alireza.nikzad@hccs.edu)).

**REPEATING INFORMATION** – When you log into our course you will need to complete the “Course Introduction” on the home page. Some of the information you see in the orientation (including the syllabus that follows) will be repeated in that learning module. However, there will be more details in the learning module, so please print items out as appropriate and re-read the information.

**FEELING OVERWHELMED** – There is a lot to get oriented to when starting a new course being taught via Blackboard Vista, but if you take the time to go through the orientation to Blackboard Vista information that follows, you will feel more comfortable. Once you access the course website, there will be the “Course Introduction” on the home page. Completing the introduction will help you become more comfortable with specific course do's and don'ts of our class.

**COMMUNICATION WILL BE VIA Blackboard Vista** – You will have to log into Blackboard Vista to send and receive messages. We will be using the Blackboard Vista email system; however, if you are having trouble with the Blackboard Vista email, you may reach me via my non-Blackboard Vista email: [alireza.nikzade@hccs.edu](mailto:alireza.nikzade@hccs.edu). You can use this email from any non-Blackboard Vista email account (hotmail, yahoo, etc...). Please try to avoid using this unless you are having Blackboard Vista problems. Please put **BLACKBOARD VISTA COSC1437 Lastname** in the subject line, where **Lastname** is your last name. We will also be using the Blackboard Vista announcements or discussions to post messages important to the entire class.

Because Blackboard Vista will not be available to you until the first day of class, send any questions that you have to my regular email account after you have read the syllabus.

**TEXTBOOK** – Buy the textbooks which are bundled together from the HCC bookstore. The book is listed in the syllabus (the next section of this orientation). Any questions, contact me.

**HELP** – During the course feel free to contact me for help, but do so several days before any due date, if possible. If you try to contact me on the day something is due, there might not be enough time to solve the problem. Plan Ahead!

DE Technical support: [desupport@hccs.edu](mailto:desupport@hccs.edu) or 713-718-5275, option #3

DE Counseling issues: [de.counseling@hccs.edu](mailto:de.counseling@hccs.edu) or 713-718-5275, option #4

**SYLLABUS** – The next step in this DE Orientation is the course syllabus. Students should read all parts of the syllabus and make sure that they meet all of the course prerequisites (required to be ready for college level English (ENGL1301) and college level math (MATH1314) prior to registering for this Internet delivered section) and have adequate hardware, software and Internet access. Any questions, contact your instructor now.

Have a great semester and please proceed to the next step of this orientation