**Welcome to BUS335**

By Professor Batchelor

I've been teaching at Furman for 19 years in the Business and Computer Science departments. I also conduct seminars for IT professionals at various corporations for Furman’s Rushing Center for Advanced Technology. When I started teaching, in 1983 at Cal Poly in California, students did most of their written work by hand. No one had an e-mail address. Cell phones were almost the size of psychology textbooks and cost almost as much. Of course, as technology has advanced, I have too. So please, no handwritten homework.

In addition to teaching I have worked for many years as a system analyst, software developer, data base designer and IT project manager. So you can be assured that I have real world experience as well as academic experience. Since I currently teach seminars for Furman University’s Rushing Center which require me to be in Columbia, SC. there will be a few days when I will be cancelling class. I will always let you know in advance and I will always give you a reading assignment, a lab or a case study to complete for the day.

Enough about me. Let's talk about you. The first thing you need to understand is that, as far as I'm concerned, you're all adults. On a practical level, that means you have a great deal of freedom. You don't have to raise your hand to speak. If you need to use the restroom, leave early for a doctor's appointment, or have some other type of emergency, you don't have to ask my permission. Just quietly get up and go. I won't penalize you.

Along with considerable freedom, being an adult also carries a good deal of responsibility. You're responsible, first of all, for displaying good manners, being considerate of others, and generally not being a jerk. That means you won't interrupt other speakers, including me. Or talk to each other or otherwise be disrespectful while I am lecturing or another student is talking. You won't routinely be late to class, or regularly leave before it's over. And you'll keep your cell phone turned off, unless you have some really good reason to leave it on, such as a family member is in the hospital, or some other emergency.

Moreover, you are personally responsible for everything we cover in class, whether you're here or not. If you miss a class and are confused then come by and see me during office hours and I'll try to bring you up to speed. Otherwise, I recommend that you exchange e-mail addresses with two or three classmates and agree to share information if one of you has to be absent.

Let’s go briefly to the subject of grades. If you'll look at the college catalog, you'll see that "A" stands for "excellent." The fact is, few students are truly excellent. The root word of "excellent" is "excel," which means to surpass all others or to stand out. By definition, not everyone can surpass all others. If everyone stands out, no one does. No doubt you are bright, as indicated by the fact that you're at Furman. But it's unlikely that, as I begin evaluating your work, more than a few of you will actually stand out.

On the other hand, while not everyone can excel, a lot of people can be good. Some students have probably said that it is easy to get a B in my class. That's not a contradiction—although I wouldn't say it's exactly easy. But it's certainly very possible. Because, going back to the college catalog, B means "good." And if you're smart enough to get this far to begin with, you're probably smart enough to do well in the course, provided you show up and work hard. In other words, while only a few of you will legitimately excel, most of you can be good if you want to be, in which case I'll have no trouble assigning you a B or even a B+.