

CS 1401 Intro to Computer Science

Fall 2003 Syllabus

Class Meetings

Lecture section 14624: TR 9:00-10:20a COMP 308 (Final Exam Tuesday, Dec. 9, 10:00-12:45)
Lecture section 14632: TR 10:30-11:50a COMP 308 (Final Exam Thursday, Dec 11, 10:00-12:45)

Lab section 15371: TR 12:00-1:20p, COMP 301
Lab section 15385: TR 12:00-1:20p, COMP 319
Lab section 15379: TR 1:30-2:50p, COMP 301
Lab section 15395: TR 1:30-2:50p, COMP 319
Lab section 15382: TR 3:00-4:20p, COMP 301
Lab section 15396: TR 3:00-4:20p, COMP 319

You should be enrolled in one lecture section and one lab section. You must attend the lecture section and the lab section that you are enrolled in; do not drop in on another section without prior approval.

NOTE: To avoid delaying your progress through the program, you should be enrolled in Math 1411 Calculus I so that you will be prepared for Discrete Math next semester. If not, we strongly recommend that you consider adjusting your schedule.

Instructors

Karen Ward (kward@cs.utep.edu)

Office hours: TR 3:00-4:20 or by appointment, in COMP 207.

Nigel Ward (nigel@cs.utep.edu)

Office hours: F 1:15-2:15 or by appointment, in COMP 206.

Teaching Assistants

Biswaroop Chatterjee, Jabel Morales, and David Herrera (office hours and location to be determined).

Course Objectives

This is a first course for students majoring in Computer Science, providing an introduction to problem solving with computers, including representation, control structures, and software development methods; programming environments; social and ethical aspects of computing. Prerequisites: MATH 1508, with a grade of C or better.

Text

Reading and laboratory assignments will be drawn from *Programming and Problem Solving with Java* by Nell Dale, Chip Weems, and Mark Headington and from *A Laboratory Course for Programming with Java* by Nell Dale (Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2003).

These books are available at the bookstore and through major online book retailers, and you are expected to acquire them for your use in this course. Photocopied textbooks are illegal and their use will not be tolerated.

Software

Software used in this course will be available on the Windows computers in the main lab (room 300) and in the two instructional labs (rooms 301 and 319). If you wish to use the course software on your home computer, you will need to install both of the following:

- Java 2 SDK, version 1.3 or newer, also known as J2SE SDK—this may be found on the Student Resource Disk that is packaged with your textbook
- BlueJ interactive development environment—the software and tutorial may be downloaded from <http://www.bluej.org/>.

Assignments

Reading and homework assignments will be handed out or announced in class and in labs. If you miss a class or lab session, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed.

Grading

Your semester grade will be based on a combination of homework and lab assignments, weekly quizzes, lab attendance, exams, and a final exam. The approximate percentages are as follows:

- 26% Homework
- 12% Lab attendance and participation
- 12% Quizzes (11 quizzes total, drop the three worst scores)
- 30% Exams (3 exams, 10% each)
- 20% Final exam

Each of these is explained in more detail below.

Homework

Homework assignments are designed to allow you to gain experience with concepts presented in lecture and in your reading. Homework assignments may include written problems, tutorial exercises, and programming problems. Homework must be done individually. While you may discuss the problem in general terms with other people, your answers and your code should be written and tested by you alone. If you need help, consult a TA or a tutor (in the ACES lab) or one of the professors.

Assignments usually will be due at the start of lab on Tuesdays. Late homework will be accepted only in unusual circumstances, by prior arrangement if at all possible.

Laboratory Sessions

Laboratory sessions are designed to give you practice in using the concepts presented in class and guidance in getting your homework assignment started well. In a typical lab session, the Teaching Assistant will present additional material that will help you complete the assignment and answer your questions as you begin work.

You are required to sign up for and attend one of the six closed-lab sections associated with this course. Each lab section meets twice per week for 80 minutes per session. Attendance will be taken. To earn full credit for attendance, you must show up on time, stay for the entire session, and work only on your assignment. You may be excused from lab with full credit if your work has been completed and turned in.

Quizzes

The purpose of the weekly quiz is to ensure that you have read the weekly reading assignment and to verify that you have mastered the major concepts of recent lectures. Quizzes typically will be about 10 minutes in length and will cover the material assigned to be read for the upcoming week plus selected concepts from the previous week's lectures.

There will be a total of 11 quizzes, one each Tuesday except for weeks in which we have an exam. There will be no make-up on missed quizzes, but we will drop your three worst scores in calculating your grade for the semester, that is, only your best eight quiz scores will count toward your grade.

Exams

The purpose of the exams is to allow you to demonstrate mastery of course concepts. Each exam will focus on the material from the previous three or four weeks. Exams will take place during the regular class session. There will be three exams, each contributing 10% to your final grade, or 30% total. Exams are planned for the following dates:

- Thursday, Sept. 25
- Thursday, Oct. 30
- Tuesday, Dec. 2 (tentative, may change)

Make-up exams will be given only in extremely unusual circumstances. If you must miss an exam, please meet with an instructor, BEFORE the exam if at all possible.

Because the exams contribute so heavily to your total grade, it is vital that you do well on them. If you have test-taking difficulties in general, or if you have difficulties with our tests in particular, please come talk to us as soon as possible (and certainly before the first exam).

Final Exam

The final exam will be comprehensive and will count 20% toward your course grade.

You must score 50% or better on the final exam to pass this course. If you cannot demonstrate your understanding of the concepts and skills needed for success in CS 2401, you cannot pass this course even if you have enough points to do so.

You must take the final exam during the time shown in the schedule for the class section that you are formally enrolled in. Do not simply "drop in" to the other section; there will not be a copy of the exam for you. This is University policy.

Grading

The nominal percentage-score-to-letter-grade conversion is as follows:

- 90% or higher is an A
- 80-89% is a B
- 70-79% is a C
- 60-69% is a D
- below 60% is an F

We reserve the right to adjust these criteria downward, e.g., so that 88% or higher represents an A, based on overall class performance. The criteria will not be adjusted upward, however. You must earn a C or better to continue to the next course in this sequence.

Standards of Conduct

You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional and courteous manner, as prescribed by the UTEP Standards of Conduct.

Graded work, e.g., homework and tests, is to be completed independently and should be unmistakably your own work (or, in the case of group work, your team's work), although you may discuss your project with other students in a general way. You may not represent as your own work material that is transcribed or copied from another person, book, or other source, e.g., a web page. Professors are required to—and will—report academic dishonesty and any other violation of the Standards of Conduct to the Dean of Students.

Disabilities

If you feel that you may have a disability that requires accommodation, contact the Disabled Student Services Office at 747-5184, go to Room 106E Union, or email dss@utep.edu.

Last modified August 19, 2003 2:19 pm by kw.