

CMSC 104 Section 02

Fall 2025

Introduction
28 August 2025

Administrative Notes

- Each lecture is stored on the class GitHub repo as a PDF capture of the Google slides
- Every lecture will include an “Administrative Notes” slide as the second slide, right after the title
- It will include announcements/reminders of tests, quizzes, homework, any virtual classes, office hour changes
 - Basically, it's how I communicate things that you need to know
 - In addition to Blackboard announcements for the most important things
- Even if there is nothing to announce, there will still be an “Administrative Notes” slide
- The point is: if you miss class or aren't sure when something is due, go look at the latest “Administrative Notes” slide so you don't miss anything

About the Instructor: Alfred W. Arsenault (he/him/his)

About me:

- Adjunct faculty
 - My full time job is with MITRE Corp.
 - I also teach in the Graduate School at UM-Baltimore
- Teaching Experience:
 - Graduate Teaching Assistant, Purdue University
 - Taught Calculus, Probability & Statistics
 - Visiting Professor, United States Air Force Academy
 - Taught Core Computer Science Class to first-year Cadets
 - Adjunct Faculty, UMBG
 - This is the 21st semester I've taught here
 - Intro to Programming; Java; Networks; Cyber security; others
 - Taught CMSC 201 from Fall 2019 through last semester

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More about me

Education:

B.S., Physics, Southeastern Louisiana University
B.S., Computer Science, Southeastern Louisiana University
M.S., Computer Science & Statistics, Purdue University
Masters of Information and Data Science, University of California, Berkeley

Family:

Wife, Mimi
Kids: Beth (Hood College), Will (UMBC - CS; JHU - CS); Kate (UMCP; GWU); Mary (UMBC - Psychology & MCS)
Dogs: Doug (beagle/English bulldog)

Professional interests:

Cybersecurity
System architecture & analysis
Networks
Data Analysis/Machine Learning/AI

Personal interests:

Competitive ballroom dancing
Coaching youth sports (former)
Private pilot (former)
Skydiving (former)

About the Course

Course overview

Student resources

GitHub and how to access it

YouTube channel for videos

Textbook

The UMBC gl.umbc.edu system

Used for submitting all homework assignments

Linux system

- How to use
- Overview of Linux
- Submitting Homework

Logging on to gl.umbc.edu

On Windows 10 or later:

- Open a Powershell window and type
 - `ssl <your-umbc-id>@gl.umbc.edu`
 - The password is your regular password from MyUMBC
 - Duo pushes are used to authenticate you
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On Mac:

- Open a terminal window and follow the instructions as above

IDLE

Software is most commonly developed using an Integrated Development Environment, or IDE

- Python comes with a built-in IDE, called IDLE - the Integrated Development Learning Environment
- Let's get some practice with it

Note: you are not REQUIRED to use IDLE. If you're familiar with a different IDE like VSCode or PyCharm, feel free to use it

- But the course lectures will use IDLE, so it may be easier to just use that.

Class GitHub Repo:

https://github.com/Al-Arsenault201/104_Spring_2024