Cornell College

CSC 140: Foundations of Computer Science
Block 2 - 2021

Instructor: Lauren Jepsen
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Classroom: West Hall, 200

Email Address: ljepsen@cornellcollege.edu
Office Hours: M-Th 3:00-4:00 or by appt.

Class Meetings:
Class will generally meet from 9-11 and 1-3. We will not hold class Wednesday afternoons.

Required Materials:
Students will need access to a computer with the internet.

Text: How to Think Like a Computer Scientist: Interactive Edition by Miller, Ranum, et. al., https://runestone.academy/runestone/books/published/thinkcspy/index.html

Course Description:
This course will introduce you to the field of Computer Science and programing in the Python language.

Course Goals:
- Introduce Computer Science as a multi-faceted field
- Develop skills and confidence programming in the python language

Course Structure:
The best way to learn computer programming is to do computer programming. The morning class period will be reserved for a hopefully brief lecture, followed by a 'lab' period where you will get the chance to practice what we discussed in lecture.

Grading Policies:
Exam 1 (20%)
Exam 2 (20%)
Exam 3 (20%)
Class Attendance (5%)

Lab Participation (15%)
Homework (15%)
Presentation (5%)

Grading Scale:

Percent	Letter Grade
93-100	A
90-92.99	A-

87-89.99	B+
83-86.99	B
80-82.99	B-
77-79.99	C+
73-76.99	C
70-72.99	C-
67-69.99	D+
63-66.99	D
60-62.99	D-
below 60	F

Exams (60%):

Exams will be given on the 2nd through 4th Wednesday mornings of the class. Exams will be designed to take 1.5 hours to complete, but you will have until 12:30 to complete the exams.

Attendance (5%):

Your presence and participation in class is essential for your learning and engagement with the course. With this in mind, you will be allowed one unexcused absence before your grade is affected. If you are ill and need to isolate, I expect you to attend and participate in class over zoom - failure to do so, unless you are seeing a health professional, will count as an unexcused absence.

After one unexcused absence from a class session, your attendance grade will drop by 5% for each additional absence. Missing more than 15 minutes of class will also be considered an absence.

If you need to be absent due to illness or emergency, let me know as soon as possible so we can make other arrangements.

Lab Participation (15%):

During class you will frequently be asked to work in small groups to complete assignments. It is expected that every member of the group to participate and work together to complete assigned tasks. While these tasks are collaborative, you will be expected to turn in your own copy to be given credit for participating.

Homework (15%):

Homework will be assigned most nights and will be due at 9:00am before the start of the following mornings class session. Homework will be graded primarily on completion, but will also be spot checked for correctness. I may choose to pick a specific problem(s), or part of a problem, to grade for correctness. This same problem(s) will be checked for the entire class. ***Late homework will not be accepted.***

Presentation (5%):

On the fourth Tuesday of the block, you will be expected to give a brief 5-7 minute presentation on some topic related to computer science. You may choose to focus on a Turing Award recipient, an interesting application of computer science, a different programing language, a python package or

function not covered in our course, or if you are particularly ambitions you may complete a final project and present on that. You may also choose to work with a partner for the presentation, but in that case, I expect the presentations to be 10-14 minutes. This is designed to be a fun, open-ended exploration of the field.

Academic Integrity and Honesty

Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgment of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College's requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Catalogue, under the heading "Academic Honesty."

Mental Health

As a college student, you may sometimes experience stress, anxiety, or other mental health challenges that affect your mood, energy level, concentration, and mental ability. Cornell recognizes that you may experience these challenges and provides resources to help you take charge of your mental health and overall well-being. If you, a classmate, or a friend experience mental health challenges at Cornell, please check out the Counseling Center's website (www.cornellcollege.edu/counseling) for many resources on and off campus, and you can call the Counseling Center at 319-895-4292 for more information or to make an appointment. Visit the Student Gateway (https://www.cornellcollege.edu/students/index.html) and the Cornell Well-being Network (https://www.cornellcollege.edu/well-being-network/) websites for additional student re- sources.

Disabilities and Accommodations

Cornell College makes reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Students should notify the Office of Academic Support and Advising and their course instructor of any disability related accommodations within the first three days of the term for which the accommodations are required, due to the fast pace of the block format. For more information on the documentation required to establish the need for accommodations and the process of requesting the accommodations, see http://www.cornellcollege.edu/academic-support-and-advising/disabilities/index.shtml.