Course Syllabus

Learning Objectives

- Understand the expectations, resources, and policies associated with Info.Sci. 102
- Understand homework, programming assignments, quizzes, and exams
- Understand office hours and grading policies

Course Introduction

Purpose of Info.Sci.102

- The goal of this course is to introduce you to the field of information science and computation. This includes both programming and more general computational concepts.

- We'll start from the basics of programming and how computers work, then build up to how computers are used to support a variety of applications in different fields (including your own field of study, possibly).

Course Interaction

Lecture: in-person and via Zoom. Primary content presentation.

- use your DKU Zoom account
- video on, audio off
- email instructor for exceptional reasons to keep video off

How to Learn in Info.Sci.102

1. Attend class. If you can't attend live, watch the posted recording promptly.
2. Complete the lab assignment associated with the lecture content.
3. Demonstrate your knowledge on the quiz associated with the lecture.
4. Present a paper related to your interested field of study.
5. Demonstrate all collected knowledge in the exams.

The bolded items all contribute to your final grade; see syllabus for details.

Active Learning

- Lectures will primarily present new content, but we'll frequently use active learning to give you a chance to practice new skills.
- All the questions on lectures and lab assignments are welcome on Sakai. However, you are not allowed to post answers to lab assignments publicly.
- You do: introduce yourself to the class! Name, (intended) major, why you're taking this course.

Collaboration Policy

We encourage you to collaborate on course and exam preparation!

Regarding homework, lab assignments, and exams, each student must write up their solutions independently. Do not collaborate to solve a problem and present your answer to other students.

The following actions count as cheating, not collaboration, and lead to penalties or subjection to the university policy of plagiarism: copying, providing answers to others, comparing solutions, searching for answers online, collaborating during quizzes/the exams.

Frequently Asked Questions - Placement

- I have no prior programming experience. Can I succeed in this class?
  - Most of your classmates have no prior experience as well. You can definitely succeed, and you're not alone!

- Should I take CS 101, STATS 102, or CS 201?
  - CS 101 gives a broad overview of programming and computer science. STATS 102 focuses more deeply on Python programming and statistics.
  - CS 201 focuses on data structure and Java programming.
  - Info.Sci. 102 moves very fast through the core elements of Python programming (data, conditionals, loops), but it focuses on computational thinking.
  - Feel free to contact the professor if you want advice on your individual situation.

Frequently Asked Questions – Deadlines

What if I need to turn something in late?

- Each assignment has a regular deadline. Submissions received after deadline and the revision deadline are subject to 15% penalty per 24 hours.

- Submissions made before the regular deadline may also be resubmitted before the revision deadline. Submit early and get feedback so you can fix your mistakes!

- Students in exceptional situations (COVID/medical/family/personal emergencies) may reach out to the professor to arrange further extensions. However, written proofs/documents are required and timely communication is needed.

Frequently Asked Questions – Resources

I'm struggling with the homework/quizzes. What can I do?

- Homework: use Sakai to ask clarifying questions and see questions others have asked. Use office hours to get one-on-one help (no appointment is needed). Consider collaborating with other students so you have someone to bounce ideas off. Seek help from your peer tutors. And above all, remember that it's okay to ask for help!

- Quizzes: Review lab assignment and course materials. Go to review sessions (if offered) for more guided review of specific concepts.

Take care of yourself!

- Taking care of yourself is incredibly important, especially in tumultuous times. Your personal wellbeing is more important than academics.

- Make sure you regularly eat healthy food, get enough sleep, exercise, socialize, and take some time to relax. You will be happier, and you will do better academically as a direct result.

- We want everyone to feel welcomed and capable of learning in Info.Sci.102. If you feel that the course is negatively impacting your wellbeing, or you do not feel included, reach out and let us know.

Take-Home Task

Before Next Class, do the following:

- Review the course syllabus again on Sakai
- It includes many details we did not cover here. Seriously, read it!

- Either install the Python programming language and an IDE onto your computer or set up a Google Colab account