

## CSI 402 – Advice for Programming Assignments

# General Advice

- Get started as soon as possible.
- Read the handout carefully and understand what needs to be done.
- Think carefully about how the program should be decomposed into functions.
- Program a few functions at a time. Test the functions thoroughly.
- Prepare and use tough test cases to test your program.
- Keep backup copies of your program.
- When the README file becomes available, read it carefully and make sure that you understand all the submission requirements.  
(Programs that don't meet the requirements will lose most/all of the credit.)

# Program Structure/Documentation

- Avoid using “magic numbers”. (Use symbolic constants instead.)
- Minimize the use of global variables.
- Bear in mind that each program must have at least two C source files, header files and a `makefile`.
- Go through the “Course Policies” handout to get an idea of the expected documentation for a program.
- For each function, the documentation must include at least the following.
  - A description of the parameters.
  - A description of what the function does.
- Comments must appear throughout the program. (Insert comments as you write code.)