

## CIS 201: Computer Science I – Fall 2016 Syllabus

**Professor:** Dr. Laura Grabowski (Sections 001 and 003 Lecture, Sections 002 and 004 Lab)

**Office:** Dunn 303

**Office Hours:** MWF 12:30 – 1:30 PM *and by appointment*

**Voice:** 267-2216

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### Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will develop solutions to programming problems using control structures and top-down procedural design.
- Students will identify basic algorithms.
- Students will write appropriately modularized code that avoids logical redundancies.
- Students will work effectively together to solve problems.
- Students will write code that can be easily read and maintained by others.

### General Class Information

- Class Time/Place
  - Section 001: MWF 11:00 – 11:50 AM, Dunn 206
  - Section 003: MW 4:00 – 5:15 PM, Dunn 206
- Lab Time/Place
  - Section 002: M 2:00 – 3:50 PM, Dunn 358
  - Section 004: W 5:30 – 7:20 PM, Dunn 358
  - Labs start the first week of class.
- Required Text: Reges, Stuart & Stepp, Marty. (2014). *Building Java Programs*, 3rd Edition, Pearson. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-336090-5. ISBN-10: 0-13-336090-3.
- Lecture Examination Dates/Time (tba)
- Comprehensive Final:
  - Section 001: Tuesday, December 13, 8:00 – 10:00 AM
  - Section 003: Monday, December 12, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

### Course Requirements and Procedures

The administration of this class is extremely strict and demanding. Each element of this strictness is the result of my watching students fail the class. You will have little choice about how to address this class. The requirements cover every aspect of your work. One purpose of the strictness is to make sure that you know if you're going to fail after a few weeks, so that you can drop the class and devote your time to other classes. You should not stay in the class if you're failing: you waste all the time you DO devote to the class, lowering your overall GPA.

The benefit of the strictness is that more of you will pass and that you will get the highest possible grade for the least possible amount of work.

- Distribution of your grade: I will grade your course work using the following distribution:
  - Class & reading notes: 10%
  - Programming Assignments: 20%
  - Weekly Quizzes 20%
  - Lab Exercises: 15%
  - Two Midterm Examinations: 20%
  - Final Comprehensive Examination: 15%

HOWEVER, you must pass every segment to pass the class. For example, if you earn less than 60% on class and reading notes, you will fail the class.

- Grading procedure: Your course-grade average (on a scale of 0 - 100) will be calculated as the weighted average of your averages on notes, programming assignments, code lab exercises, labs, midterm exams, and your final exam using the weight distribution that is listed above. Final grades

are determined using a class curve of the course-grade averages.

- No arrangements will be made for extra credit for improving grades. Please note that you do not receive a separate grade for CIS 201 Lab. Your grade for the lecture is combined with your grade for the lab, and the registrar will receive the same grade for both the lecture and the lab.
- Reading assignments and class note-taking: Before discussion in class, you must read the associated text material and take hand-written notes. Likewise, you **must take notes during class**. These notes should be kept together with your reading notes: reading on right-hand pages, and class notes on the left. Your reading and class notes will be checked every class period. If you earn less than 60% on these notes, you will receive a failing grade in the class.
- Weekly Quizzes: A ten-minute weekly quiz will be given starting the second week of classes. It will be based partly on Self-Check problems (at the end of each chapter) assigned for you to work on your own (the answers are in Appendix A at the back of your text book). These are the "HW" files in Moodle, which will not be collected or graded. Quizzes also take material from the previous lab, meaning, if you don't finish the lab you may not be prepared for the quiz.
- Exam make-ups: Prior notice must be given to your instructor. No make-ups will be granted unless satisfactory documentation is produced to show an extenuating circumstance.
- Late programming assignments: Late assignments are penalized at 20% per calendar day that they are late. Assignment submission policies are detailed in a separate section of this document.
- Grading questions: If you have a question about a grade, you should see me within one week of the day the graded work is returned to you. You lose the right to re-grading after that.
- Incompletes: Incomplete grades (Inc) are granted rarely. Incompletes are not to be used as a shelter from potentially low grades.
- Absences: Attendance is taken in class and in lab and absences are noted. You will not be penalized for a poor attendance record. However, a good record of class attendance and participation may help your final grade in borderline cases. Making up material from missed classes is your responsibility. Note that this means, **if you miss class, you are responsible for getting the class notes from another member of the class.**
- Food and Drink in Class and Lab: Beverages are allowed in the classroom as long you clean up after yourself and do not disturb others. In the Unix lab, food and drink are restricted to the coffee table. **UNDER -NO- CIRCUMSTANCES ARE FOOD AND BEVERAGES (EVEN GUM) ALLOWED NEAR THE COMPUTERS.**
- No devices are allowed during class. Notes must be hand-written.

#### Laboratory Procedures

- Lab instructions: Labs will be available on Moodle each week.
- Making the Best Use of Lab: Each lab will be based on material that was covered in lecture and the online prelab reading. To prepare for lab:
  - Attend lectures.
  - Do the assigned written homework as we discuss the associated material in class.
  - Print and read the lab instructions.
- Lab Partner: For each lab (except for the first), we will pair you with another student attending the lab who will be your lab partner. You and your partner work together on one lab workstation to do the laboratory exercises.
- Working through the laboratory exercises: For a given lab, you will work through the lab exercises as described in the instructions. The laboratory exercises contain checkpoints. When you reach a checkpoint, you call over one of the lab instructors who will check you and your partner off.
- Laboratory Grade: The lab component of your grade is simply the percentage of checkpoints that you complete over the semester. For example, if you complete 70 out of 80 checkpoints over the semester, your lab grade will be  $70/80 = 87.5\%$ .

## Computer Use

You can do your programming assignments on the PC workstations in DUNN 358. They are connected via a Local Area Network to a server, so you can sit down at any of the machines and log in to your own account. These machines use a version of the Unix operating system called Linux. We will cover the basics of Unix during the first lab. Many students successfully install Java on their home computers to write, compile and run programs.

You must use your SUNYCard to enter the Unix lab. Your computer account in the Unix classroom is your private property, and should be treated as such. Please protect yourself by keeping your password private and making sure that you completely log out every time you use your account. It is your responsibility to prevent others from plagiarizing your work.

## Assignment Submission Policy and Guidelines

- You will receive a new programming assignment every week or so. Programming assignments are to be submitted by the beginning of lecture on the due date. Assignments will be submitted both electronically and on paper ("hard copy"). Hard copies should be handed in at the start of class. Assignments handed in on the due date but after 10 minutes of the beginning of class (hard copy or electronically) will be counted a day late. (I have instituted this policy to discourage students from skipping class to finish an assignment.)
- Late assignments will be penalized by 20% per calendar day that they are late. Extensions that are not subject to penalty may be granted in rare cases when there are extenuating circumstances (such as serious illness or disability, a death in the family, an accident, etc.) and when these circumstances are supported by written documentation.
- Every programming assignment that you submit must have an id-box header like the one shown below.

```
/*  
    Name: John Doe  
    Course: CIS 201 Computer Science I  
    Section: 001 or 003  
    Assignment: 1  
*/
```

- For hard-copy submission, just submit the source code file unless instructed otherwise. Do not use a folder. Staple the pages together in the upper left-hand corner. Make sure that your hard copy is secured together well and that the id-box is conspicuous. Work that we cannot identify or with missing parts will not be graded. Do not hand in the printer header sheet as part of the hard copy.
- You will also be required to submit your source code program files electronically on the PCs in the lab. **THIS CANNOT BE DONE FROM ANY OTHER COMPUTER.** Unless instructed otherwise, submit your solution to a programming assignment electronically by using the command  
    submit 201 filename1 ... filenameN
- Work that is not submitted electronically cannot be graded and will receive a grade of zero.
- Programming assignments should reflect your ability to program. We encourage you to talk to others in the class about assignments to discuss approaches to solving programming problems. It is also permissible to look at someone else's code and point out a silly syntactic error. It is also permissible to discuss a programming concept, in general, (for example, if-statements) if it appears that a fellow student does not understand that concept. However, there should be no collaboration on assignments above and beyond this. Specifically,
  - You should not be sharing any of your code with anyone else.
  - You should not be accepting any code from anyone else.
  - Two or more students should not be writing code together so as to essentially produce the same program
- If a tutor is assisting you, that tutor should not be making any suggestions about your code except for general strategies for solving the problem, explaining general programming concepts, or catching

simple, syntactic errors as described above.

- If we suspect that students and/or tutors are engaging in unfair collaboration as described above, we reserve the right to call all parties involved in for a code review. If the code review reveals that one or more persons is involved in providing or receiving unfair help, all parties involved will receive a zero on that assignment. Any further problems in this regard with any student or tutor will be brought to the attention of the Dean of Students.
- Since the load on the system and the printer may be very high around the submission deadline, you are urged to get your assignment finished and printed early.

#### Class and Laboratory Behavior

- You are expected to ask questions and participate in class discussions. However, talking out of turn, engaging in non class-related discussions with others (including the instructor), and other disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. If you are disrupting class, you may be asked to leave. Repeated offenses could result in your referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards and possible dismissal from the class.
- In laboratory, you are expected to collaborate actively with your assigned partner, to follow instructions, and to take turns controlling the keyboard. Failure to meet these expectations during scheduled lab sessions could result in a reduced lab grade (possibly 0) and possibly being dismissed from the laboratory session.
- Academic dishonesty: Students are expected follow the "SUNY Potsdam Academic Honor Code" (SUNY Potsdam 2014-2016 Undergraduate Catalog, p. 42) by doing their own work on quizzes, exams and programming assignments unless specifically directed otherwise by the instructor. Copying is strictly forbidden. Students caught cheating will receive a grade of 0 for that evaluation. Repeated offenses will result in dismissal from the course and possible disciplinary sanctions by the university. Academic Misconduct definitions, procedures, due process, and student rights are described on page 43 of the SUNY Potsdam 2014-2016 Undergraduate Catalog.
- Disability Assistance: Anyone who has special needs that must be accommodated to fulfill the course requirements should notify the instructor and the Director of Accommodative Services, 111 Sisson Hall, 267-3267. The college has resources available to assist qualified students with their academic studies.
- Accommodation of Religious Observances: We will make reasonable accommodation for a student's religious beliefs. Please notify us within the first week of classes about any scheduled class date that conflicts with a religious observance.