

Overview of Computer Science CSC 101 – Sections A and B – Spring 2012

Wake Forest University

Syllabus

Instructor:

Prof. Brian Kell	Office Hours
250 Manchester Hall kellba@wfu.edu (336) 758-4137	MWF 12:15 – 1:30 pm TWR 3:15 – 4:30 pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistant:

TBD	Office Hours
TBD@wfu.edu in Manchester Hall	TBD

Course Meetings:

Lecture Section	Time	Location
A	MWF 11:00 – 12:15 pm	024 Manchester Hall
B	MWF 2:00 – 3:15 pm	024 Manchester Hall

Course Web Site:

Accessible through [Sakai](#)

Textbook:



Invitation to Computer Science
5th edition
G. Michael Schneider &
Judith L. Gersting
ISBN: **0-324-78859-2**

Available in both
[Paper](#) and [eBook](#) versions.

Course Objectives:

- To develop a broad understanding of the organization and function of digital information technologies. Topics include computer architecture, systems, theory, logic, algorithms, and programming.
- To achieve a broad understanding of the organization, function, and inherent risks of networks, the Internet and the World Wide Web.
- To better understand digital media and networking as mechanisms for information exchange.
- To understand and appreciate some of the many personal, moral, societal, environmental and legal implications of digital technologies on human values.
- To gain a historical perspective on modern digital technologies.
- To develop an awareness of the many facets of the broad discipline we call "computer science".

Class Meetings:

- The course calendar, found at the course Sakai site, details topics and supporting readings from the text for each class meeting, as well as assignment due dates and exam dates.
- Links to lecture notes will be added to the course calendar later in the day after each class.
- CSC 101 is currently presented as a combination of lecture and lab classes combined in a single section. The course calendar will indicate which days are expected to be lab days, although any particular day may be a mix of class and lab activities.
- The course calendar may change through the course of the semester. Any changes in lab dates, exam dates, or other due dates will also be announced in class.

Labs:

- On lab days, bring your WFU-issued ThinkPad to class. Bring your power adapter as well if you think you will need it.
- Most labs will require completion of PreLab activities as preparation. These materials will be labeled as PreLab on the Sakai site and are due at the beginning of each lab session. Since many of the labs will depend upon completion of the PreLab activities, PreLabs which are not completed before lab will not be accepted without suitable excuse.
- Before each lab a lab handout, including details of the lab's activities, will be posted to Sakai. A completed lab report, and any other required results, will be due at the date and time indicated. Late lab materials will not be accepted without suitable excuse. Forgetting to upload a file or uploading it to an incorrect location is considered the same as leaving that component of the lab incomplete, so please check to make sure that you have submitted correctly.
- You should plan to complete each lab during the class session, since the instructor and TA will be available to help you through any difficulties. However, if you do not finish during class you may complete the lab on your own, as long as you submit your results by the due date and time. You may wish to discuss your progress on the lab with the Instructor or TA before leaving the room to help ensure you are on the right track.
- A malfunctioning laptop is generally not considered to be a suitable excuse for missing a lab due date. If your Thinkpad is being repaired at The Bridge, you should still be able to do the lab through the use of a loaner laptop. Please contact the instructor well before the lab if you anticipate not having your own laptop available.

Evaluation:

- Class attendance at every session is expected and required. Unexcused absences will reduce your course grade.
- Three in-class exams will be given as shown on the course calendar.
- Homework will occasionally be assigned throughout the semester.
- A research project on a topic related to the course will be required. A separate handout with research guidelines, suggested topics and project requirements will be made available later in the semester.
- A cumulative final exam will be given during the final exam period scheduled for your lecture section. The final exam schedule is included on the course calendar for your convenience. Any changes in final exam time or date must be requested and approved in advance.
- The various contributions to your overall course grade will be weighted as shown below.

You must receive a passing grade (60% minimum) in each of these five constituent portions to receive an overall passing grade in CSC 101.

Three in-class exams:	30%
Labs:	20%
Homework assignments:	5%
Research project:	10%
Cumulative final exam:	35%

- The overall course grade will be based on the percentage of total weighted points earned as shown below (no curves):

92 % or above:	A	72 thru 77.99:	C
90 thru 91.99:	A -	70 thru 71.99:	C -
88 thru 89.99:	B +	68 thru 69.99:	D +
82 thru 87.99:	B	62 thru 67.99:	D
80 thru 81.99:	B -	60 thru 61.99:	D -
78 thru 79.99:	C +	below 60 %:	F

Attendance:

- Class attendance at every session is expected and required. Unexcused absences will reduce your course grade.
- Illness is excusable but if possible please email the instructor before the class you will miss. The instructor retains the right to require documentation justifying absences.
- Please provide a schedule as soon as possible if you have activities that will require you to miss any class meetings or reschedule any exams or assignment due dates.
- Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assignment due date. If you are unable to turn in an assignment when it is due, please make arrangements to submit it *before* the due date. Late submissions will be subject to grade reductions.
- Make-up exams may be arranged in the case of **unavoidable** circumstances such as illness, family emergency, official university events, etc. Having a busy schedule or too much work to do is not a valid reason for delaying an exam or other assignment due date. No make-up exams will be administered unless pre-arranged with the instructor (although exceptions may be considered due to illness or another unexpected occurrence, with acceptable documentation).

Other Course Policies:

- Electronic devices (laptops, phones, calculators, cameras, recording devices, etc.) are not to be used during lectures or exams without prior permission of the instructor. **Please do not use your laptop or mobile phone during class.** Sending **texts** during class is disruptive and disrespectful, and will not be tolerated.
- Announcements and other course communications will frequently be made via email. It is your responsibility to regularly monitor your WFU email address.
- Wake Forest University is an academic community that subscribes to an [honor system](#). By accepting membership in this community, we all assume the obligation to be trustworthy in all pursuits. Violations will be referred to the [Honor and Ethics Council](#) for investigation and determination of responsibility and appropriate sanctions.
- Unauthorized acceptance or distribution of course materials, such as with online study sharing sites, will be deemed to be an honor violation and treated accordingly.
- WFU subscribes to [Turnitin](#), a proprietary system that instantly identifies papers containing unoriginal material.
- This course is offered for a letter grade. The pass/fail option will not be considered unless all wait-listed students have been accommodated. Note that courses taken on an elected pass/fail basis cannot be used to satisfy divisional requirements.
- If you have a limitation or other condition that may require an accommodation for taking this course, please contact the [Learning Assistance Center](#) (336-758-5929) as soon as possible within the first two weeks of the semester.
- In the unlikely event of a major disruption of normal university activities (such as might result from a health or weather emergency), a course continuation contingency [plan](#) will be enacted in order to allow completion of the course.