

Computer Science 403

Programming Languages

Syllabus

Catalog listing:	CMSC 403
Course Level:	Undergraduate
Prerequisites:	CMSC 256 with a grade of C or better and CMSC 303
Instructor:	Zach Whitten
Pronouns:	She / They
Office:	Engineering East E4251
Email:	zwhitten@vcu.edu
Classroom:	MPC 2100
Class website:	Canvas
Office Hours:	Monday 1:00 – 3:00

Virtual by appointment. Contact me via email or Discord to schedule a time to meet via Zoom. I will respond to your email within 48 hours. If I will be unavailable for a longer stretch of time, I will let the class know in an announcement.

1.0 – Overview (Catalog Course Description):

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CMSC 256 with a grade of C or better and CMSC 303. Survey of representative modern programming languages. Formal definition of programming languages including specifications of syntax and semantics. Precedence, infix, prefix and postfix notation. Global properties of algorithmic languages. Sub-routines, co-routines and tasks. List processing, string manipulation, data description and simulation languages. Run-time representation of program and data structures.

2.0 – Course Structure:

Lecture hours/week –	3
Lab hours/week –	0

3.0 – Course Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to understand concepts in the design of programming languages and implement programs in different types of languages.

4.0 – ABET Criteria Addressed:

2. Design, implement, and evaluate a computing-based solution to meet a given set of computing requirements in the context of the program's discipline.
6. Apply computer science theory and software development fundamentals to produce computing-based solutions.

Other Criteria Addressed:

- Substantial coverage of algorithms and complexity, computer science theory, concepts of programming languages, and software development.
- Substantial coverage of at least one general-purpose programming language.
- The study of computing-based systems at varying levels of abstraction.

5.0 – Major Topics Covered:

- Language design criteria
- Syntax, semantics, and parsing
- Symbol table and the environment
- Example of functional programming approach
- Example of object-oriented programming approach

6.0 – Textbook: N/A

7.0 – Class Schedule:

- Lecture: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:00 – 12:50pm

8.0 – Technology Support

Engineering & VCU Resources:

- **Personal Computer Requirement:** For our current system requirements and recommendations, see: <https://egr.vcu.edu/admissions/accepted/computer-recommendations/>
- **Remote Access to Public Lab computers:** To provide remote access, we use the Citrix App2Go environment to provide full and exclusive control over "the next available" computer in the lab. See this link for more details: <https://wiki.vcu.edu/x/Oa0tBg>
- **VCU provides a lot of software available for students to download to their personal computers.** For a list of software and the specifics for each, see: <https://ts.vcu.edu/software-center/>. In particular, [Microsoft Office](#) is available free to students.
- **VCU is transitioning to Canvas.** See the Canvas Student Guide at this link: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/tkb-p/student>

- **For IT help in the College of Engineering**, see our Wikipedia for "student" help at: <https://wiki.vcu.edu/display/EGRITHELP>
- **VCU's Technology Services (TS) provides support for "central IT" services.** If you have a technical issue with any of the following services, please submit a ticket with VCU Technology Services at <https://itsupport.vcu.edu/> or call (804) 828-2227. VCU TS maintains and supports these services and will be able to provide assistance to you.
 - VCU Cisco VPN
 - 2Factor or Dual Authentication (DUO)
 - Blackboard/Canvas
 - Gmail or other Google Apps
 - Zoom videoconferencing
 - VCU App2Go (Application server)
 - Resetting VCU password
- **For IT issues related to College of Engineering teaching and research**, email egrfixit@vcu.edu
- **For loaner Chromebooks for emergency purposes:** See this link for more details: <https://vcutsmpc.getconnect2.com/>

General Instructions:

1. Clear your browser's cache.
2. Shutdown and restart your computer.
3. If your problems persist, contact the IT support center itsc@vcu.edu or 804-828-2227.

9.0 – Technology Usage

- We will be using Canvas as our classroom environment. In addition to Canvas, we will also be using the following technologies:
 - Zoom for office hours
 - Twitch.tv for watching and participating in lecture
 - Discord for virtual help sessions and group chat.
 - Gradescope for grading project files
 - Respondus Lockdown Browser & Monitor (webcam needed for exams)

10.0 – Evaluation:

General Instructions:

1. All assignments must be uploaded to Canvas on or before the due date specified. Only files submitted to Canvas on or before the due date will be considered for grading. Requests to re-grade assignments must be made with two weeks from the date the assignment grade is posted in Canvas, requests after this time will be denied.

2. Late assignments will be accepted but will be subject to a late penalty.
3. No makeup exams will be given unless special permission has been given prior to the date of the test. Request to adjust scores or re-grade tests must be made at the end of the class meeting in which the test is returned, requests after this time will be denied.
4. **All assignments are to be individual efforts.** This does not preclude the discussion of techniques to be used or ideas for algorithms. In addition, it is permissible to help each other find syntax errors or minor logic errors. However, the actual correction of such errors is up to the author of the program.
5. Do your own work. **Plagiarism applies to all assignments and source code as with any other intellectual property. Plagiarized material is a form of cheating and will be treated as such.**

Grading:

Category	% weight
Homework assignments	50
Exam 1	10
Exam 2	10
Exam 3	10
Final exam	20

Grading scheme:

- A: $\geq 90\%$
- B: $\geq 80\%$ and $< 90\%$
- C: $\geq 70\%$ and $< 80\%$
- D: $\geq 60\%$ and $< 70\%$
- F: $< 60\%$

11.0 – Extra Credit:

There will be one class wide opportunity for extra credit this semester:

1. Course Evaluations:

If over 80% of the class completes the course evaluations provided by VCU, 10 points of extra credit will be rewarded to all. The dates for these evaluations are to be determined.

2. Voting:

Election day this year is November 2nd. Any student who provides evidence of casting a ballot (in person or absentee) will receive 20 points of extra credit. This evidence must be uploaded to Canvas by Nov. 5th at midnight. (Please do not use your *completed* ballot as evidence!)

Important deadlines:

- Deadline to register to vote, or update an existing registration, is Tuesday, October 12, 2021.
- Deadline to request an absentee ballot to be mailed to you is Friday, October 22, 2021. Your request must be received by your Registrar by 5:00 p.m.
- Deadline for in-person early voting is Saturday, October 30, 2021 at 5:00pm

For any questions about this policy or about casting a ballot, please contact me or go to www.elections.virginia.gov

Student responsibilities

(source: One VCU: Responsible Together available at:

<https://together.vcu.edu/students/>)

When we return, things will look and feel different as we take necessary steps to protect the well-being of our community. Here is what is expected of you:

- Monitor your health daily. Testing will occur according to protocols.
- Wear a face covering or mask in common areas, including class.
- Apply physical distance guidelines to all settings.
- Clean and disinfect personal and shared spaces before and after use. Cleaning supplies will be available in numerous locations.
- Report symptoms associated with COVID-19 to VCU Student Health Services. A call center hotline will be available later in the summer.
- Not sharing is caring during this unique pandemic. Please do not share calculators, tools, lab supplies, etc.

Following rules regarding face coverings or masks, cleaning and disinfecting, and physical distancing is required. Students will receive reminders for daily health monitoring. Staff in the Dean of Students office will be notified after incidents of non-compliance. Refusal to comply with rules can include progressive disciplinary action up to and including suspension, based on the VCU Student Code of Conduct.

Requesting accommodations

(from One VCU: Responsible Together)

The university recognizes that some students who previously did not need Section 504 Academic Accommodations, and who have a qualifying condition or disability, may need support or assistance during the return to campus process. A modified approach for the temporary and more permanent need for accommodation has been developed and implemented to provide students with full access to programs and activities related to their academic majors. Because every case is different, student requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Please share your need for an accommodation with the Student Accessibility and Education Office, or for MCV Campus students, the Division for Academic Success, after you have worked directly with your faculty member.

Health and well-being

(from One VCU: Responsible Together)

Navigating the anticipated stressors of daily life can often be challenging enough. When unexpected stressors emerge or when we are faced with uncertainty, it can be tough to know how to cope. Try out some of these tips and resources for health and wellness to see if **they** are a right fit for you.

Symptoms or Diagnosis: If an on-campus student identifies symptoms, has tested positive for COVID-19 or has come into contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, that student should contact University Student Health Services. At that point, isolation should begin and contact tracing will be performed by Student Health Services. Symptoms will be monitored and the student should refer to a medical provider if symptoms worsen or be released from isolation after 14 days, if symptom-free.

Nondiscrimination policy

(from One VCU: Responsible Together)

VCU is committed to providing a safe, equitable and inclusive environment for all its employees, patients and students. Discrimination or discriminatory harassment is not only unlawful, it is harmful to the well-being of our university community. Our university's core values, specifically those related to diversity and inclusion, have withstood many difficult situations and trying times, and they will not falter now.

Reports of discrimination, bullying, harassment and/or stereotyping of persons of color or those impacted by COVID-19 or otherwise, will not be tolerated. Be assured that VCU will make every effort to address and prevent the occurrence of unlawful discrimination and, if necessary, take prompt and appropriate action to remedy and prevent its reoccurrence.

Every member of our community is asked to:

- Become familiar with the university's policies on Preventing and Responding to Discrimination and Duty to Report and Protection from Retaliation in the VCU Policy Library.
- Consult with Equity and Access Services or VCU Human Resources for additional guidance on how to file a report of discrimination.
- Contact the Office of Institutional Equity, Effectiveness and Success (IES) on how to address and maintain a culture of inclusion.
- Encourage individuals who may need an ADA accommodation for a known or newly acquired disability, to contact the ADA/504 Coordinator in ADA Services.
- Bookmark and share information on university or community agencies that offer support or services, such as VCU's Counseling Services or Ombudsperson.
- Explore training and educational opportunities on diversity and inclusion at IExcel Education and through the Office of Institutional Equity, Effectiveness and Success.
- Offer nonjudgmental support and empathy to those affected by current events and this health crisis.

I want you to know that I am grateful for your presence and input in our classrooms (whether in person or online). I appreciate and welcome you regardless of your immigration status, country of origin and/or citizenship, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, gender/sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or dis/ability. Thank you for enriching our world, sharing your vital experience, and contributing to the diversity that makes our intellectual community vibrant and evermore creative.

Tips for Success:

- When taking online and hybrid courses, your self-motivation and self-pacing are absolutely critical. For this course, you should plan to work about 7-9 hours per course module as we move through the materials. Be sure to plan your time accordingly.
- Make yourself a calendar with all of your due dates across ALL of your courses. Plan for when you will work on each one for completion in advance of the due dates.
- Make sure you note any “online” course that still have a required meeting time (such as a Google Meet or Zoom session).
- Avoid the common assumption that online courses are easier or should be easier. That is a MYTH!!
- Plan Ahead!! Study as you go instead of at the last minute!

Where to post questions

Questions of general interest should first be posted to the discussion board (only if they have not already been answered) so that other students can benefit from the response or have an opportunity to respond to your question. Only questions of a private nature should be communicated to me through email. When sending a message to me, please allow a minimum of 24 hours for a response. Most of the time I will respond much faster, but sometimes meetings and other courses take over my schedule.

Netiquette Guidelines

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community. The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:

- Do not dominate any discussion.
- Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Popular emoticons such as ☺ can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Never make fun of someone’s ability to read or write.
- Share tips with other students.

- Keep an “open-mind” and be willing to express even your academically informed opinion.
- Think and edit before you push the “Send” button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Using humor is acceptable (adapted from UWSP)

Be Proactive in Communication with Instructor

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution. (adapted from UWSP)

Campus emergency information

- Sign up to receive at alert.vcu.edu/signup/. It is essential to keep your information up-to-date within VCU Alert and to keep your permanent address and emergency contact information current in eServices.
- VCU uses a variety of communication methods to alert the campus community about emergency situations and safety threats. Learn more about types of alerts at alert.vcu.edu/know/typesofalerts.php
- Know the emergency phone number for the VCU Police (828-1234), and report suspicious activities and objects.

Class registration required for attendance

Students may attend only those classes for which they have registered. Faculty may not add students to class rosters or Canvas. If students are attending a class for which they have not registered, they must stop attending.

Honor System: upholding academic integrity

The VCU Honor System policy describes the responsibilities of students, faculty and administration in upholding academic integrity. According to this policy, "Members of the academic community are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty, ethics and integrity at all times." Students are expected to read the policy in full and learn about requirements here: <https://conduct.students.vcu.edu/vcu-honor-system/>

Important dates

Important dates for the semester are listed in the VCU Academic Calendar: <https://academiccalendars.vcu.edu/>

Managing stress

Students may experience situations or challenges that can interfere with learning and interpersonal functioning including stress, anxiety, depression, alcohol and/or other drug use, concern for a friend or family member, loss, sleep difficulties, feeling hopeless or relationship problems. There are numerous campus resources available to students including University Counseling Services (804-828-6200 MPC Campus, 804-828-3964 MCV Campus), University Student Health Services (MPC 804 828-8828, MCV Campus 804 828-9220) and the Wellness Resource Center (804-828-9355). 24 hour emergency mental health support is available by calling 828-1234 and asking to speak to the on-call therapist or utilizing the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-784-2433).

Mandatory responsibility of faculty members to report incidents of sexual misconduct

All employees, including faculty, department chairs and deans, are required to report any incidents of sexual assault, sexual exploitation and partner or relationship violence to the university's Title IX Coordinator.

Confidential offices which can provide support at VCU are: University Counseling Services (804) 828-6200

For more information about Title IX, please visit please visit <https://equity.vcu.edu/>.

Military short-term training or deployment

If military students receive orders for short-term training or for deployment/mobilization, they should inform and present their orders to Military Student Services and to their professor(s). For further information on policies and procedures contact Military Student Services at 828-5993 or access the corresponding policies.

Student email standard

Email is considered an official method for communication at VCU. Students are expected to check their official VCU email on a frequent and consistent basis (the university recommends daily) in order to remain informed of university-related communications. Students are responsible for the consequences of not reading, in a timely fashion, university-related communications sent to their official VCU student email account. Mail sent to the VCU email address may include notification of university-related actions, including disciplinary action. Students must read this standard in its entirety

at <https://ts.vcu.edu/media/technology-services/content-assets/university-resources/ts-groups/information-security/StudentEmailStandard.pdf>

Student financial responsibility

Students assume the responsibility of full payment of tuition and fees generated from their registration, all charges for housing and dining services and other applicable miscellaneous charges. Students are ultimately responsible for any unpaid balance on their account as a result of the University Financial Aid Office or their third party sponsor canceling or reducing their award(s).

Students representing the university – excused absences

Students who represent the university (athletes and others) do not choose their schedules. All student athletes should provide their schedules to their instructors at the beginning of the semester. The Intercollegiate Athletic Council strongly encourages faculty to treat missed classes or exams (because of a scheduling conflict) as excused absences and urges faculty to work with the students to make up the work or exam.

Students with disabilities

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, require that VCU provide "academic adjustments" or "reasonable accommodations" to any student who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. To receive accommodations, students must register with the Office of Student Accessibility and Educational Opportunity on the Monroe Park Campus (828-2253) or the Division for Academic Success on the MCV campus (828-9782). Please also visit the Student Accessibility and Educational Opportunity website via <https://saeo.vcu.edu/> and/or the Division for Academic Success website via <https://das.vcu.edu/> for additional information.

Once students have completed the registration process, they should schedule a meeting with their instructor (s) and provide their instructor (s) with an official accommodation letter. Students should follow this procedure for all courses in the academic semester.

Withdrawal from classes

Before withdrawing from classes, students should consult their instructor as well as other appropriate university offices. Withdrawing from classes may negatively impact a student's financial aid award and his or her semester charges. To discuss financial aid and the student bill, visit the Student Services Center at 1015 Floyd Avenue (Harris Hall) and/or contact your financial aid counselor regarding the impact on your financial aid.

Faculty communication about students

VCU instructional faculty, administrators and staff maintain confidentiality of student records and disclose information in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This means that VCU officials may disclose student record information without the consent of the student in certain situations. To support university operations, for example, VCU officials share information about students with other educational officials as necessary to perform their job duties. FERPA permits this disclosure to school officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the student information. In addition, VCU officials have obligations to report information shared by a student depending on the content of that information, for example, in compliance with VCU's policy on the duty to report. Unless FERPA permits a certain disclosure, VCU generally requires consent from a student to disclose information from their education record to another individual. You may find additional information on the VCU FERPA website: <http://rar.vcu.edu/records/family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act/>.
