CAS CC 111: Introduction to Computer Science I

Bostin University, Spring 2021

Syllabus

Description: The first course for computer science majors and anyone seeking a rigorous introduction. Develops computational problem-solving skills by programming in the Python language, and exposes students to variety of other topics from computer science and its applications. Carries MCS divisional credit in CAS. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Quantitative Reasoning II, Creativity/Innovation, Critical Thinking. ***No prerequisites.***

Instructor

David Sullivan dgs@cs.bu.edu

See the course website for instructor, TA and CA office hours.

Course Assistants (CAs)

We are fortunate to have a number of undergraduate course assistants (CAs) as members of the course staff. They will be assisting you in the labs and holding office hours each week. See the course website for their names and contact info.

Lectures and Labs

lectures:
section A1: MWF, 10:10-11:00 am, CAS 522 or remotely (see below)
section B1: MWF, 11:15 am-12:05 pm, CAS 522 or remotely (see below)
section C1: MWF, 12:20-1:10 p.m., YAW 613A or remotely (see below)

labs: see your schedule for the time; fully remote on Zoom (see below)
note: the Wed evening time in your schedule is only for the midterm exams (see below)

Exams

The midterms and final exam will be administered online using an approach that we will announce later. You will be required to use a webcam and microphone during the exams. In addition, we strongly recommend that you have access to a mobile phone with a data connection in case of a Wi-Fi outage.

There will be two time options for each midterm exam. Students living in the US will be expected to take the midterms on the Wednesday evenings mentioned in the schedule below (3/10 and 4/7). We will also schedule an alternate exam time for students whose time zone makes the Wednesday evening time impractical; this alternate time will be in the morning before the start of classes on either the day of the exam or the following day.

We will also offer two time options for the final exam, but we will not be able to determine them until midway through the semester. The initial exam information posted by the Registrar is likely to be incorrect. ***Make sure that you are available for the entire final-exam period (up to and including Saturday evening, May 8)!***

Requirements and Grading

1. Weekly problem sets and final project (45% of the final grade)
2. Exams: two midterm exams (25%) and a final exam (25%)
3. Participation (5% ; see below)

To pass the course, you must earn a passing grade on each of the first two components.

Academic Misconduct

We will assume that you understand BU's Academic Conduct Code:

http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code

You should also carefully review the CS department's page on academic integrity:

http://www.bu.edu/cs/undergraduate/undergraduate-life/academic-integrity

Prohibited behaviors include:

- copying all or part of someone else's work, even if you subsequently modify it; this includes cases in which someone tells you what to write for your solution

- viewing all or part of someone else's work (with the exception of work that you and your partner do together on a pair-optional problem)

- showing all or part of your work to another student (with the exception of work that you and your partner do together on a pair-optional problem)

- consulting solutions from past semesters, or those found online or in textbook