Summer 2011

CS 240: Computer Programming I

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Office hours: 9:00 am – 10:00 am W
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Thursday
and by appointment

Course description: Basic concepts of programming and programming languages are introduced. Emphasis is on problem solving and object oriented programming. This course provides a general introduction to the fundamentals of computer science and programming. Examples from and applications to a broad range of problems are given. No prior knowledge of programming is assumed. The concepts covered will be applied to the Java programming language.


Software: This course uses the Java programming language and the NetBeans IDE. To install on a home PC: Download the latest version of Java and NetBeans at this site: http://java.sun.com/javase/downloads/index.jsp Click on the NetBeans icon labeled “jdk + NetBeans Bundle; then choose the JDK 6 Update 25 with NetBeans 7.0 download.
To install on a Mac: Java is pre-installed on Macs. You will need to install NetBeans only. Download from this site: http://netbeans.org Click the “Download NetBeans IDE 7.0” button.

Pilot/campus email: http://pilot.wright.edu Pilot will be used in this course for submitting projects and for accessing course materials and grades. It is the student’s responsibility to check the Pilot site, as well as his/her WSU email, for course announcements, updates to project requirements, etc.

Lab Facilities: Open labs are available for your use in Russ 152C, 152D, and the library annex. Russ labs are open 24/7; library lab information can be found at http://www.wright.edu/cats/labs/ Although you may find it convenient to work at home, make a note of these lab locations in the event that you have a problem with your personal computer (hard drive crash, inability to print, etc.). Because lab facilities are so widely available at Wright State, personal computer issues are not an acceptable excuse for turning in late work.

Help Room: The Department of computer Science and Engineering maintains a help room, staffed by upper-level students, for students in introductory programming classes. The help room is located in Russ 308. Help room hours will be posted on the course web site once they are determined.

Students with disabilities: Any student with a disability must inform the instructor of the special accommodations needed as soon as possible. The Office of Disability Services can provide an evaluation to determine what accommodations are appropriate.
Attendance and Grading Policies

Lab work (CS240L): Lab work from these sections will be included in your CS240 grade. Lab attendance is mandatory, and late lab work will not be accepted. There is no make-up work allowed for lab work; however, the lowest lab grade among labs 1-7 received during the term will be dropped before your final grade is calculated. Lab 8 (which will be assigned during the last week of the term) may not be dropped.

Projects: Four (4) programming projects will be assigned during the quarter. Due dates/times for projects will be given on the requirements documents for the project. Late work will be accepted up to 24 hours after the initial deadline, but will incur a 10% penalty. Work will not be accepted after the 24-hour grace period. If projects are not uploaded correctly, do not compile, or do not run in the NetBeans environment they will not be graded -- they will receive a 0. Projects that run but are incomplete will be given partial credit. The scores for all four programming projects will be used in calculating your final course grade.

Quizzes: On-line quizzes will be given each week. Students may access the quiz through the course website at the end of each week of class. Each week’s quiz will be available from Friday 11:59 am through Monday 11:59 pm. The quizzes are open book and open note, and have a 30-minute time limit. Three attempts for each quiz are allowed; only the highest score for the three attempts will be used in your course grade calculation. There is no make-up work allowed for quizzes; however, the lowest quiz grade received during the term will be dropped before your final grade is calculated.

Exams: A mid-term exam and a comprehensive final exam will be given. Normally, makeup exams will not be given. However, there are two exceptions: (1) the student has an extremely important, binding engagement the same time as the exam. In this case, the student must make arrangements with the instructor to take the exam before the scheduled time. (2) The student has an extreme illness or emergency that prevents him/her from taking the exam. In this case, the student must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the exam time to arrange a make-up, and the student must be able to provide documentation of the illness/emergency. Exams are closed book, no computer. However, one 4” x 6” note card may be used during the exams (hand-written or typed; both sides may be used).

Academic misconduct: All work in this class is to be completed individually. While you may find it helpful to discuss the homework assignments with other students in the class, be careful that your work is your own. Also, do not “share” your work with other students. Credit will not be given for work that duplicates another student’s work or that was completed as a team effort. In addition, the university policy on academic misconduct will be followed in cases where academic dishonesty is suspected. This policy can be found at http://www.wright.edu/students/judicial/integrity.html

Grading: The course grade will be calculated by weighting the various graded components of the course as given below. The grading scale is [90-100] A; [80-90] B; [70-80] C; [60-69] D; [0-60] F.

Projects: 32%
Labs: 18%
On-line quizzes: 5%
Midterm exam: 20%
Final exam: 25%
Expectations

Attendance: Attendance at lecture is not required although it is strongly encouraged and expected. Past experience shows a strong correlation between attendance and course grade. Students are expected to be on time for lecture and lab sessions.

Textbook: Students are expected to study the text. Even when you don't attend class, you are still responsible for material covered in lecture, lab, and in your text readings. It is important that you have your own copy of the correct textbook and edition indicated above. Get acquainted with the CD/online textbook materials. You can download the source code for the text examples to try them out. Whenever possible study your text in front of a computer and actively get involved in trying out the programming concepts on your own. You should try to do all text review questions and exercises. This can be the most effective way to be successful in the course.

Getting help: Questions are encouraged in lecture and lab; if there are no questions it is assumed that students understand the lecture, have read, and understand the text and lab materials. If you are having trouble with programs or text readings, it is expected that you will ask questions in class, come during office hours for help, or make an appointment to discuss your questions as needed. Corresponding with the instructor or TA by e-mail is a good way to get help with text readings or programming assignments.

Lab work: You are urged to budget your lab time wisely and expect to spend additional time outside of the formal lab to complete your programming assignments. You should bring a flash drive to labs so that you can copy your work for further use at the end of each lab session. Always backup your work!

Programming assignments: Get an early start on each programming assignment. Take the time to write an algorithm before beginning to enter the code. Short, specific questions can often be handled by e-mail. More involved explanations require a visit to the instructor or TA during office hours. When you ask for help, be prepared to show what you have already done and be specific with your questions ("How do I start" is not specific enough; "How do I determine what variables I need?" is better). Always backup your work!

Web site (Pilot): Check the course web site frequently for announcements. You should get in the habit of checking the site at least 2-3 times/week, in addition to logging in to take the on-line quizzes and submitting work to the dropbox.

Lecture/Lab/Project Schedules. The tentative lecture, lab, and project schedules may be found under Content on the course web site. Any changes will be announced on the course web site.

Noteworthy Dates

Thursday, July 14 - midterm exam
Thursday, August 18 - final exam

June 13 - first day of classes
July 1 - last day to drop the class without a grade
July 29 - last day to drop the class with a grade of 'W'