

COSC 120 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Fred Park

Fall 2017

Course Description

This is a semester long introduction to Computer Science.

Description: Introduction to computer programming in a high-level language such as C, C++, Python, or Java, emphasizing structured programming techniques, procedural methods and simple user-defined data structures.

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Fred Park

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webpage: www.fredpark.com

Office: SLC 216

Phone: 562-907-4880

OH's: TR 10-11:00am, R 2-3:00pm in SLC 216

Course Information

- Times and Location: TR 3:00-4:20pm in SLC 416

Course Breakdown

Scheme #1:

- HW 30%
- MT 30%
- Final 40%

Scheme #2

(Emergencies Only!!):

- HW 30%
- Final 70%

No makeup exams whatsoever! I highly recommend you taking the midterm exam since scheme #2 is only for emergencies. I will automatically take the higher of both schemes at the end of the course when determining your final grade. An automatic "F" grade will be issued to anyone who does not take the final exam.

Final Course Evaluations

Final Evaluations: 1% total bump in course grade. For example if your final total course average from the higher of scheme #1 and #2 is an 89% total (B+ grade), your final average gets bumped to 90% (Now an A- grade). I highly recommend that everyone does the final course evaluations.

Grading Scale

In this course, I will utilize an A-F scale with +/- grading. The percentage breakdowns based on the highest average from scheme #1 and #2 above are as follows:

- 90-100% A Range
- 80-89.9% B Range
- 68-79.9% C Range
- 58-67.9% D Range

The minimum grading guidelines in terms of percentage of the class are as follows:

- 20% of the class will be in the A Range
- 30% of the class will be in the B Range
- 35% of the class will be in the C Range

To obtain an “A” grade in my course, you will have to work very hard. In general, there are no easy “A’s” in my courses.

Exam Dates

The exam dates are set in stone and will not change. Please write these down in your scheduler ASAP.

- Midterm: Thursday October 26th from 3:00-4:20 PM in SLC 416
- Final: TBA

Homework

HW is due at the beginning of class on specified Wednesdays no later than 3:05 PM unless indicated otherwise by the instructor. No HW will be accepted after the 3:05 PM deadline. You are allowed to drop 1 of the assignments. Please make sure to keep up with the homework after each lecture. HW will be turned in via electronic submission. More details will be discussed in class.

Coding

There will be a large computational aspect to this course. This will include programming assignments/projects in Python. You will be expected to code during every class session.

Optional Software

The computers in SLC 416 have all the necessary software installed. However, if you would like to use your own device, you can obtain the needed software free of charge. These include:

- Pycharm Python IDE: (<https://www.jetbrains.com/pycharm/>). This is free if you have a valid student ID.
- Anaconda Package Distribution (<https://www.anaconda.com/download/>).
- Python 3 (<https://www.python.org/download/releases/3.0/>) if you are not planning on using the Anaconda Package and would like to install packages as needed.

Note: you will need to configure Pycharm and Anaconda after installation.

Study Time and Class Expectations

For every 1 hour of lecture you should be studying 3 hours outside of class. That is at least 9 hours a week outside of class of studying and HW. COSC is a difficult and time consuming subject. Please keep up with the work and do not ‘Cram’ for any exams or HW deadlines since this usually results in very poor results. I recommend at least 15 hours a week of study outside the classroom for this course. This time investment can expand to 20+ hours during project deadlines. Computer programming is intensive and time consuming. Do not underestimate the time investment needed in this course.

Class Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. If you will miss more than 2 total lectures throughout the course, you will be asked to drop the course. If you miss any lectures during the first week of class, you will be automatically dropped from the course. No make-up lectures in office hours as that is not appropriate and fair to other students during that time. If a student misses a lecture, it is their responsibility to obtain the materials from their fellow students.

Active Learning

Active learning will be a large component of the class time. You will be required to work in groups, challenged to think, and work problems out in class on a regular basis. There will be a 50/50 split between lecture and group work. Active learning exercises will be graded and required to be turned in with HW. This includes both group work and individual work. There will also be quizzes throughout the semester. You may drop only 1 graded active learning exercise or quiz. No make up quizzes or exercises whatsoever under any circumstances. Quizzes will be counted towards your HW grade.

Cheating

Cheating will absolutely not be tolerated in any way, shape, or form in this course!! I have not had any issues in the past and do not plan on starting. Cheating in any form will result in an automatic failing grade in the course (an F grade) and further disciplinary action from the College. Cheating has far reaching consequences that can affect your future career path. Quite simply put: Dont Do It! Any code that is copied verbatim from the internet and used in HW or any projects will be deemed as plagiarism and subject to the same strict disciplinary action previously mentioned. This includes code copied from fellow students.

Group Work

I encourage group work and you may work together. But you must have your own write ups of your work and your own code and *only* if you completely understand the problem being solved. Please note that if you simply copy a solution from another student, this falls into the category of cheating and will result in disciplinary action. Code that is identical to another student will be deemed as plagiarism and will also involve disciplinary action.

Accommodations

Students desiring accommodations on the basis of physical, learning, or psychological disability for this class are to contact Disability Services. Disability Services is located on the ground floor of the Library, room G003, and can be reached by calling extension 562-907-4825.

Disruptive Behavior

Disruptive behavior will absolutely not be tolerated in any way, shape, or form in this class. This includes cell phone use (talking, texting, email, etc), non authorized computer use, talking, chatting, or any other general disruptions. If you are being disruptive in the class to the instructor and your fellow students, you will be asked to leave.