CS 171

Instructor: Paul T. Allen

Spring 2019

1 Basic information

- Course website: https://paultallen.fun/teaching/cs-171-spring-2019/

- Lab website: https://sites.google.com/a/lclark.edu/computersciencelab/home/faq

- Course TA: Adriana Rogers

- Lab tech: Hoa Nguyen Dang

2 Learning objectives

Students in this course should

- develop skills in framing problems in a manner suitable for computer programming.

- learn basic programming constructions that make use of conditional statements, loops, arrays, functions, etc.

- learn basic programming skills in C: appropriate syntax, program construction, commenting, variable assignment, etc.

- learn basic computer skills: simple command-line operations, use of code-appropriate text editor, etc.

3 Coursework

- **Homework** is assigned most days the class meets. The primary purpose of homework is to help you develop your coding skills. Not all homework assignments are collected for grading. However you are expected to complete all daily homework assignments, and to keep an organized portfolio of your solutions to these assignments.

- **Lab Assignments** are longer coding assignments that involve both programming and problem-solving. These assignments are graded both for correctness (ie, the programs do what they are supposed to do) and for style (ie, the code and comments are well-written).

  It is important that you submit your lab assignments following the procedure outlined in the assignment. Improperly submitted (or late) labs will be disregarded.

- **Exams** involve both programming and answering short questions. Exams occur during class time, though they may also have a take-home component.

There are three exams during the semester. The first two exams are *tentatively* scheduled for 22 February and 22 March; these dates will be confirmed one week in advance. These exams can only be rescheduled in the case of extenuating circumstances.

The third exam is given during the regularly scheduled final exam period: Wednesday 8 May 1-4pm. This exam cannot be rescheduled; plan your end-of-semester travel accordingly.

- **Good Citizenship** is expected of all students in this class.

  - You are expected to be a good citizen of the class, approaching our academic endeavor responsibly and respectfully. This includes having respect for yourself; having respect for your fellow classmates, faculty, staff, etc.; and having respect for the course material and learning process.

  - You are expected to be an active and responsible member of our college community. As part of this effort, you are required to attend two official[1] LC events during the semester. These events cannot be part of another course you are taking and cannot be part of your responsibilities at a paid job. After each event, you must submit a report via the link on the course website.

4 Grades

Individual assignments and exam problems are graded on the 4.0 grade scale.

- Homework assignments (when collected) are graded as follows:

  4.0 code compiles and passes basic function test

  2.0 code compiles, but does not pass basic function test

  0.0 code does not compile (or no code submitted)

- Lab assignments are graded as follows:

  4.0 code passes all function tests and is clearly written

  3.0 code passes all function tests, but is not clearly written

  2.0 code passes only basic function tests; is not clearly written

  0.0 code does not pass basic function tests (or no code submitted)

Preliminary course grades are computed using a weighted average of grades according to the following:

- 50% Lab assignments, homework, citizenship

- 15% Exam 1

- 15% Exam 2

- 20% Exam 3

Following the preliminary grade computation, adjustments are made based on improvement, inconsistent coursework, or other factors I deem appropriate.

Ultimately, course grades are assigned based on the grade definitions in the college catalog. In particular, a student who as earned "technically enough points to pass" but who has demonstrated gross negligence with regard to the course material will be awarded a failing grade.

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[1]In order to count as being "official" the events must be advertised on the LC webpage.