

CS 125 - Introduction to Computer Science

Fall 2008

Section 1209 10:30a.m. to 11:40a.m. M W F

Section 1211 1:20p.m. to 2:30p.m. M W F

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Office hours: Tuesday 10:30a.m.-12p.m., 1p.m.-3:00p.m.

Thursday 10:30a.m.-12p.m., 1p.m.-2:00p.m.

Additional times available by appointment

Overview:

"The first course in the (computer science) major/minor sequence. An introduction to the Java programming language, algorithm design, structured and object-oriented programming techniques. No prior programming experience is assumed. *Prerequisite: higher algebra*" [1]

Goals:

Preparation for continuing on to higher level computer science courses.

General knowledge about computing and information technology.

Basic programming and software development skills.

Develop strong problem solving skills.

Required Texts:

Understanding Computers Today & Tomorrow, 12th Ed by Morley & Parker.

Java Concepts, 5th Ed by Horstmann.

Attendance:

"Regular attendance and participation in class is critical to a student's success at Concordia College. Because any absence, excused or unexcused, detracts from the learning experience, students are expected to attend all classes." [2] If you are absent, you are responsible for learning materials covered during class.

Please note: Section 1211 (12:00p.m. to 2:30p.m.) will be using both a standard room for some classes and a computer lab – please refer to the course schedule. Section 1209 (10:30a.m. to 11:40a.m.) classes will always be held in a computer lab.

Grading:

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date indicated by the schedule. Late work will be subject to a 10% per day penalty. Programming assignments will be graded based on program correctness, clarity and documentation. Assignments will account for 40% of your overall grade.

Exams will account for 60% of your overall grade. Since later materials depend on earlier materials, exams will be semi-comprehensive; however the emphasis will be on materials covered since the last exam. The last exam will be held during finals week. Makeup exams will only be allowed for situations arranged with the instructor prior to the exam (and only for a very compelling reason) or for an illness or injury verified by a doctor's statement.

The tentative grade cut off scale is as follows:

94% A	90% A-	
87% B+	84% B	80% B-
77% C+	74% C	70% C-
67% D+	64% D	60% D-

Academic Honesty:

You are expected to read and understand Concordia's policies regarding academic integrity [3]. While students are both allowed and encouraged to collaborate on assignments (especially programming assignments), it is imperative that as an individual you each understand the material and concepts covered by an assignment. Since academic dishonesty is expected to be rare to non-existent, infractions will be handled in a case-by-case manner.

Special Needs:

If you require special accommodations in this course, please contact the Counseling Center in Academy Hall 106 (299-3514).

General Advice:

The best way to learn programming is to write programs. You are encouraged to work on additional exercises and personal projects.

Strong problem-solving skills are useful in many disciplines, including computer science. When working on problems don't just focus solely on the solution, actively think about your problem-solving process as well.

Good software depends on more than code. Clear documentation and design is equally important; both will be factored into the grading of programming assignments.

Plan ahead: even experienced programmers are prone to underestimating the amount of time required to complete a project. Set aside ample time to code, test, and debug your programs.

Later topics are highly dependent on early material. Falling behind early on will make learning subsequent material significantly more difficult.

Collaborate with your peers. There is rarely a single best way to write a program. Different perspectives lead to greater insight into the process of problem-solving and programming.

Collaboration means more than copying. You must take responsibility for understanding the materials. After all, exams will be a zero-collaboration environment.

References:

[1] 2007-08 Academic Catalog:

http://www.cord.edu/academic/catalog/departments/c_scdept.course.html

[2] College Handbook: General and Academic Policies - class attendance:

http://www.cord.edu/student/handbook/class_attendance.php

[3] College Handbook: General and Academic Policies – Academic Integrity:

http://www.cord.edu/student/handbook/academic_integrity.php