Course Syllabus - Fall 2015

Policies and General Information

COURSE NUMBER: CSC 250
COURSE TITLE: Foundations of Computer Science 1
CREDITS: 3 hours
PREREQ/COREQ: A grade of C or better in CSC130 or transfer credit for CSC130

INSTRUCTOR
Instructor: Lydia K Fritz, Lecturer, 152 Petty Building
Contact Info: lkfritz@uncg.edu
Office Hours: Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs 11 – noon
Other hours available by appointment; email to schedule.

TEXT & SUPPLIES
  Kenneth A. Ross & Charles R. B. Wright
  Prentice Hall
  ISBN: 0-13-065247-4
  BRING YOUR BOOK TO CLASS EVERYDAY.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & EXPECTED OUTCOMES
This course is a required course for Computer Science majors.
This course provides an introduction to the fundamental ideas underlying contemporary computer science with a focus on the computation and construction of objects.

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to demonstrate a mastery of the following concepts:
• recognize the tools and techniques that are necessary to practice the art and science of computing
• select suitable techniques to prove statements
• use knowledge of and solve problems related to discrete structures, logic, and computability
• analyze algorithms using a variety of techniques, including Big-Θ analysis

More specifically, a student should be able to:
• construct simple mathematical proofs,
• apply knowledge of set theory, properties of functions and properties of relations
• utilize constructions techniques for inductively defined sets and recursively defined sets, and
• analyze algorithm complexity including counting techniques

COURSE FORMAT
This course will consist of 150 minutes of instruction per week. Class time will be interactive and students will be expected to participate in class activities, including group activities.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY
Regurgitating facts does not demonstrate an understanding of the material covered in this, or any, course. An individual who possesses a deep and thorough understanding of concepts can explain them to others, both verbally and in writing. Unless knowledge can be communicated to an audience, it is useless. You should be prepared, at any time, to explain your work. Your work in this course will be evaluated not only on content, but on how well the content is expressed.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Students are expected to adhere to the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy, discussed in the first class and linked from the syllabus. See http://studentconduct.uncg.edu. Each student is required to sign a statement indicating that work submitted is their own. Misrepresenting one’s work is a violation of academic integrity and will be reported. The minimum penalty for academic integrity violations is a grade of 0 on the assignment/test.

ATTENDANCE
Attendance is taken daily. The instructor reserves the right to drop any student who misses more than 3 class lectures or labs. The university allows for a limited number of excused absences for religious observances --- students who plan to take such an absence should notify the instructor at least two weeks in advance so that accommodations can be made (also see the missed/late work policy below).

Grading & Evaluation
- 10% attendance/participation
- 15% In class assignments (group and individual)
- 15% Homework assignments (out of class work)
- 40% written tests (20% each)
- 20% cumulative final exam

**GRADING SCALE**
- A+ = [97, 100]
- A = [93, 97]
- A- = [89, 93]
- B+ = [87, 89]
- B = [83, 87]
- B- = [79, 83]
- C+ = [77, 79]
- C = [73, 77]
- C- = [69, 73]
- D+ = [67, 69]
- D = [63, 67]
- D- = [59, 63]
- F = [0, 59]

**IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**
Part of your grade in this course is based on your participation. Classes may begin with a short quiz or in-class assignment on the daily reading, video, etc... This quiz will be given within the first 5 minutes of class and cannot be made up. There are two reasons for this quiz:
- I want you to be on time to class. If you are late, you will miss the quiz and earn a score of 0.
- I want you to be prepared for class. You will get the most out of class lectures and activities if you know what we are talking about.

Participation will also be assessed by attendance and participation in class discussion & activities. Some of these will be completed in your group. In such cases, a group will turn in a single version of the assignment. All members of the group will earn the same grade.

**FINAL EXAMINATION**
A cumulative final exam is required and will be given during the time specified on the University Registrar’s Office Exam Schedule. Our exam is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2 from noon – 3pm. You MUST take the final in this course. Students who do not take the final will be given a grade of Incomplete in the course.

**MISSED/LATE WORK POLICY**
- Makeup tests are not given
- The final exam must be taken. If the final is missed, the student will be given an incomplete in the course.
- Students with planned absences, whether for university events, religious observance, or other reason, are expected to make arrangements with the instructor to turn in assignments or take exams before the scheduled date of the assignment or test.
- All homework assignments will count – there are no dropped grades!
Miscellaneous Information

ACCREDITATION
As part of our accreditation, we must keep samples of student work. Your tests and assignments may be copied as samples. Names are removed before copying. If you wish to refuse permission to copy your work, let your instructor know.

DISTRIBUTED CLASS MATERIALS
All distributed course materials will be posted in Canvas. Examples of distributed course materials include the syllabus, videos, handouts, sample solutions and so on.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
If the need should arise, any announcements to the class will be made through the Announcements page on Canvas, so check it often.

EMERGENCY PREPARENESS
Closure of university facilities and classrooms in response to some emergency does not mean that this class is halted. Students should check Canvas for announcements about how the class will proceed in the event of such an emergency.