

CS 121: Introduction to Software Development

Course Syllabus

Fall 2011

Professor: Richard Croft, Ph.D. Badgely Hall 109: 962-3695
e-mail: rcroft@eou.edu
web: www.eou.edu/~rcroft

Office Hours: MT RF 11:00—11:50
W 10:00—11:50
and by appointment.

Note that I may be in BH 123 or LH 235 during office hours.

About this Course (Catalog Description)

This survey course introduces computer software, the process of its development, and its uses in contemporary society. Topics include data representation, basic computer architecture, and categories of software including multimedia products, end-user applications, process-control, and scientific computing.

Prerequisites

Basic computer literacy.

Outcomes

Students enrolled in this class will acquire a general knowledge of the role of computer science and multimedia development. In particular, students who have completed this class will be able to:

1. describe the basic components of a computer;
2. describe how information is represented for computer storage;
3. discuss the differences between different approaches to programming;
4. describe different applications for computer software in industry, education and other venues;
5. discuss the history of the Internet and describe how it works;
6. describe possible career paths for software development professionals; and
7. describe the curriculum requirements for EOU's CS/MM concentrations.

In addition, students will have begun learning to work with their peers on research and presentation tasks.

Textbook

No Text. Several links to web sites covering course materials will be assigned and are mandatory viewing for all class members.

Assessment

Student presentations, frequent small quizzes, and a final exam will be used assess student mastery of all outcomes.

Course Activities

Class activities will include lectures, discussions and presentations. Students will complete a few written assignments outside of class. Student groups will complete research work in the library and on the Internet and present their findings to the class. Quizzes will inform students of their understanding of course concepts and an exam will reveal mastery of course topics.

Policies

Attendance in this class is mandatory. After the first two weeks, material will be presented by students; if you aren't presenting you will still need to participate in the discussion following the presentation. A short quiz may follow any presentation.

This class meets twice a week for five weeks and then meets for its final exam during the sixth week.

Presentations. The first few classes will be presented primarily in lecture format. For the remainder of the term each class will consist of a presentation on a specific course topic by a small group of students who have prepared the presentation and reviewed it with the instructor. All students will be given a list of learning outcomes (what to know) before the day of the presentation, and all students are expected to preview the material for the presentation in order to be an informed audience.

Frequent **quizzes** over lectures, presentations, and readings will provide feedback to let you determine if you are assimilating enough detail in course topics.

If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to write them on a slip of paper and leave it on the lectern (or hand it to me) when the class breaks. Your feedback may help improve the course.

Academic Misconduct

Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found guilty of an act of academic misconduct (including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or theft of an examination or supplies) may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the university, or being expelled from the university—or a combination of these. Please see the relevant section of the student handbook on-line at: <http://www.eou.edu/saffairs/handbook/honest.html>

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability or suspect that you have a learning problem and need reasonable accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Program in Loso Hall 234 (telephone 962-3081) **before** the end of the second week of classes.

Grading

Your final grade for this course will depend on your completion of the assigned homework and projects, quizzes, and an exam. Distribution of credit is as follows:

Quizzes:	20 percent
Presentations:	30 percent
Exam:	30 percent
Participation	20 percent

Grade cutoffs will be no higher than 92 for A, 84 for B, 75 for C and 65 for D, but *may be lower* if statistical analysis of the distribution of scores indicates they should be.

Course Outline (Tentative*)

Class	Topics	Reading
1.	Course introduction; Defining software; Types of software	Syllabus
2	Form presentation groups, select topics	
3	CS/MM Curriculum—what's required and why	
4	Preparing and giving presentations: Some tips and a demonstration	
5	Student presentation: Topic TBA.	
6	Student presentation: Topic TBA.	
7	Student presentation: Topic TBA.	
8	Student presentation: Topic TBA.	
9	Student presentation: Topic TBA.	
10	Course review and prepare for exam	
11	Exam (during week 6)	

* Schedule is subject to change based on class dynamics.