CS 101: Introduction to Computer Science  
James Madison University, Fall 2017 Semester, 3 Credits

Home Page:  
http://w3.cs.jmu.edu/cs101

Class Times:  
Section 1: M/W/F, 9:05 – 9:55  
Section 2: M/W/F, 1:25 – 2:15

Location:  
ISAT/CS 136 (large classroom)

Course Instructors  
Dr. Chris Mayfield  
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Phone: 540-568-3314  
Office Hours:  
Tu/Th 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM  
(no appointment necessary)

Dr. Sharon Simmons  
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Office Hours:  
M/W 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM  
(no appointment necessary)

Catalog Description  
How to think like a computer scientist. Topics include an overview of the context of computing, computational operations, computational devices, algorithms and data structures, the storage and transmission of data, the presentation of information, and the limits of computing. Students learn about the design and implementation of computational systems, the value of abstraction, problem solving, and the ways in which computation impacts society. There are no prerequisites.

Required Textbook  
ISBN: 0133760065  
http://www.pearsonhighered.com/brookshear/

Previous editions such as the 11th edition of this book are acceptable. However, you will be responsible for any material presented in class that may only appear in the current edition of the book.
Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

• Explain how data are represented, stored, and manipulated by computer hardware.
• Use abstraction and decomposition when reasoning about complex systems and problems.
• Describe how data can be transmitted over networks and the security concerns that arise.
• Apply computing tools and techniques to solve problems at multiple levels of abstraction.
• Connect the concern of cybersecurity with the Internet and systems built on it.
• Discuss the impact of computing within economic, social, and cultural contexts.
• Implement an algorithm that uses repetition and conditionals in a high-level language.
• Collaborate with others to gain insight, interpret data, and solve problems using computation.
• Summarize the role of algorithms, data structures, and languages in computer programming.
• Use metacognitive strategies (e.g., the study cycle) to make your learning more effective.

Methods of Instruction

This course uses a “flipped classroom” approach. Instead of listening to lectures during class time and doing homework individually, you will learn some content on your own and complete assignments during class. You may not be accustomed to this approach, but if you trust in the process you will learn so much! Most weeks will focus on a single chapter from the textbook and follow this schedule:

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<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
<td>Finish Lab</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
<td>Finish Exercises</td>
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<td>Group Activity</td>
<td>Reading and Notes</td>
<td>Online Tutorial</td>
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<td>Reading and Notes</td>
<td>Videos and Notes</td>
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<td>Start Exercises</td>
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<td>Questions</td>
<td>Online Tutorial</td>
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<td>Quiz</td>
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<td>Start Lab</td>
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We will begin each Monday with an exam on the previous week’s material, followed by a group activity that introduces the next chapter. To prepare for Wednesday’s lab, you will read one or more sections of the textbook, watch one or more short video clips, and work through an online tutorial. The labs will be due Wednesday at 11:59pm, so it’s important to get started early in order to get sufficient help during class time.

Before Friday, you will finish reading the assigned textbook sections and get started on the chapter exercises. These exercises are intended to be completed in small groups, and they are due at the end of class. You will also participate in online discussions about social and ethical issues related to the chapter by responding to specific writing prompts. The week concludes with an online quiz (taken individually) to help you prepare for the next exam.

How to Succeed

Part of each assignment grade will be based on your individual preparation. You will occasionally be asked to show evidence and/or results of your studying. To help you improve, the instructor will provide feedback and suggestions.

- **When you read the book:** For each paragraph, write a short sentence that explains the main idea in your own words.
- **When you watch videos:** Pause, rewind, and take notes about the main concepts; make connections to the reading.
- **When you start the lab:** Read through all of the instructions and make a list of questions to ask at the beginning of class.
- **Before you start the exercises:** Review the questions at the end of each section. The answers are in the back of the book.
- **After you start the exercises:** Skip the ones you don’t know how to do, but read through everything before class.
- **When you prepare for the exam:** Teach the material to someone else. Review the textbook slides and sample solutions.

Textbook Readings

We will maintain a detailed schedule with assigned readings, video lectures, and other resources on the course home page as the semester progresses. You are strongly encouraged to study (i.e., understand well enough to teach) the designated textbook sections, even if some material is not “covered” in class. It is not expected that you read every single word, although in many sections that will be most effective. The textbook will be a valuable resource for succeeding in the course—otherwise, we wouldn’t have required you to get a copy.

Online Interactions

We will use Canvas to facilitate online discussion, make announcements, answer your questions, submit assignments, and manage grades. All class-related materials (e.g., syllabus, schedule, videos, tutorials, labs) will be posted on the course home page and linked from Canvas for convenience. If you have a question that may benefit other students, we encourage you to use the Canvas discussion forums rather than email the instructor directly.
Assessment and Grading

Letter grades will be assigned on the scale A=90–100, B=80–89, C=70–79, D=60–69, F=0–59, with potential minor adjustments after considering the overall performance of the class and actual distribution of numeric scores. The instructors will use “+” and “−” grades at their discretion.

Labs (12%)

Each week includes a lab experience that helps you apply what you have learned in fun and practical ways. The labs will take about 60–90 minutes to complete. We encourage you to get a head start before class so that you can ask questions and make the most of our 50-minute lab period. You will be required to submit the results of each lab electronically by Wednesday at 11:59 PM.

Posts (6%)

The course will also include online discussion related to social issues and other topics presented in the textbook. You will be required every other week to write a thoughtful response to a question of your choice. The responses must be original and interactive, not simply rehash or plagiarize what someone else already said. You must post by Thursday at 11:59 PM to receive credit, but you are certainly encouraged to participate before and after the deadline.

Activities (12%)

During class, you will participate in a variety of group activities to help you learn. Monday’s activity will focus on exploring new concepts, and Friday’s activity will apply what you have learned throughout the week. Activity worksheets are due Friday at the end of class.

Quizzes (10%)

We will have an online quiz at the end of each week, due Sunday at 11:59 PM. The quizzes include vocabulary matching, multiple choice, and fill in the blank questions. Many of these questions will be similar to ones at the end of the chapter, so it pays off to practice them during your study time.

Exams (40%)

Each exam will be 15–20 minutes long and consist of several free response questions. Missed exams may not be made up, and you will not receive extra time to complete the exam if you arrive late to class. We understand that things happen (e.g., illness, unexpected travel, personal issues) and will drop your lowest two exam scores when calculating your final grade.

Projects (20%)

During the middle and end of the semester, you will be required to complete a substantial project. Both of these “performance tasks” will be collaborative in nature and done in groups. You should view them as a take-home midterm and final exam. (There will be no written exam during finals week.) The first task will explore a computing innovation of your choice and include a written paper and poster presentation. The second task will be a programming project of your choice and require a live demonstration, polished source code, and individual reflection.
University Policies

Academic Honesty
If you violate the University’s Honor Code (http://www.jmu.edu/honorcode/code.shtml), you will receive a reduced or failing grade in the course, other penalties may be imposed, and the violation will be reported to the Honor Council. Automated tools may be used on any assignment, at any time, to detect inappropriate collaboration and to determine the originality of submissions.

Adding/Dropping
You are responsible for enrolling in courses and verifying your schedule on MyMadison. The deadline for adding a semester course is Thursday, 09/14/2017 (signatures required after Tuesday, 09/05/2017). The last day to withdraw from a course with a W grade is Thursday, 10/26/2017.

Disability Services
If you have a documented disability and need accommodations in this course, please register with the Office of Disability Services (http://www.jmu.edu/ods, Student Success Center, Room 1202, 540-568-6705). They will provide you with an Access Plan Letter to verify your need for services and make recommendations for the course. We will be happy to discuss your access plan with you.

Excused Absences
Students who are unable to attend class due to JMU sponsored activities (such as sports, band, academic competition, field trips, etc) or personal religious observances may request reasonable accommodations. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class regarding potential absences so that we can determine alternative methods for you to complete the required work.

Late Work Policy
Late work will not be accepted for unexcused absences. There will be no make-up opportunities and no extra credit assignments. In extreme, documented circumstances (e.g., hospitalization), the instructor will make reasonable accommodations after consulting with the student.

University Closings
For severe weather and other unexpected circumstances, watch for announcements relating to make-up work. See http://www.jmu.edu/JMUpolicy/1309.shtml for JMU’s cancellation policy. Although the schedule may adapt to canceled classes, assignment deadlines generally do not change.