Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi  
COSC 1435.001: Introduction to Problem Solving with Computers I  
Summer I 2014 ~ Section 001/201

Instructor:  
Office Location:  
Office Phone:  
Office Hours:  
Email Address: 

Course Information: COSC 1435.001  TR 12:00pm-2:30pm  CI 127  
            COSC 1435.201  TR 2:45pm-4:35pm  CI 228

Course Website: http://sci.tamucc.edu/~iersoy/ and Blackboard  
(Let me know if you ever have trouble accessing the course materials)

Course Description:  
Catalog: A broad introduction to many computer science topics including: algorithms, problem solving,  
operating system concepts, computer architecture, and programming languages.

Detailed: A broad introduction to Computer Science. Many important concepts underlying computer science  
are covered. This includes the algorithmic foundations of computer science and the expression of algorithms as  
pseudocode. A number of algorithms are examined including sequential search, find greatest, selection sort, and  
binary search. The time efficiency of algorithms and Big-O classification are discussed. Computer hardware  
concepts are studied including binary numbers, Boolean logic, gates, and circuits such as compare for equality  
and addition circuits. The construction of a CPU from basic circuits is examined. The course includes a weekly  
2-hour lab that provides experience with the concepts covered in the lectures.

Prerequisites:  
MATH 1314 (College Algebra) or placement beyond MATH 1314. You do not need to have any prior  
programming experience.

Student Learning Outcomes:  
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:
   ▪ Understand the algorithmic foundations of Computer Science and be able to express algorithms in  
pseudocode and flowchart.
   ▪ Understand the design of basic searching and sorting algorithms (linear search, binary search, and  
selection sort).
   ▪ Understand the time and space efficiency of algorithms and big-O notation.
   ▪ Understand how binary numbers are represented, basic concepts of Boolean logic and logic gates, and  
understand the equality and addition circuits.
   ▪ Design and develop basic computer programs using high level programming language (sequence,  
selection, and iteration structures).
   ▪ Be able to design and implement programs that use arrays and functions.

Required Course Texts and Materials:  
      Hubbard (ISBN: 0-13-249264-4)
   ▪ Starting Out with C++: From Control Structures through Objects, 7th Edition by Tony Gaddis, Addison-  
      Wesley (ISBN: 0-13-257625-2)
   ▪ Some way to archive your programs (flash drive, Dropbox/Cloud, etc)
Student Evaluation:

- Exams (50%) – There will be two in-class exams worth 15% of the final grade each, as well as a comprehensive final exam worth 20% of the final grade. Please note the dates of the exams on the course schedule below and plan accordingly. Exams may only be made up with an approved University excuse and will be different from the in-class version of the exam. If you have a conflict with an exam date, please let me know as soon as you know about the conflict.

- Programming Assignments/Labs (30%) - As part of this class, you will have many programming assignments, or labs. These lab assignments are all individual efforts unless otherwise specified. There is a two hour lab session associated with this course. This time is used for supplemental instruction and for you to work on your programming assignments. Attendance will be monitored in these labs; however, you may leave early if you complete the lab early. Labs may be submitted late, for a maximum of 80% of the total points, up to 48 hours after the original due date. There will be no resubmissions of labs.

- Quizzes, Participation, and Attendance (20%) – You are expected to attend class, participate, and complete the assigned readings. In order to encourage and reward these behaviors, regular quizzes (online and in-class) will be given. You will also participate in group and individual activities on a regular basis that will count towards your final grade. There are no make-ups for missed daily grades and it is your responsibility to consult the course website to determine what was covered during any days you miss and obtain notes from a classmate. Be sure to make use of office hours to meet with me to discuss any issues you have with the material or class assignments.

Grade Scale:  
A (90-100%)  B (80-89%)  C (70-79%)  D (60-69%)  F (<60%)

Course Outline: The following is a rough outline and is subject to change. See the course website for the most up to date information.

- UNIT 1 (Weeks 1-5): Computer Science, Problem Solving, and Programming Basics
  - Introduction to Problem Solving and Programming
  - Problem Solving with the Sequential Logic Structure
  - Problem Solving with Decisions
  - Problem Solving with Loops
  - Processing Arrays
  - Exam 1 – February 18th, 2014

- UNIT 2 (Weeks 6-10): Fundamentals of Programming and Problem Solving in C++
  - Introduction to Programming and C++
  - Expressions and Interactivity
  - Making Decisions
  - Exam 2 – March 25th, 2014

- UNIT 3 (Weeks 11-15): More Problem Solving in C++ and the Computer Science Field
  - Looping and Files
  - Functions
  - Arrays
  - Computer Science Overview

- FINAL EXAM: May 13th, 2014 (11:00am-1:30pm)

Student Expectations:

- Students are expected to be in attendance, punctual, and prepared for class and labs.
- Assigned readings and quizzes, as discussed in class and usually found in Blackboard, should be completed before coming to the next class. You are expected to read the textbooks. Quizzes will be frequent and will cover the material assigned in the readings.
- Please ask questions on any material that you do not understand; if I cannot explain it to your satisfaction, please see me during my office hours or labs.
- Monitor and use your Islander email regularly.
Demonstrate integrity, maturity, and ethical behavior.

**Academic Honesty Policy:** You are expected to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty as defined in Catalog. In addition, students are expected to behave in an ethical manner in all class activities. If you feel uncertain about a particular activity, please speak to me BEFORE problems arise. Ethical behavior is a requirement for passing this course. All work submitted for grading must be the student's own work. Plagiarism will result in a score of 0 (zero) for the work or dismissal from the course and the Dean of Students office will be notified. No copying from another student's work of any type is allowed. It is the student's duty to allow no one to copy his or her work. Anyone found cheating and/or copying, in the exams or assignments, in the instructor's opinion, may receive an automatic F for the course.

**Electronic Device Policy:** Please refrain from the use of electronic devices during class, as it is distracting to not only you, but also to your instructor and peers. Silence your phones and put them away so you are not tempted to stray off task. Laptops will be permitted for particular activities as deemed appropriate.

**Classroom/Professional Behavior:** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Students with Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit CCH 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Dropping a Class:** I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **April 11th** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Academic Advising:** The College of Science and Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in CI 366, and can be reached at 825-3721.

**Grade Appeals:** A student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is on the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, consult Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01 Student Grade Appeal Procedures (http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html), and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage (http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school or the College of Science and Engineering Dean’s Office.