COSC 2391 SELECTED TOPICS II: Problem Solving
Department of Computing Sciences
Fall 2018

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: COSC 2391.001
Class meeting time: Fridays from 2:00PM-3:50PM from 10/15/18 – 12/5/18
Class location: CS-111
Course Website: blackboard

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Scott A. King
Office location: CI 341
Office hours: Tue 1:00PM-3:30PM, Wed 9:00AM-11:30AM
Telephone: 361 825-5877
e-mail: Scott.King@TAMUCC.edu
Appointments: Send me an email with possible times.

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Course Description
This is a selected topics course with no lab component. Variable content. May be repeated for credit depending on topic. Offered on sufficient demand. Does not count toward total hours required for BS in Computer Science. Prerequisite: None.

Extended Course Description
This course will teach students to use a structured method to solve problems. Students will learn to identify the problem, define and represent the problem, explore possible strategies or solutions, act on a selected strategy or solution and to look back and evaluate. This is the IDEAL method. Students will learn how to ask questions to clarify and to probe. Students will work in small teams and learn important skills for working on teams.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites
NONE

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Required Textbook(s)
• None
F. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

Assessment is a process used by instructors to help improve learning. Assessment is essential for effective learning because it provides feedback to both students and instructors. A critical step in this process is making clear the course’s student learning outcomes that describe what students are expected to learn to be successful in the course. The student learning outcomes for this course are listed below. By collecting data and sharing it with students on how well they are accomplishing these learning outcomes students can more efficiently and effectively focus their learning efforts. This information can also help instructors identify challenging areas for students and adjust their teaching approach to facilitate learning.

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

Level 1: Knowledge and Comprehension

1.1 Describe the IDEAL problem-solving approach.
1.2 Describe the difference between clarifying and probing questions

Level 2: Application and Analysis

2.1 Apply the IDEAL problem-solving approach to a set of similar problems
2.2 Break down a problem into its key components (set boundaries within a problem statement).
2.3 Assess the benefits and risks of given solutions.
2.4 Apply techniques to identify resources needed to solve a given problem.
2.5 Formulate clarifying or probing questions.
2.6 Explore possible courses of action to solve the problem based on new/improved problem statement and prioritize those options.

Level 3: Synthesis and Evaluation

3.1 Negotiate a new problem statement based on information obtained by questioning.
3.2 Reflect on one’s own progress as a problem solver.
3.3 Articulate different perspectives to solving a problem.
3.4 Articulate and defend a solution to a problem over other options.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

This is not a lecture-based course. Attendance is mandatory as participation is critical. Most activities cannot be recreated outside the classroom.

• Questions from students regarding clarification about problems
• Small group activities
• Discussion
• Occasional short lectures
• Individual/group meetings

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journaling</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Assessment</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Assessment</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Observations</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructor Assessment</td>
<td>30</td>
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I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

• Week 1 – Introduction to problem solving
• Week 2-Week 8 – Weekly problem

Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced to the class by the Instructor. The assignments and exams shown are directly related to the Student Learning Outcomes described in Section F.

J. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Tardiness
You are expected to be to all class periods and for the full class period.

Late Work and Make-up Exams
Journals and self-assessments must be done on time and cannot be turned in late. There are no exams.

Extra Credit
None

Cell Phone Use
Cell phones need to be turned off or on vibrate.

Laptop Use
Laptops may be used and necessary for working on your assignments. They should only be used for course work.
Participation
You are expected to be active in class.

Others
All writing is to be your own work. Proper citations are required. Failure to cite will be considered plagiarism.

K. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- **Academic Integrity (University)**
  University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

- **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.

- **Statement of Civility**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

- **Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)**
  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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. 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. Please consult the Academic Calendar (http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/) for the last day to drop a course.

- **Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering)**
  As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 upon 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, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at 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, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

- **Disability Services**
  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 call (361) 825-5816 or visit Disability Services in Corpus Christi Hall 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.

  http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/

- **Statement of Academic Continuity**
  In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students
need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

L. OTHER INFORMATION

- Academic Advising
  The College of Science & 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. Meetings are by appointment only; advisors do not take walk-ins. Please call or stop by the Advising Center to check availability and schedule an appointment. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instruction 350 or can be reached at (361) 825-3928.

GENERAL DISCLAIMER

I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regularly scheduled lecture periods.