

Syllabus

ITEC 120: Principles of Computer Science I

Spring 2013

Time and location

3:00-3:50PM MWF in 216 Davis Hall
3:00-3:50PM TR in 226 Davis Hall
Course website:
www.radford.edu/aaray/ITEC_120

Textbooks (optional)

Java software solutions: Foundations of program design 6th or 7th edition.

Lewis and Loftus. Pearson Education.

Online and free option:

Big Java Late Objects. Cay S. Horstmann. John Wiley and Sons.

<http://proquest.safaribooksonline.com/book/programming/java/9781118087886>

Professor

Andrew A. Ray Ph.D.
aaray@radford.edu

Office Hours

B17 Davis Hall
M-F 2:00-PM-3:00 PM

Overview

In this course you will learn how to use computers to solve problems. Not just simple memorize this formula and repeat it type of problems, but meaningful real life problems from the fields of game development, math, and business.

This is not a normal course, most of it is taught through active learning. You will be solving problems in and outside of class. Labs will teach you how to apply concepts using the Java programming language, and how to use a Lego Robot to solve problems.

Course objectives

Students who successfully complete the course will:

1. Have a basic understanding of how to communicate with computer systems.
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of a higher level programming language.
3. Create solutions to several problems by applying problem solving skills.
4. Use the code, test, and debug cycle to implement programs that realize the solutions from objective 3.

Grades

Letter	Points
A	660-730
B	590-659
C	520-589
D	450-519
F	0-449

Points can be earned from homework (230 possible points), labs (84 possible points), attendance (41 possible points), and exams (375 possible points). See course website and in class announcements for when exams will be scheduled.

Grading policies

- No late work is accepted. Do not ask for exemptions. This includes having a valid documented excuse.
 - Exams may not be taken on a later date, even if you have a valid documented excuse.
 - The harshness of the previous two rules is mitigated by this rule: You may choose to substitute a higher later grade for a lower earlier grade in the same category. This substitution can only be used ONCE. The categories are homework assignments and exams. For example, you could choose to have your second exam score count as your score for the first exam (which will be scaled accordingly), but you could not replace a low homework grade in addition to replacing the second exam score. This substitution must be made before the last day of class. It will not be automatically applied.
 - If you miss the final exam, you fail the course.
 - If you discover a grading error, you have two weeks from when the assignment was handed back to send an email to the professor explaining what the error is or why you think your answer should receive full credit. After two weeks your grade becomes final, no exceptions.
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Attendance

You get one point for every class you attend. You may miss one class every three weeks without penalty.

General course policies

- Attendance is required. This is due to attendance being correlated with higher grades. If you could raise your grade by one letter just by attending class everyday, why wouldn't you want to attend class?
 - The RU honor code is in effect for this course. Unless the assignment is a group project, all work you do is expected to be your own. All work pulled from non-course materials must be cited. These rules exist to ensure you are able to complete the course objectives by yourself. If you cannot do this and pass the class, you have harmed yourself and the institution.
 - Classroom conduct: Respect your classmates and the professor. Turn cell phones off, **arrive on time**, no laptop/netbook/tablet usage in class, no loud food / drink, etc...
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Special Assistance

Any student who needs special accommodations because of a disability must contact the instructor during the first week of classes to make arrangements.