CSC 160-02 Fall 2011
Computer Programming for Non-Majors
Prof. A. Wittenstein

Contact Information

Office Location: Post Hall 103 Office Hours: MW 5:30-6:00pm. Other days/times by appointment.
Email: Wittenstein@adelphi.edu Course Web Page: http://www.adelphi.edu/~wi16133/csc160/f11

Class Meetings

MW 4:15-5:30pm, Science 227 (Wed. 8/31 → Mon. 12/12. If we miss any classes, the makeup day is W 12/14.)
*The final exam will be on Wednesday 12/21 from 3:30-5:30pm, also in Science 227.

Course Description

There are no prerequisites, as this course is intended for students with little or no experience in computer programming. It gives students a feel for what programming is like, introduces the process of program development, and introduces the major concepts of programming --- variables, data types, functions, parameters, assignment statements, conditionals, compound data types such as structures, lists, and arrays, and repeating constructs such as loops and recursion.

This is a Science and Mathematics Distribution course in Adelphi's General Education program. It is also a course to prepare students for CSC 171, which is required for the MTH, CSC, and CMIS majors. Although the course has no prerequisites, it is nonetheless hard work.

Learning Goals

- Students will understand the Design Recipe and apply it to writing a Racket computer program.
- Students will be able to test if a Racket computer program is working correctly or not.
- As a Science and Mathematics Distribution course, this course will meet the following Adelphi University General Education Objectives: Communication, Critical and Integrative Thinking, and Quantitative Reasoning.

Texts

--Bloch, Stephen. Picturing Programs: An introduction to computer programming. College Publications, 2010. (ISBN-13: 978-1-84890-015-8)
--Links to additional readings will be provided through Moodle or the class web page.

Attendance

Attendance is required. After four absences, your grade will be lowered by one-third of a grade (e.g., A to A-, A- to B+, etc.). You are also responsible for whatever work is covered in class ***whether or not you are there***. Absence from quizzes, the midterm and the final exam will be excused only for a good and **well-documented** reason. The decision to allow a make-up exam will be made in accordance with the policies of Adelphi University. Please arrive to class *on time*. Also, I will count latenesses (or leaving early) as partial absences.

Course Expectations

Since this course meets for three credit hours per week, it is expected that on average you do at least 3-6 hours of work for this course per week outside of class time. Please budget this time to ensure that homework is completed on time, and that all reading assignments are read *before* the class session covering those sections.

It is known that especially in beginning programming courses, it is of the utmost importance for students to *keep up with the readings and assignments*. Students who fall behind tend to *stay* behind, and either drop or fail. I don't want anybody to drop or fail; if you fear that you're falling behind, please talk to me as *soon* as possible.

For assignments and exams, you are expected to be familiar with, and follow, Adelphi University's Statement on Academic Integrity, which can be viewed on the web at http://academics.adelphi.edu/regulations/undergrad.honorcode.php. Violations of these standards, including (but not limited to) plagiarism of any portion of an assignment or misconduct during quizzes and examinations, will be dealt with in accordance with University regulations and procedures.

Reading Assignments

As is typical of undergraduate courses, lectures will not cover everything you need in order to complete the homework assignments. While the class meetings will highlight the important parts of the material, there will not be time in class to cover all of the material in each reading assignment in detail. Therefore, having access to, *and reading*, the textbooks is an essential component of this course. I do not expect you to understand everything in the reading assignments. I do, however, expect you to ask me questions about anything that you do not fully understand in a reading assignment, either by email, in office hours, or during the lecture covering that material. To benefit most from the reading assignments, they should be read *before* the class session covering those sections.

Required Homework Exercises

In addition to the reading assignments, required homework exercises will be assigned at most class meetings. Required homework exercises are due at the start of class on the Monday of the week after they are assigned, unless announced otherwise, either on paper or through the Moodle Learning System (see below).

All homework assignments are to be submitted on the announced due date either in class or via the Moodle Learning System by 11:55pm. Ten points will be taken off per day (or portion thereof) for late assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted after they have been reviewed in class for any reason.

The first line of every assignment *must* contain a comment indicating the name(s) of the student(s) working on it and which assignment it is. Assignments not containing this information, clearly visible, will get a zero grade.

You are encouraged to discuss general ideas regarding homework problems with your classmates and/or tutors, but you must write up the solutions independently, or in pairs with another classmate from this section of CSC 160. You cannot "pair-off" with the same person more than once during the semester. When I say "pairs", I don't mean that you each do half the questions. I mean that you are both working *together* on *all* of the assignment. When working in pairs, submit one assignment with both names on it.

No credit will be given to assignments that are substantially similar. I will not try to figure out who copied from whom; it is *your* responsibility to not let anyone copy your homework. Among other things, that means don't leave your work on a campus computer, because anyone at Adelphi can copy it and even delete it.

Most of the homework assignments will involve programming. It is your responsibility to make sure you understand the relevant reading assignment before beginning to program. If you have done that and still have difficulty, you need to e-mail me at least 2 days prior to the due date to receive assistance.

I encourage you to ask me questions about homework exercises, by email or during office hours. However, for required homework exercises, I will only give a hint on how to start or where in the textbooks to refer to. I will not solve any required homework exercise for you, prior to collecting it for grading. With that said, I will be glad to fully show you the solution to any exercise that is not a required homework exercise.

In general, I cannot allot class time to the review of graded homework. However, I will post the answers to the required homework exercises on Moodle, within one week after the homework due date. For further review of graded homework, please attend my office hours.

Moodle Learning System

--To access Moodle, log on to your ecampus account then click on the Moodle tab.
--All grades (for assignments, quizzes, and exams) will be posted to Moodle.
--All lecture powerpoint slides, assignments, and assignment solutions, will be posted to Moodle.
--Each assignment on Moodle will include a link to be used to submit the assignment.

Grading

Assignments	30%	Midterm Exam	20%	(Weds. 10/26: 4:15pm-5:30pm, date is tentative)
Quizzes	20%	Final Exam	30%	(Weds. 12/21: 3:30pm-5:30pm)