CS 120 section 73, Winter 2014

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Office Hours: 12:00noon – 12:50pm Mon/Wed/Fri and 11:00am – 11:50am Thurs, or by appointment
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Class Meetings: 12:00noon – 12:50pm Tues/Thurs in 1205 New Science Facility
Course Website: https://educat.nmu.edu

Overview:
This course is an introduction to writing computer programs using Java. Although I assume you have never used a programming language before, you will probably find the course challenging and interesting even if you have.

Prerequisites:
Mathematics Placement recommendation of MA100 or higher, or CS101 or CIS110.

Textbook:
None required, but I have listed some useful E-books and other resources in the course website.

Equipment:
You will need a laptop computer with a web browser and Internet access. You will also need to do some software installs (see “Software installations and your first program” and “Homework 0” in Educat for full details). If for some reason you don’t have a laptop computer, talk to me as soon as you can, since we will be using them for in-class exercises.

Grading:
Grades will be based upon homework assignments, labs, quizzes, and exams. Programming assignments are weighted based on their size and complexity.
30% Homework assignments (mainly programming assignments)
10% Labs (and other in-class exercises)
10% Quizzes
25% Midterm
25% Final

Handing in Programs and Late Policy:
Some work (programming assignments and quizzes) is handed in electronically while other work (labs, worksheets, and exams) is submitted in person. I expect that you aim to hand in programming assignments 3 days before the deadline (you may still revise it as often as you like), as deadlines are strictly enforced. It is your responsibility to pace yourself accordingly. If for some reason you are having trouble handing something in, you can email it to me as an attachment before the deadline.

Exam Dates & Schedule Conflicts:
The midterm and final exams are administered on paper only; no book, no computer, no notes. The midterm exam will be during our regular class meeting on Thursday, February 27. The final exam will be on Thursday, May 1 from 12:00noon until 1:50pm. Any conflicts with the exams (due to religious observances, other coursework, intercollegiate athletics, etc) must be made known to me within the first two weeks of the semester.
Laptop Use:
Most class meetings will be labs, in which your laptop is required. On other days I may need your complete attention, and may require you to close your laptop. You are responsible for keeping your laptop in good working condition and making frequent backups of your work. Note that the helpdesk does not backup your work if they need to fix your laptop (unless you want to pay them a fee), so make frequent backups to hardware external to your laptop before a crisis strikes.

Academic Conduct:
Academic dishonesty of any sort will result in a letter to the Dean of Students, and may include other additional consequences. Every assignment must be written entirely by you. There are only two instances where including program code from elsewhere is acceptable:

- You may include any code that I give out in my lab tutorials and lecture notes, without citation.
- Any other code that you didn’t author must be accompanied with a full citation (this includes people, websites, books, etc.). Indicate clearly which lines of code you didn’t write, and where it came from.

The best way to help others succeed in the course is by discussing and explaining concepts – not by “sharing” code.

Course objectives:
CS 120 is an introductory programming course. It forms the foundation for later CS courses, but it also satisfies Division V liberal studies credit. Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to do the following in the Java programming language:

- Solve programming problems through the use of conditionals, loops, and nested control structures
- Write an instantiable class from scratch
- Write code to call constructors and invoke methods on objects
- Demonstrate an understanding of commonly used operators (logical, arithmetic, and comparison)
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of arrays and their syntax
- Explain how parameters and return values work

Evaluation of these learning outcomes will be done through written assessments (quizzes and/or exams).

Formal Communication Studies Requirement:
This course satisfies the Formal Communication Studies requirement. This course is designed to introduce students to the ways in which information and ideas are expressed using a communication system other than English. Such courses should foster the student's ability to conceptualize and communicate in an orderly, rational manner. Characteristics of a communication system include: 1) possession of a grammar; 2) operation from an established set of rules; 3) reasoning properties such as deduction, inference drawing and problem solving. This includes courses in languages and those in which the central focus of the course is on statistics, computers or formal logic.

Disability Services:
If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Dean of Students Office at 2001 C. B. Hedgecock Building (227-1700). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines.