CS 120 section 3, Fall 2012

Instructor: Michael Kowalczyk
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Office Phone: 227-1600
Office Hours: 11:00am – 11:50am MWR, 2:00pm – 2:50pm R, or by appointment
Email: mkowalcz@nmu.edu
Class Meetings: 12:00noon – 12:50pm MWF in 1205 New Science Facility
Course Home Page: http://cs.nmu.edu/~mkowalcz/cs120

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 resources below – all of them are freely available via either a website, download, or as an E-book through the NMU library:

- *Introduction to Programming Using Java* by David J. Eck, which is available from [http://math.hws.edu/javanotes/](http://math.hws.edu/javanotes/) both as a PDF and as a web-based textbook.
- My lecture notes on Java (from Fall 2008). Go to [http://cs.nmu.edu/~mkowalcz/cs120f08](http://cs.nmu.edu/~mkowalcz/cs120f08) and click away. Anything we cover this semester should be in these notes, although the explanations are a bit terse.
- The Java tutorials, at [http://download.oracle.com/javase/tutorial](http://download.oracle.com/javase/tutorial) - the most relevant sections for this course are accessed through the links “Getting Started” and “Learning the Java Language”.
- *Java for Dummies, 4th edition* by Barry Burd – not a bad book. Also you may want to try *Java All-In-One Reference for Dummies, 2nd edition*, by Doug Lowe and Barry Burd. Both are available as E-books through the NMU library.
- *Java 5: A Beginner’s Tutorial*, by Budi Kurniawan. This one is more geared towards an audience that already has some programming experience. Available as an E-book in the NMU library.

Equipment:
You will need a laptop computer with a web browser and Internet access. You will also need to do some software installs (see the course website). 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, in-class exercises, meaningful participation, quizzes, and exams. Programming assignments are weighted based on their size and complexity.

- 35% Homework assignments (mainly programming assignments)
- 10% In-class exercises
- 5% Participation
- 5% Quizzes
- 20% Midterm
- 25% Final
Handing in Programs and Late Policy:

Programming assignments are handed in electronically. You can hand them in and revise them as often as you like up to the deadline. Once a programming assignment deadline passes, the hand-in directory closes, and no further submissions or revisions will be accepted. I expect that you aim to complete programming assignments 3 days before the deadline. Also remember that it is much better to turn in a partly completed assignment than nothing at all.

Exam Dates & Schedule Conflicts:

The midterm exam will be during our regular class meeting on Thursday, October 11. The final exam will be on Thursday, December 13 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 consist of either lecture or lab. During lecture days, I will need your complete attention, and will need you to close your laptop. On lab days, you will need to bring your laptop for the in-class activity. Using your laptop during class for things not related to the course distracts others and irritates me.

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:

All assignments must be your own work. Any resources used other than my lecture notes must be accompanied with a full citation (this includes people, websites, books, etc.). Students are expected to uphold the student code and work with honesty and integrity. This is important for your future careers. Academic dishonesty of any sort will result in a letter to the Dean of Students, and may include other additional consequences. In particular, plagiarism will result in failure in the course. No exceptions.

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.