Course Instructor

Dr. Janyl Jumadinova
Email: jjumadinova@allegheny.edu
Web Site: https://cs.allegheny.edu/sites/jjumadinova

Instructor’s Office Hours

- Monday: 10:30 am–11:00 am (15 minute time slots)
- Tuesday: 1:00 pm–2:30 pm (15 minute time slots)
- Wednesday: 10:30 am–11:00 am and 3:00 pm–4:30 pm (15 minute time slots)
- Thursday: 1:00 pm–2:30 pm (15 minute time slots)
- Friday: 10:30 am–11:00 am (15 minute time slots)

To schedule a meeting with me during my office hours, please visit my web site and click the “Schedule” link in the top left-side corner. Now, you can browse my office hours or schedule an appointment by clicking the correct link and then reserving an open time slot. Students are also encouraged to post appropriate questions to a channel in Slack, which is available at https://cs101f2020.slack.com/, and monitored by the instructor and the student technical leaders.

Course Meeting Schedule

Lecture, Discussion, and Hands-on Session: Monday and Wednesday 9:10 am–10:00 am
Practical Session: Friday 9:10 am–10:00 am
Laboratory Session: Thursday 3:00 pm–4:50 pm

Course Description

A continuation of CMPSC 100 with an emphasis on implementing, using, and evaluating the computational structures needed to efficiently store and retrieve digital data. Participating in hands-on activities that often require teamwork, students create data structures and algorithms whose correctness and performance they study through proofs and experimentation. Students continue to refine their ability to organize and document a program’s source code so that it effectively communicates with the intended users and maintainers. During a weekly laboratory session, students use state-of-the-art technology to complete projects, reporting on their results through both written documents and oral presentations. Prerequisite: CMPSC 100 or permission of the instructor. Distribution Requirements: QR, SP.
Course Objectives

1. To identify and apply problem solving and computational thinking techniques to data abstraction concepts.

2. To (a) design, (b) implement, (c) evaluate, and (d) analyze algorithms and data structures in an object-oriented programming language.

3. To develop team-working strategies with a diverse range of software developers.

4. To enhance ability to write and present ideas about software in a clear, concise, and compelling fashion.

Performance Objectives

At the completion of this semester, a student should be comfortable with the object-oriented programming paradigm. Additionally, students should be able to handle many of the important, yet accidental, aspects of implementing programs in the Java programming language. For instance, students should be able to use text editors, build systems, automated testing tools, and integrated development environments and understand both the purpose and use of shell environment variables such as the `CLASSPATH`. Students should have a toolkit of data structures that they can use to respond to the challenges that they encounter during the development and analysis of software. Students must have a strong grasp of the basic components of an object-oriented programming language and an ever-deepening knowledge of topics like recursion, searching, and sorting. Along with demonstrating the ability to use both in-person discussions and software tools to collaborate with a group of diverse team members, students should have a knowledge of the analytical and empirical techniques used to measure the performance of algorithms and data structures.

Required Textbook


Students who want more information about Java or project ideas may consult this free book:


Along with reading the required textbook, you may be invited to study additional articles from a wide variety of conference proceedings, scientific journals, and the popular press.

Course Flow

The class members will be broken up into two groups, A and B. Each group will attend one class session per week in-person and use the second class session to engage in asynchronous activities and assessment. Students learning remotely can choose which in-person class session to attend via Zoom. All labs will be held online and students are expected to join the lab session via Zoom unless you have discussed your absence(s) with me. Practical sessions will be live-streamed via Zoom with a small asynchronous component.
Course Policies

Grading

This section of the syllabus will be completed with the input from students.

The grade that a student receives in this class will be based on the following categories. All of these percentages are approximate and, if the need to do so presents itself, it is possible for the course instructor to change the assigned percentages during the academic semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mastery Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The grading categories have the following definitions:

- **Class Participation**: Your participation will take forms such as participating in polls, completing surveys, and engaging with programming-based activities. Participation activities are graded on a credit/no-credit basis and are to be submitted before the start of the next class session. If a student is absent for a valid reason (illness, need to quarantine, personal issues, etc.) communicated to the instructor, the participation activity(ies) for that period will be excused.

- **Mastery Quizzes**: Each week students will be invited to complete a short multiple-choice quiz during the asynchronous portion of the class.
• Midterm Examination: The midterm is a cumulative test covering all of the material from the class, practical, and laboratory sessions, as outlined on the review sheet. This exam is estimated to take one hour to complete and is to be completed within a period of three days of its release on GitHub, and is, therefore, open-book and open-notes.

• Final Examination: The final examination is a take-home cumulative test, as outlined on a review sheet given to students at the end of the academic semester. Students can complete and submit the exam anytime within three days of its release on GitHub. The final exam is estimated to take one hour to complete and it is open-book and open-notes.

• Laboratory Assignments: These assignments invite students to explore different techniques for designing, implementing, evaluating, and documenting software solutions to challenging problems that often have a connection to real-world concerns. Many of the assignments will require students to conduct experiments and collect, analyze, and write about data sets. To best ensure that students are ready to develop software in both other classes at Allegheny and after graduation, students will complete assignments both on an individual basis and in teams. Team-based assignments will be evaluated based on both individual and team effort according to the guidelines established in the course’s Code of Conduct. GatorGrader and Continuous Integration will be used to help students assess their work before submission of the assignment.

• Practical Assignments: Graded on a credit/no-credit basis, these assignments allow students to practice the technical skills that they learned in previous class and laboratory sessions. Instructor will guide the class in starting with the implementation of each practical assignment.

• Final Project: This project will furnish you with the description of a problem and ask you to design, implement, describe and orally present a correct and carefully evaluated solution. Completion of the final project will require you to apply all of the knowledge and skills that you have acquired during the semester to solve a technical problem and, whenever possible, make your solution and results publicly available in a free and open fashion.

Assignment Submission and Evaluation

All assignments will have a stated due date. Electronic versions of the laboratory, practical, and final project assignments must be submitted to a student’s GitHub repository. No credit will be awarded for any course work that is not submitted to your GitHub repository with the required name. Unless specified otherwise, all laboratory assignments must be turned in at the beginning of the session that is one week after the day the assignment was released. If special arrangements arise making it difficult for you to submit any assignment on time, please contact the instructor. One assignment grade chosen by the student from either a class, lab, or a practical assignment, or midterm or a final exam will be dropped at the end of the semester per written request of the student.

Using a report that the instructor shares with you through the commit log in GitHub, you will privately receive a grade for and feedback on each assignment. Your grade will be a function of whether or not you completed correct work and submitted it by the deadline. Other factors (e.g., the quality of your source code and technical writing) will also influence your assignment’s grade.
Illness and In-person Attendance

If you feel ill, please stay in your residence and complete the daily health screening, and err on the side of caution when deciding whether or not to come to class. Especially if you feel feverish or have a cough, please avoid contact with others; if you feel like you’d like to "power through" class rather than miss it and have to make it up, please do so remotely.

Remote Attendance

If you are participating entirely remotely this semester and relying on technology to attend class meetings, occasional technology problems that disrupt your participation will not harm your participation grade, but as with illnesses and family emergencies, chronic absences for this reason will require a more extensive discussion with me and may impact your grade.

In-person Attendance

A mask covering both your mouth and your nose is required for all in-person activities, per College policy; you will not be permitted to enter or stay in a classroom or other learning space without a face covering, and class time missed for this reason may count against your participation grade. Physical distancing must be respected at all times in the classroom. Chairs will be positioned 6 feet apart, and should remain so.

Use of Computer Hardware and Software

You will need to ensure that your laptop is sufficiently charged so that you may participate in class(es). It won’t be possible for all in-person students to charge their devices at once in the classroom, so please make sure you bring the power cord(s) for your devices to class, pack a power strip if you have multiple devices, and pay attention to the power meter on your device.

Although the instructor and the student technical leaders will support you in the configuration of your own development workstation, it is the responsibility of each enrolled student to download and install the required software. Please schedule a meeting with the instructor if you are struggling with these tasks.

Recording Policy (prepared by Campus Life and Community Standards Committee)

In remote teaching and learning contexts, there is an understanding that instructors (including faculty, coaches, staff, and facilitators) have the right to record class and discussion proceedings. All other participants must request permission of the instructor in advance before making any additional recordings. An instructor’s pre-recorded material, including lectures and class notes, may not be shared with anyone outside of the course’s current enrollment without the consent of the instructor. Similarly, under no circumstances may a recording, still, screenshot, picture, or any other media of any sort be altered or circulated by anyone outside of its original intent. No content may be distributed outside the circle of participants without the consent of all who appear or are heard. The college community is reminded of Allegheny College’s Recording Policy, outlined in 9.8 of the Faculty Handbook, as well as Allegheny’s Statement of Community. Violations will be referred to the Student Conduct system. Classes may also be recorded if approved as an educational accommodation through the Office of Student Disability Services. Faculty are further reminded that recordings of class activities are educational records protected under FERPA. While students do not have a right to be anonymous in a class in which they are enrolled, they have the legal right to be anonymous to third parties. Please direct questions about FERPA to the Registrar.
Class Preparation

In order to minimize confusion and maximize learning, students must invest time to prepare for the class discussions, lectures, and practical sessions. During the class periods, the course instructor will often pose challenging questions that could require group discussion, the creation of a program or data set, a vote on a thought-provoking issue, or a group presentation. Only students who have prepared for class by reading the assigned material and reviewing the current laboratory and practical assignments will be able to effectively participate in these discussions.

More importantly, only prepared students will be able to acquire the knowledge and skills that they need to be successful in this course, subsequent courses, and the field of computer science. In order to help students remain organized and to effectively prepare for classes, the course instructor will maintain a class schedule with reading assignments and presentation slides. During the class sessions students will also be required to download, use, and modify programs and data sets that are made available through means such as the course web site and a GitHub repository.

Seeking Assistance

Students who are struggling to understand the knowledge and skills developed in a class, laboratory, or practical session are encouraged to seek assistance from the course instructor or one of the student technical leaders. Throughout the semester, students should, within the bounds of the Honor Code, ask and answer questions on the course’s Slack workspace. To ensure a suitable response, please request assistance from the instructor or technical leaders first through Slack before sending an email. Students who need the course instructor’s assistance must schedule a meeting through his web site and attend the meeting with all of the details needed to discuss their question.

Academic Integrity

Allegheny College operates under an Honor Code, to which all students are subject. See The Compass: Student Handbook. You should educate yourself appropriately as to how this applies to you. Plagiarism and other forms of intellectual dishonesty will not be tolerated.

It is understood that an important part of the learning process in any course, and particularly one in computer science, derives from thoughtful discussions with teachers and fellow students. Such dialogue is encouraged. However, it is necessary to distinguish carefully between the student who discusses the principles underlying a problem with others and the student who produces assignments that are identical to, or merely variations on, someone else’s work. While it is acceptable for students in this class to discuss their programs, data sets, and reports with their classmates, deliverables that are nearly identical to the work of others will be taken as evidence of violating the Honor Code.

Religious Accommodations

If you need to miss class or reschedule a final examination due to a religious observance, please speak to the professor well in advance to make arrangements. See http://sites.alleghehy.edu/religiouslife/religious-holy-days/.

Disability Services

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services at (814) 332-2898. Disability Services is located in Pelletier Library. Please do this as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
Learning Commons

If you are not already, you should become familiar with the Learning Commons, located in Pelletier Library (http://sites.allegheny.edu/learningcommons/). Among other things, the staff at the Learning Commons can assist you with study and time management skills, writing, and critical reading. You should know that if you are having trouble in this class, or if I think you can specifically benefit from their services, I will refer you to the Learning Commons. Experienced peer writing and speech consultants in the Learning Commons help writers and speakers to determine strategies for effective communication and to make academically responsible choices at any stage in the writing or speaking process and on assignments in any discipline. Both appointments and drop-in sessions are available. To view the hours of operation, and to make an appointment, visit the Learning Commons website.

Statement of Community

Allegheny students and employees are committed to creating an inclusive, respectful and safe residential learning community that will actively confront and challenge racism, sexism, heterosexism, religious bigotry, and other forms of harassment and discrimination. We encourage individual growth by promoting a free exchange of ideas in a setting that values diversity, trust and equality. So that the right of all to participate in a shared learning experience is upheld, Allegheny affirms its commitment to the principles of freedom of speech and inquiry, while at the same time fostering responsibility and accountability in the exercise of these freedoms.

Welcome to an Adventure in Computer Science

Software is a pervasive aspect of our society that changes how we think and act. Efficient and correct software has the potential to positively influence the lives of many people. Moreover, the design, implementation, testing, and evaluation of software are exciting and rewarding activities! I invite you to pursue with me this adventure in algorithms and data structures.