Contents

1 Course Information

1.1 Website

https://www.cs.umb.edu/~siyer/teaching/cs110/

1.2 Catalog Description

An introduction to computer programming – the concepts involved in using a high-level language and the program development process. The goal of this course is proficiency in the design and implementation of programs of significant size and complexity. This course is quite demanding because of the length of the programming exercises assigned. This is the first course in the computer science major sequence.

Prerequisites: Math 140 credits or placement; or Math 130 with a B or higher in the previous semester; or permission of the instructor.

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to tackle computational challenges that they might encounter later in their careers. Students interested in computer science will be well-prepared to delve deeper into the field and students in science and engineering will be able to incorporate computation into their studies.

1.3 Staff

Swami Iyer will be the primary instructor for the course. He will be assisted by graduate teaching assistants (TAs), undergraduate/graduate course assistants (CAs), and an undergraduate supplemental instruction (SI) leader.

1.4 Meetings

1.4.1 Lecture

There will be two lectures per week. In each lecture, the instructor will present the material for that lecture. Roughly once a week, the instructor will also conduct an online quiz on recently covered material.

1.4.2 Discussion

Starting from the second week, there will be one discussion per week. The focus of the discussion for a particular week will be the current assignment. The teaching assistant (TA) will walk you through the assignment problems systematically. The TA will also answer any specific questions you may have about the assignment or the course material in general. You may also seek help from the course assistant (CA) who will be assisting the TA during the discussions. The discussions will be worthwhile only if you go to the sessions having read the assignment writeup thoroughly and have at least a moderate understanding of the problems involved. The TA/CA will assume that you have done the reading in advance.

1.4.3 Supplemental Instruction

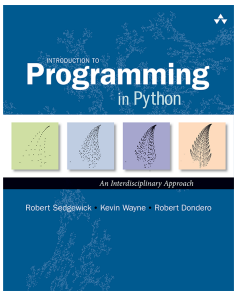
As part of the College of Science and Mathematics Freshman Success Program, supplemental instruction (SI) is available to all CS110 students free of charge. The SI sessions will also start from the second week. The focus of the sessions for a particular week will be the material covered in class during the previous week. The SI leader will walk you through the relevant lecture slides and work out exercises. In addition, the SI leader will answer any specific questions you may have about the current assignment or the course material in general. The SI sessions are optional, but highly recommended, especially if you feel like you are falling behind in the course. You may attend as few or as many sessions as you like. You will receive extra points for attending the sessions (see the Grading Scheme section below for details).

1.4.4 Tutoring

One-on-one tutoring for this course is available through the Tutoring Programs.

1.5 Study Material

For each topic covered, you will have access to lecture slides (in HTML/PDF formats) and exercises with solutions. The materials for chapters 2 - 5 are based on the following optional text:



Introduction to Programming in Python: An Interdisciplinary Approach by Robert Sedgewick, Kevin Wayne, and Robert Dondero

This text offers an excellent introduction to computing principles, motivating each principle by examining its impact on specific applications drawn from fields ranging from materials science to genomics to astrophysics to internet commerce.

1.6 Grading Scheme

1.6.1 Assessments

Item	% of Final Grade
Programming Assignments (best 5 out of 6)	20
Exams (3)	75
Participation	5

- The goal of the programming assignments is to make sure that you can use the concepts learned in class to solve interesting computational problems.
- The three closed-book exams will test your understanding of the material covered in class as well as concepts from the programming assignments. Each exam will take place during a lecture period and will include multiple-choise/short-answer problems (60%) and coding problems (40%).
- Your participation score will be based on weekly in-class quizzes (2.5%) and discussion attendance (2.5%). Only your top 10 quiz scores and your attendance in 10 discussion sessions will be used to calculate your participation score.
- If you score at least 83% (B) on each exam, the highest score will be considered as your exam average. For example, if your exam scores are 88, 95, and 83, your average exam score will be 95.
- You can earn up to 2% extra points for attending the SI sessions. Your SI score will be calculated as $\frac{a(e_1+e_2+e_3)}{150n}$, where a is the number of unique sessions you attended (attending multiple sessions in a week just counts as one), n is the number of unique sessions held, and e_1, e_2, and e_3 are your Exam 1, Exam 2, and Exam 3 scores, respectively. For example, if $a = 10, n = 12, e_1 = 88$, $e_2 = 95$, and $e_3 = 83$, the SI score is 1.48%.
- You will receive 0.01x% extra points if x% of the class completes the end-of-semester course evaluation.
- Your overall percentage score will be rounded up.

1.6.2 % Score to Letter Grade

`[93, 100]: A, [90, 93): A-, [87, 90): B+, [83, 87): B, [80, 83): B-, [77, 80): C+, [73, 77): C, [70, 73): C-, [67, 70): D+, [63, 67): D, [60, 63): D-, [0, 60): F`

1.7 Software Needed

1.7.1 Piazza

We will use Piazza as the Q&A platform for the course. If you have any general questions about the assignments, exams, or the lecture material, the most effective way to get them answered is by posting them on Piazza. You can expect your questions to be answered by the course staff or your peers.

1.7.2 Gradescope

We will use Gradescope to grade the in-class quizzes, programming assignments, and exams.

1.7.3 Programming Environment

To write and execute Python programs in this course, you will need access to a desktop/laptop computer (Linux, Mac, or Windows) that is properly configured with the necessary software. Click here for setup instructions.

1.7.4 Zoom

We will use Zoom for all remote meetings.

1.8 Linux Lab

The desktop computers in the Linux Lab (`M-3-0731`) are set up with the programming environment for the course. To use these computers, you must have a CS Account, which you can obtain by visiting the Computer Science Portal. If you are not a member already, you need to first register for a portal account. Once you have the portal account, sign into the portal and select your courses for the semester. You will be notified via your UMB email once your account is created/activated for the semester.

Lab Hours: `Mon - Thu 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM` and `Fri 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM`. To access the lab outside of those times, you must call Public Safety.

Note: The computers in the Linux Lab do not support roaming profiles, which means your data on each computer is local to that computer.

1.9 Policies

1.9.1 Classroom

Come to lecture/discussion on time and stay for the entire session. If you have to leave early, let the instructor/TA know in advance. Have your mobile phone silenced or turned off during the entire session. Use of earphones/headphones during the session is not permitted. Laptops may be used during the session, but only for class purposes. Do not talk to each other during the session. If you have any questions, bring them up to the instructor/TA.

1.9.2 Piazza

If you have a question, first make sure that it has not already been asked/answered. Clearer questions get better answers, so re-read your question before you post it. Ask your questions early. Posts are categorized using tags, so pick an appropriate tag for your post. Use the platform only for questions that can be asked in a general way, without sharing code or other assignment-related work. However, if you are stuck on a problem despite your valiant efforts to solve it, you may seek help from the course staff by posting your code privately, as properly formatted text (not images). Any post that is inappropriate or violates the academic honesty code will be deleted by the course staff.

1.9.3 Makeup Exam

You must provide appropriate documentation if you were/are unable to take an exam on the scheduled date and want to arrange a makeup. The documentation must be a letter from the Dean of Students if the type of your absence is among those listed on their website. For other types of absences, the supporting documentation must be emailed to the instructor directly.

Note: There will be no makeup of missed quizzes.

1.9.4 Assignment Deadline

Assignment deadlines are firm — late submissions will not be accepted. The only exception to this policy is if you have been granted extended time on assignments through the Ross Center (see the section on accommodations below), in which case you are allowed a 24-hour extension per assignment. To avail this extension, you must email me at least 48 hours prior to the assignment deadline.

1.9.5 Regrade Request

If you have any concerns about the grading of a particular quiz/assignment/exam, you may submit a regrade request via Gradescope. You must submit the request within a week from the date the quiz/assignment/exam grades are published, or else your request will be turned down.

1.9.6 Collaboration

Click here for the collaboration policy and penalties for infractions of the policy.

1.9.7 Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 offers guidelines for curriculum modifications and adaptations for students with documented disabilities. If applicable, students may obtain adaptation recommendations from the Ross Center for Disability Services. The student must present these recommendations and discuss them with the instructor within a reasonable period, preferably by the end of Add/Drop period.

1.9.8 Campus Closure

In the event of a campus closure, all activities will be conducted remotely, via Zoom. If there is an exam scheduled to take place on that day, the exam will be postponed to the next suitable date.

2 Topics Covered

- Course Mechanics *[Lecture 1]*
- Programming Environment *[Lecture 1]*
- Chapter 1: Building a Computer
  - Representing Information *[Lecture 2]*
  - Logic Circuits *[Lecture 3]*
  - Von Neumann Architecture *[Lecture 3]*
- Chapter 2: Imperative Programming
  - Your First Programs *[Lecture 4]*
  - Basic Data Types *[Lecture 5]*
  - Control Flow *[Lecture 6 and 7]*
  - Collection Data Types *[Lecture 8 and 9]*
  - Input and Output *[Lecture 10 and 11]*
- Chapter 3: Procedural Programming
  - Defining Functions *[Lecture 12 and 13]*
  - Libraries and Applications *[Lecture 14 and 15]*
  - Recursion *[Lecture 16]*

- Chapter 4: Object-oriented Programming
  - Using Data Types *[Lecture 17 and 18]*
  - Defining Data Types *[Lecture 19 and 20]*
  - Design Principles *[Lecture 21 and 22]*
- Chapter 5: Algorithms and Data Structures
  - Analysis of Algorithms *[Lecture 23]*
  - Searching and Sorting *[Lecture 24 and 25]*
  - Basic Data Structures *[Lecture 26]*

3 Assignments

3.1 The List

There are 6 programming assignments in all. These are due at midnight (11:59 PM to be precise) on the dates indicated on the Calendar page of the course website.

#	Title	Goal
1	Straight-line Programs	Implement programs *without* branches and loops.
2	Control-flow Programs	Implement programs *with* branches and loops.
3	Mozart Waltz Generator	Implement Mozart's waltz game by writing programs to generate a two-part waltz.
4	RSA Cryptosystem	Implement the RSA public-key cryptosystem.
5	Atomic Nature of Matter	Re-affirm the atomic nature of matter by tracking the motion of particles undergoing Brownian motion, fitting this data to Einstein's model, and estimating Avogadro's constant.
6	Markov Model	Use a Markov chain to create a statistical model from an English text corpus and use the model to generate stylized pseudo-random text and decode noisy messages.

3.2 Submitting Your Work

You will use Gradescope to submit your Python programs (ie, `.py` files) and the `notes.txt` file. Make sure that you only submit files listed under the Files to Submit section of the assignment writeup.

You may submit your files as many times as you like up until the assignment deadline. The most recent submission is considered active by default and your score on the active submission is your official score for the assignment as well. You have the option of making any of your previous submissions active before the deadline.

Note: It is your responsibility to make sure that your active submission contains the correct versions of the programs and the notes file, ie, the ones that you worked on and intended to submit. We will not entertain any requests to switch/update an active submission.

3.3 How the Assignments will be Scored

3.3.1 Correctness

Your solution for each exercise/problem will be evaluated for correctness by an autograder. Each test that is used for this purpose is worth some number of points; your solution will receive all the points from a test that passes and 0 points from a test that does not.

3.3.2 Code Quality

Your solution for each problem will additionally be checked by the TA for code quality. The TA will apply one or more of the following rubrics (#1 carries no penalty, but the rest do) to your solution:

1. **All good:** your solution passes all the autograder tests, is well formatted/organized, uses meaningful variable names following proper naming conventions, includes useful comments, meets specific efficiency requirements (if any), and only uses concepts that are allowed by the assignment/course.
2. **Fails some autograder tests:** your solution does not pass all the autograder tests.
3. **Poorly formatted/organized:** your solution is not properly formatted/organized, ie, is messy/unreadable.
4. **Poor/unconventional variable names:** your solution does not use meaningful variable names (ie, names relevant to the problem) or does not follow proper variable naming conventions.
5. **Lacks useful comments:** your solution does not include any comments or is commented just for the sake of commenting (ie, they say the obvious and are not useful to someone reading your code).
6. **Does not meet efficiency requirements, if any:** your solution does not satisfy specific efficiency (ie, space and time complexity) requirements, if any.
7. **Uses concepts that are not covered/allowed:** your solution uses concepts that are not allowed by the assignment/course.
8. **No working code submitted:** you did not submit any solution or your solution did not pass any of the autograder tests.

3.3.3 Notes File

The given `notes.txt` file for an assignment must be uploaded with the three sections (#1 mandatory, #2 if applicable, and #3 optional) filled in as appropriate. In section #1, for each problem, you must describe your approach along with any issues you encountered and if/how you managed to solve those issues. The TA will grade your notes for each problem by applying exactly one of the following rubrics (#1 carries no penalty, but the rest do):

1. **Excellent:** solid, high-level (ie, with minimal jargon) description that demonstrates a solid understanding of the problem and the implemented solution.
2. **Good:** bit too technical (ie, reads more like code than prose) but otherwise demonstrates a clear grasp of the problem.
3. **Average:** lacks important details suggesting gaps in the comprehension of the problem.
4. **Poor:** too short or vague suggesting very little to no understanding of the problem.
5. **Very poor:** empty or simply a rehash of the directions provided in the discussion document.