CSC241-404 Introduction to Computer Science I
Syllabus for Fall 2016

Corin Pitcher

1 September 2016

An introduction to problem solving, algorithms and structured programming using a higher-level programming language. The course will focus on skills for developing algorithms, and for writing and debugging programs. Students will learn how and when to use loops, conditionals, and functional abstractions in the context of problems motivated by real world applications.

Times

The course meets on Monday and Wednesday at 1:30pm-3:00pm from Sep 7, 2016 to Nov 21, 2016 in 14 E Jackson, Room 512.

In addition, there are lab sessions meeting on Tuesday at 11:50am-1:20pm from Sep 13, 2016 to Nov 15, 2016 with TA Brenda Maya in 243 S Wabash Ave, CDM 634.

Instructor Information

- **Instructor** Dr. Corin Pitcher
- **Teaching Assistant (TA)** Brenda Maya
- **Loop Office** 835, CDM Building, 243 S. Wabash Avenue
- **Contact** `cpitcher@cs.depaul.edu` or +1 312 362 5248
- **Instructor's Homepage**
  `http://fpl.cs.depaul.edu/cpitcher/`
- **Course's Homepage**
  `http://fpl.cs.depaul.edu/cpitcher/courses/csc241/`
  (for course schedule, lecture slides/handouts, lab assignments, homework, reading schedules, examples)
- **LMS Homepage**
  `http://d2l.depaul.edu`
  (for discussion forum, homework submission, and grades)
- **Office Hours** : `http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/about/Pages/People/facultyinfo.aspx?fid=104`

Attending Office Hours and Discussion Forum

My office hours are held in room 835 of the CDM building. I am available during office hours in person, by phone, or by e-mail. Since students may be present in person during those hours, it is possible that there will be some delay before I respond to email or phone calls. I recommend that you send an email rather than leaving a phone message so as to avoid phone tag.

Please make use of my office hours! Asking questions about the assessments, class notes, labs, or the readings can improve your understanding enormously. It will also let me know if I need to review a topic with the class.

We will also use a discussion forum on Desire2Learn (D2L). I strongly recommend that you try discussing course material there, both with me and with your peers, because using forums is a very common way to solve programming problems.

CodeLab

We use CodeLab for this course, which can be found at `http://www.turingscraft.com/`.

There is a page that provides information about logging into CodeLab and using the site for assignments that can be found on the course schedule page. Please make sure that you review it.

NOTE There is an additional fee for the use of CodeLab.

Prerequisites

If you are not sure that you have satisfied the prerequisites, speak to the instructor before the second lecture.

- **Precalculus** (MAT 130) or Mathematics Diagnostic Test placement into **Discrete Mathematics I** (MAT 140).

Textbooks

There is one required textbook:

- *Introduction to Computing Using Python, 2nd Edition* by Ljubomir Perković, 2nd edition. Published by Wiley.
  https://www.vitalsource.com/referral?term=9781118891056.

  NOTE purchase the ebook (electronic book) version not the print book, because the ebook version contains case studies that not freely available for the print book version.

Course Topics and Learning Goals

This course is the first of a two-course sequence introducing computer science. The focus of the course is on problem solving, algorithm development, and structured and object-oriented programming using Python and the Python API (application programming interface), all in the context of building computer applications.

In the first course we will focus on structured programming and learn how and when to use conditionals, loops, and functional and modular abstractions.

After you have taken this class:

- You will have stronger analytic skills.
- You will know how to develop algorithmic solutions for basic computational problems.
- You will understand fundamental programming structures such as expressions, assignments, decision and iteration structures, functions and modules.
- You will have basic Python programming skills.
- You will be prepared for the second course in the sequence, CSC 242: Introduction to Computer Science II.

Assessment

The course grade will be based on:

Item	**Weight**
Lab attendance and exercises	10%
Homework assignments	25%
Midterm exam	32%
Final exam	33%

In order to do well in this class, you must attend the class sessions and labs regularly, participate in class discussions, read the chapters in the book as indicated in the homework assignment, start work on the assignments early, and ask questions early and often. Your answers to the programming assignment and the lab and exam questions should be written in a way that is rigorous, clear, and concise.

Lab Attendance and Exercises

Each week you will have a lab session conducted by the Teaching Assistant. Your attendance at the lab session and completion of lab exercises is required, and it will count for the portion of the grade indicated above. No late lab submissions are accepted for any reason. Your lowest lab score will be dropped in the calculation of your course grade.

Homework Assignments

Each week you will have a programming assignment. You can consult with your homework partners, the lab assistant, the instructor, and the CDM tutors on the programming assignments, but you may not under any circumstances submit code that you have not helped to write nor may you consult anyone beyond those specified when completing your assignments. Each programming assignment will have a posted deadline, specified on the course schedule. No late assignments are accepted for any reason. Your lowest assignment score will be dropped in the calculation of your course grade.

Midterm and Final Exams

The midterm and final exams will be cumulative. The dates of the exams are on the course schedule page. Both exams will be conducted in a lab and will require you to write Python code.

Make-up exams will not be given. If you wish to petition for a make-up exam, you must notify me in advance and provide documented evidence of the emergency that will cause you to miss the exam. Failure to contact me in advance of the exam date and time will disqualify you from being allowed to take a make-up exam. If a make-up exam is granted, it will be of a form of my choosing.

Other Policies

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class.

Attendance

1. Students are expected to attend class and the lab sessions.
2. Students are expected to read the class discussions on D2L in a timely fashion. It is strongly recommended that you sign up for email notification of new messages.
3. The midterm exam and final exam dates are posted on the schedule on the course homepage. You must attend the midterm and final exams. A medical note will be required for an absence. Business trips or vacations are not valid reasons for missing the exam.

Homework

1. Students must keep backup copies of all submitted homework.
2. Students must verify that homework has been submitted correctly, i.e., download the submitted version and check that it is the one you intended to submit. NOTE: the Desire2Learn interface requires confirmation of the homework submission after the file has been uploaded.
3. Homework submissions are usually due before class. **Late submissions will not be accepted at all because each assignment is discussed in class.**
4. Homework submissions must be submitted on D2L's DropBox. **Email submissions will not be accepted at all.**

Expectations

1. Students must keep up with the assigned textbook reading.
2. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic.

3. All electronic interactions are an extension of the classroom and should be treated as such. While disagreement can be part of the discourse, online communication should remain respectful and appropriate rather than demeaning and/or unprofessional.

4. Classroom use of a laptop or tablet must normally be restricted to class-related tasks such as note taking, checking references, testing code examples, etc.

Retro-Active Withdrawal

CDM understands certain extenuating circumstances can hinder one's ability for academic success and completion of course work. Please see http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Enrollment-Policies.aspx for additional information.

Absence Notifications

In order to petition for an excused absence, students who miss class due to illness or significant personal circumstances should complete the Absence Notification process through the Dean of Students office. The form can be accessed at http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/dos/academicprocesses.html. Students must submit supporting documentation alongside the form. The professor reserves the sole right whether to offer an excused absence and/or academic accommodations for an excused absence.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

Plagiarism involves the presentation of the work of another as one's own. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following: the direct copying of any source, such as written and verbal material, in whole or part, without proper acknowledgment that it is someone else's; copying of any source in whole or part with only minor changes in wording or syntax, even with acknowledgment; submitting as one's own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report or other assignment that has been prepared by someone else (including research papers purchased from any other person or agency); the paraphrasing of another's work or ideas without proper acknowledgment; working so closely with another person so as to produce identical code.

The use of others' web/publication content (text, code) is regarded as plagiarism if credit is not given (see the above description of plagiarism). When you directly quote someone's work, you must put it in quotation marks. Without such quotations and reference, it is regarded as an act of plagiarism (see the above description of plagiarism). Using materials that the student prepared for other purposes (e.g., for another course or for his/her work) needs the course instructor's prior permission.

A charge of cheating and/or plagiarism is a serious matter. It can result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion.

Academic Policies

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: http://cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment

Incomplete Grades

An incomplete grade is defined in the Student Handbook as follows (note that the policy in the undergraduate student handbook applies to both undergraduate and graduate students): A temporary grade indicating that the student has a satisfactory record in work completed, but for unusual or unforeseeable circumstances not encountered by other students in the class and acceptable to the instructor is prevented from completing the course requirements by the end of the term. Please see http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx for additional information.

Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu

- Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.
- Phone number: 312 362 8002
- TTY: 773 325 7296

Dean of Students' Office

The Dean of Students' Office (DOS) helps students navigate the college experience, particularly during difficulty situations such as personal, financial, medical, and/or family crises. For a list of support services and advocacy information, please visit http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/dos/.

Online Course Evaluations

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in CampusConnect.