

# CSC 241 – 503: Introduction to Computer Science I

## Instructor

Isuru Godage, Ph.D.

**Office:** 716 CDM

**Office hours:** We 9:30 -10:00 AM. We 11:45AM-12: 45PM

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## Class Hours – Section 503

Mo, We 10:10AM - 11:40AM in Room 819 in 243 S Wabash Ave (CDM building).

## Lab Hours – Section 503L

Mo 11:50 AM – 1:20 PM in Room 819 in 243 S Wabash Ave (CDM building).

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## Course Web Page

This syllabus, as well as the class lecture notes, homework assignments, and other links can be found on D2L. Please check the discussion forum regularly.

## Course Description

This course is the first of a two-course sequence introducing Computer Science and aimed at students with little or no programming experience. The focus of the course sequence is on problem-solving, algorithm development, and structured and object-oriented programming using Python and the Python API (Application Programming Interface) in the context of building computer applications (computational thinking). In this first course, we will focus on structured programming and learn how and when to use loops, conditionals, and functional and modular abstractions to solve variety of practical problems efficiently.

## Course Objectives

- Develop fundamental problem solving and abstract reasoning
- Understand fundamental programming structures such as expressions, assignments, decision and iteration structures, functions, and modules
- Learn basic Python programming skills
- Prepare for the second course in the sequence, CSC242
- Develop a cooperative, comfortable learning environment by minimizing any feelings of inadequacy, particularly for students with less experience and confidence.

## Prerequisites

You must have taken MAT130 or an equivalent high-school/college course covering algebra topics and precalculus. An alternate precondition is a Mathematics Diagnostic Test placement into MAT 140. Students without MAT 130 or equivalent will be encouraged to seek out tutoring (available for free at DePaul University) to make up any missing background.

## Course Format

The course provides the material you will need to understand the fundamental concepts covered during course, including:

- Lectures (twice a week)
- Weekly lab for hands-on programming and problem solving
- Resources such as recorded lecture videos, notes, and code files via D2L
- Homework assignments/Peer grading assignments
- Self-Assessment resources, including lecture questions/answers, and unit quizzes/solutions, to assess your progress and understanding.

## Required Textbook

[Introduction to Computing Using Python: An Application Development Focus \(2<sup>nd</sup> Edition\)](#) by Ljubomir Perkovic, Wiley & Sons, 2015.

## Grades and exams

The course grade is apportioned as follows:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Assignments (including labs, quizzes) | 30% |
| • Midterm exam                          | 30% |
| • Final exam                            | 35% |
| • Participation                         | 5%  |

**Homework:** There will be a total of 8 homework assignments, but only the best 6 counts toward the final grade, so you may miss two homework assignments with no penalty. All homework must be submitted by the deadline and no later. Any homework not handed in by the deadline will receive 0 points, without any exceptions.

**Exams:** Midterm is tentatively scheduled on Wednesday, 02/06, 10:10AM-11:40 AM; the final exam will take place on Wednesday, 03/20, 8:30AM-10:45AM in room 819, 243 S. Wabash Ave. No make-up exams.

## The grading rubric for normalized marks:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+
95-100	91-94	88-90	85-87	81-84	77-80
C	C-	D+	D	F	I
73-76	69-72	65-68	61-64	0-60	*

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**\* Incomplete:** An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a severe illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final and approved by the Dean of CDM. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

**To do well in this course:** Attend the class and the labs, participate in discussions, read the chapters in the books each week as indicated in the homework assignment, start working on the homework early, and talk to the instructor promptly if you have any problems. Write the answers to the homework and exam questions in a rigorous, clear, and concise way.

## Policies

### Lateness and Absence

No late homework or lab will be accepted. If you do not hand in a homework/lab in time, you will receive 0 points for the homework/lab. Midterm and final exams makeups must be arranged at least one week in advance, barring extreme situations.

### Deadlines for adds, drops, and withdraws

See the deadlines in

<https://offices.depaul.edu/oa/academic-calendar/Pages/full-year-2017-2018.aspx>.

### 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, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

### 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. They are a requirement of the course and are critical to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. 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 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](#).

## Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy; the following is an excerpt from the policy. More information is available at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with the instructor.

## Academic Policies

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term by the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading, and incompletes is available at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>

## Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor in private as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), to discuss their specific needs, and make sure that you have contacted the [Center for Students with Disabilities \(CSD\)](#). All discussions will remain confidential.

## Course Schedule & Objectives

The rough weekly schedule is as follows:

- Week 1:
  - *Introduction to computer science*
  - *Fundamental Python data types (Ch 2)*
- Week 2:
  - *Basic execution control structures, functions (Ch 3)*
- Week 3:
  - *Input/output*
  - *Files*
  - *Exceptions (Ch 4)*
- Week 4:
  - *Execution control structures I (Ch 5)*
- Week 5:
  - *Execution control structures II (Ch 5)*
  - **Mid-term (02/06: 10:10AM-11:40AM)**
- Week 6:
  - *Execution control structures III (Ch 5)*
- Week 7:
  - *Algorithm development (Ch 5)*
- Week 8:
  - *More collection data types (Ch 6)*
- Week 9:
  - *Namespaces (Ch 7)*
- Week 10
  - *Problem-solving*
- Week 11
  - **Final exam (03/20: 8:30AM-10:45AM)**