

CSC241 Syllabus – Introduction to Computer Science I–Winter24

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Class Number	25146 (Section 502), 25147 (Section 502L)	Class time	Tu Th 10:10 - 11:40 AM (Section 502)
Class Location	CDM Center 819 Loop Campus	Lab time	Th 11:50 - 1:20 PM (Section 502L)

Office Hours: Tu Th 2:00-4:00 PM or other time (in-person or online) by appointment.

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

At the end of this course:

1. You will have basic Python programming skills.
2. You will understand fundamental programming structures such as expressions, assignments, decision and iteration structures, functions, and modules.
3. You will be able to design, implement, and test simple programs in Python, involving decision and iteration structures, modules and functions, strings and lists.
4. You will be able to articulate orally and in writing the basic functionalities of Python's fundamental constructs.
5. You will know how to design algorithmic solutions for simple problems.
6. You will have stronger problem-solving skills.
7. You will be prepared for the second course in the Python sequence, CSC 242: Introduction to Computer Science II

PREREQUISITE(S): Ordinarily the prerequisite for this class is MAT 130: Precalculus or an equivalent high-school or college course covering algebra and precalculus.

Optional eBook: Ljubomir Perković, John Wiley & Sons, 2015 – Introduction to Computing using Python. Second Edition - eBook- Wiley 2015. ISBN 978-1-118-89105-6

Labs Exercises

- Each week you will attend a 90-minute lab session led by our lab TA.
- You need to attend each session in person every Thursday 11:50 am - 1:20 pm.
- You are encouraged to work collaboratively during the class/lab sessions.
- All programming labs *.py files* must be electronically submitted on D2L, using the submissions folders.
- Every Thursday you will have lab exercises available at 11:50 am and due at 11:59 pm on the same day.
- Lab submissions are accepted up to 12 hours after the deadline for partial credit (15% penalty).

Programming Assignments

- Each programming assignment will have a specified deadline, as indicated in the assignment details. These programming assignments will progressively increase in complexity throughout the term. Please budget your time appropriately.
- Programming assignments (*.py file*) must be submitted electronically on D2L, using the submissions area.
- Only programming assignments submitted on D2L will be graded. Please do not email programming assignments to your instructor.
- Assignment submissions are accepted up to 12 hours after the deadline for partial credit (15% penalty).
- Programming assignments are designed as INDIVIDUAL challenges. While collaborative work during the class or lab is encouraged, you must complete programming assignments **ON YOUR OWN**. Programming assignments are your opportunity to show your individual progress in the course.
- All Programming assignments are designed so that you must be able to complete them with a thorough knowledge of the material covered in class, in the activities, and the lab. If you submit solutions that include methods not covered in class or the lab, then **the instructor reserves the right to ask questions and explanations about these methods orally, in person to detail the methods from the student.**

- If you can find code written by someone else online or using any AI tool, your instructor can too. Utilizing someone else's code or AI written code in one of your assignments is a plagiarism offense which will be punished according to the Academic Integrity policy of the University.

Online Quizzes

- Each week you need to complete a multiple-choice quiz online.
- For each quiz, *two attempts* are allowed.
- Your final quiz grade will be determined by the highest score achieved in two attempts.
- Quizzes will be posted on D2L every Thursday at 11:59 AM and due every Monday at 11:59 PM.

Midterm and Final Exams

The midterm and final exams will be cumulative. The midterm exam will take place on **February**, from 10:10 AM to 11:40 AM. The final exam will take place on **Thursday, March 21st**, from 8:30 AM to 10:45 AM.

IMPORTANT: No make-up exams will be given. If **exceptional** circumstances prevent you from being available at the specified day and time for the midterm or the final exam, you should notify me at least 48 hours before the exam to arrange a make-up exam and provide written documentation of the emergency. Note that rescheduling (with a convincing excuse) the final exam requires the approval of the registrar's office. Failure to do so will result in 0 points for the exam. If you do not take both the midterm and final exams, you will automatically receive a grade of F for the course.

Grade Distribution over Required Coursework

Task	% of final grade
Quizzes	10 %
Programming Assignments	15 %
Lab Exercises	15 %
Midterm exams	25 %
Final exam	35 %
Total	100 %

Final grades will be calculated as follows: points earned divided by possible points in each category will be multiplied by the contribution percentages shown to yield a total course percentage score between 0% and 100%. Letter grades will be assigned as:

A = 90% - 100%	A- = 88% - 90%	B+ = 86%-88%	B = 80% - 86%	B- = 78% - 80%	
C+ = 76% - 78%	C = 70% - 76%	C- = 68% - 70%	D+ = 66% - 68%	D = 60% - 66%	F = 0% - 60%

Course Policies:

Desire To Learn (D2L): The course relies heavily on **Desire To Learn (D2L)**. To reach D2L logon at <https://d2l.depaul.edu> using your Campus Connection ID and password. This is the place where you will find all necessary material, assignments, Labs, videos, and exams.

Please note that D2L utilizes **exclusively** your @depaul.edu email address to communicate with you. For you to be successful in this class **it is IMPERATIVE that you regularly check your @depaul.edu email or properly forward this address to your preferred address**. Note that **January 19** is the last date to drop the class with no penalty.

Regarding Email Communication: Please begin the subject line of any email to me with “**CSC 241**”, so that I can easily identify course-related messages. I will reply to email messages within 48 hours after I receive them; therefore, questions that are only received by me on an assignment's due date are not guaranteed replies before the assignment is due. Please plan accordingly and begin the assignments early enough to ask questions and receive answers. If you are having problems, send me a detailed description of the problems you are having and attach your **.py file** (do not attach screenshots). I will guide you in locating and solving your problems yourself, rather than simply solve your problems for you. Please do not use the comment field of the assignment submission system to send me questions.

Regarding the D2L Discussion Forum: You can use the D2L discussion forum to ask/answer questions or post comments about the course content -- assignments, labs, links, tools, course navigation, or any challenges that you face in this course. Feel free to help each other by answering the questions or providing guidance.

Incomplete: An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious 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 the Jarvis College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered valid reasons for such a request. Students must have been making adequate progress in the class prior to the emergency to be eligible to apply.

School Policies:

Preferred Name & Gender Pronouns: Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in university-related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by university business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at: <https://offices.depaul.edu/secretary/policies-procedures/Pages/default.aspx>.

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://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>

Regarding Academic Integrity: This course will be subject to DePaul's Academic Integrity policy. You can find helpful information and plenty of resources on the [Academic Integrity site](#). The university policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course, as well as all other courses in which independent code writing, research, or writing play a vital part in the course requirements, should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as their own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report, or other assignment that has been prepared by someone else or AI tools. There is a "zero-tolerance policy" regarding plagiarism. This stands for both the plagiarizer and the person(s) facilitating plagiarism (e.g., allowing someone to plagiarize their work). There's a great resource put together by DePaul University, which you can find [here](#).

Mental health and academic assistance: Balancing the hard work of achieving your educational goals with the other demands of life is difficult at the best of times. For many of us, for a variety of reasons, things are more difficult now. I want to make sure you feel comfortable reaching out to me for support. The university also has great resources just a phone call or email away. These have been created and maintained for you, so use them:

- DePaul University Counseling Services: Mental health is as important as physical health, and there are professionals a phone call away: (773) 325-7779 or 911 for emergency situations. You can find more information here: <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/ucs.aspx>
- The DePaul Dean of Students can help you with a wide range of topics, including figuring out if you should withdraw or apply for an incomplete: <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/dos.aspx>
- There are a lot of additional, more specific resources listed with the Office of Student Affairs, including crisis hotlines and sexual assault resources: <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/support-services/counseling/Pages/Crisis-Hotlines.aspx>

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.

COVID-19 Health and Safety Precautions: For the latest news and resources, please visit [DePaul's response to COVID-19 page](#).

***This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter.**