

Instructor: Marge Coahran

Science 3827

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Office hours (*tentative*): Tues/Thur 2:00-4:00 pm, or by appointment.

You may drop by my office whenever I am in. However, I prefer that you come during office hours if possible, since I too have a busy schedule. Obviously, you may also send email at any time. I will try to respond promptly, but that may mean an hour or two, not a minute or two.

Lab T.A.:

C.M. Lubinski is an awesome computer science major. I am delighted that he will be assisting with the laboratories for this course.

Course website: <http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~coahranm/csc105/s2008>

We will use this website, rather than PioneerWeb, for the course. I will post readings, assignments, and laboratory exercises on the website, so please check it regularly.

Class meetings: MWF 1:00–2:05 pm, Science 3813

Classes will include a mix of discussions, lectures, and laboratory activities. The labs are designed for students with no computer science background: the only tasks I will assume you already know how to do are word processing, sending and reading email, and browsing the web.

MathLAN, Science 3815, and TCs:

MathLAN is the name of the computer network used by the math and computer science departments. Its computers run the Linux operating system by default, and we will use Linux in this course. You will receive a MathLAN account for use in the course.

Science 3815 (next door to our classroom) is an open lab: it is available at almost all hours day and night for students to use. It would be a great place to finish up a laboratory that you did not finish during class.

Technical Consultants (TCs) will work in Science 3815 once the semester gets rolling. These TCs are usually computer science majors, hired to answer questions regarding the MathLAN and the software installed on MathLAN computers. They should be good resources for any questions you might have in the course. You can recognize a TC by the yellow flag at his or her workstation.

Textbook:

There will be weekly required reading assignments from the following text. From time to time, I may also assign readings from other sources.

- Sara Baase, *A Gift of Fire: Social, legal, and ethical issues for computers and the Internet, 2nd Edition*, Prentice-Hall, 2003.

Optional supplemental readings:

The following books are on reserve at the Science Library. They address the more technical topics of the course. You may find them useful as supplementary reading, but I do not plan to assign readings from them.

- J. Glenn Brookshear, *Computer Science: An Overview, 9th Ed.*, Addison-Wesley, 2007.
- Henry Walker, *The Tao of Computing*, Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2005

Course work and grading distribution:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Date</i>
Class participation	10%	on-going
Discussion leader	10%	varies by student
Reading responses	20%	approximately weekly
Assignments	20%	approximately weekly
Midterm Test I	20%	Monday, March 10 (in class)
Midterm Test II	20%	Thursday, May 15 (final exam period)

Class participation:

This course will have a small “class participation” component in the final grade.

To earn points: Come to every class session, and arrive on time. (Note that class starts at 1:00, not 1:15pm.) Ask and answer questions thoughtfully during lectures, labs, and discussions. This includes quiet people. I know that every one of you has something to offer! Be respectful of opinions that differ from your own, particularly during reading discussions.

Readings, discussions, and written responses:

There will be a reading assignment almost every week regarding various social impacts of computing. On most Mondays, we will spend half the class discussing the readings in smaller groups. Some of the topics may be controversial, so it is important that everyone feels comfortable to share their views.

Once during the term you and a partner will be responsible for leading the discussion. You should meet with your partner in advance to prepare talking points and questions for the discussion. (I will give more details shortly, in a separate handout.)

You will also write a short response to (most of) the weekly reading/discussion topics. Each response should consist of two or three thoughtful paragraphs. You may incorporate information from other sources if you wish, but that is not required.

- You do not need to write a response the week you lead the discussion.
- In addition, you may opt out of three reading responses over the course of the term. (It may happen that not every topic will touch every student, and I would prefer you to write about topics you care about than ones you don't.)

Laboratory activities:

Several class sessions will be devoted to laboratory exercises that give you first-hand experience with various topics in computing. These will be more frequent during the first half of the course (once or twice on most weeks), and less frequent during the second half (approximately every other week).

Some homework assignments will include questions based on the labs, or ask you to turn in products you created in lab. However, there will not be formal “laboratory reports” to submit.

Homework assignments:

Homework assignments will be posted weekly, and they will include a mix of problems from lecture material and laboratory exercises. The assignment postings will also include reminders about the weekly reading responses, and both will be due on Fridays.

Collaboration and academic honesty:

Collaboration is not allowed on tests, or on your written responses to the reading topics. However, collaboration is allowed on homework assignments if you find that doing so helps your learning, and collaboration is encouraged in laboratory.

If you choose to collaborate on homework assignments, please keep in mind that collaborating requires active involvement from both parties. You should work through the problems together. Do not simply copy another student's work or allow another student to copy yours: that is plagiarism.

Late assignment submission and grace days:

Homework assignments will be due at the beginning of class. Assignments that are submitted more than 10 minutes after the beginning of class will be considered late. Aside from the grace day policy described below, I will not accept late homework assignments.

A *grace day* is an automatic extension until the next class period. Every student will be granted two grace days that can be used for any homework assignment for any reason. Please use them wisely: you may need them more later than you do now! I would appreciate hearing in advance by email if you intend to use a grace day on a particular assignment since that makes my bookkeeping task easier. However, any assignment submitted late will automatically use a grace day, if you still have one.

Schedule* of topics:

<i>Week</i>	<i>Lecture/Lab Topics</i>
1	course introduction, introduction to Linux
2	databases, binary numbers
3	storing text, numbers, and images
4	processing images, storing sound
5	html and webpages
6	computer programming
7	computer programming
8	algorithms: searching and sorting
	<i>Spring Break</i>
9	algorithm analysis
10	history of computing
11	digital circuits
12	computer architecture
13	disks and operating systems
14	networks and the Internet

**This is a rough schedule, and as such it is subject to change.*

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

If you have a disability, including a non-visible disability, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will also need to provide documentation of your disability to the Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, located on the 3rd floor of the Rosenfield Center (x3702).