

# CSC161: Imperative Problem Solving & Data Structures    Fall 2008

---

**Instructor: Marge Coahran**

Science 3827

coahranm@cs.grinnell.edu

**Office hours:** 10:00-11:00 am Monday-Friday, or by appointment.

You may also drop by my office at other times. If I am free, I will be happy to help you; if not, I will let you know. Of course, you can also send me email at any time. I will try to respond promptly, but this may sometimes mean an hour or two, not a minute or two.

**Class meetings:** MTWF 9:00–9:50 am, Science 3813

Class meetings will include some lectures and many laboratory activities.

**Course website:** <http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~coahranm/csc161/f2008>

I will post readings, assignments, and laboratories on the website, so please check it regularly.

**Textbooks:**

Required: K.N. King, *C Programming: A Modern Approach, 2nd Ed*, W.W. Norton, 2008.

Optional: Graham Glass and King Ables, *Linux for Programmers and Users*, Prentice-Hall, 2006.

(A nice Linux reference from the authors of a popular UNIX series.)

**Course work and grading distribution:**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Date</i>
Assignments	35%	approximately weekly, except test weeks
Midterm Test I	20%	Wed, October 8 (in class)
Midterm Test II	20%	Wed, November 12 (in class)
Final exam	25%	Tues, December 15 (9:00 am–12:00 noon)

**Schedule\* of topics:**

<i>Approximate timeline</i>	<i>Topics</i>
Week 1	GNU/Linux commands, Emacs editor
Week 2	I/O and conditionals in C
Week 3	loops in C, program correctness
Week 4	functions in C
Week 5	data representation and numerical errors
Week 6	arrays in C
Week 7	DDD debugger, characters and strings
<i>Fall Break</i>	<i>Fall Break</i>
Week 8	strings and pointers
Week 9	command-line arguments, text file I/O
Week 10	ADTs and stacks
Week 11	dynamic memory allocation, multi-file programs
Week 12	structs and linked data structures
Week 13	queues and lists
Week 14	bash scripts

*\*This is a rough schedule. As such it is approximate and subject to change.*

**Class participation:**

I expect you to come to every class prepared to participate. If you cannot attend a class session, you are responsible to get class notes from a classmate.

Please contribute to class discussions. I know that every one of you has something to offer, and class will be more fun for all of us if you do so!

**Homework assignments:**

Homework assignments will be due approximately weekly. Some assignments will include written work, but most will consist of writing computer programs in C.

Your work should be neat and tidy! If I cannot read it, I can not grade it.

**Late homework 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.

Every student will be granted two grace days that can be used for any homework assignment, for any reason. A grace day is an automatic extension *until the next class period*. Please use your grace days 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 this makes my bookkeeping easier. However, any assignment submitted late will automatically use a grace day, if you still have one to use.

**Collaboration and academic honesty:**

Collaboration will not be allowed on tests, but it will be allowed on homework assignments under the following rules. Abuse of these rules constitutes an academic offence, and it will be taken seriously.

1. You may work on the homework assignments individually or with a partner. (You may make a different decision on this for each assignment.) If you work with a partner on an assignment, you should submit a single assignment with both names on it. You will both receive full credit for the assignment.

However, keep in mind that homework problems are excellent preparation for exams. If you work with a partner, be sure that you both contribute equally to and fully understand every problem on the assignment. My intent in allowing collaboration is to improve your learning, *not* to increase your free time.

2. You may also talk with others about the homework. However, except with your partner, you may only talk. You may not share specific answers, you may not leave a discussion with written notes, and you may not share code. (You should cite the people that you have such discussions with if you got ideas from them.)

**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).

**Final grades:**

<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Grade</i>
85 - 100%	A
80 - 84%	A -
77 - 79%	B +
73 - 76%	B
70 - 72%	B -
67 - 69%	C +
60 - 66%	C
50 - 59%	D