

CSC201: Data Representation, Memory Management, Formal Methods (S'07)

Instructor: Marge Coahran

Science 1410A

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Office hours (*tentative*): MWF 2:30-4:00 pm, or by appointment.

You are always welcome to stop by during office hours: no appointment is necessary. I also welcome email. I will try to respond to email promptly, but this may mean an hour or two, not a minute or two.

Course website: <http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~coahranm/csc201/s2007>

Readings, laboratories, and homework assignments will be announced in class and posted on the website. I may also post answers to frequently asked questions on the website. Please check it regularly.

Class meetings: MTWF 8:00–8:50 am (*Eeek!*), Science 2417

Class meetings will include lectures and laboratory activities.

Course objectives:

This course is evenly split between theoretical and applied topics. We will study *formal methods* (for proving the correctness of programs) and low-level programming concepts. You will gain practical experience with low-level programming using the C programming language.

Textbook: We will use two texts:

- David Gries, *The Science of Programming*, Springer-Verlag, 1981.
(This book is *the* classic introduction to formal methods.)
- Kernighan and Ritchie, *The C Programming Language, 2nd Ed*, Prentice Hall, 1988.
(Another classic text, by the inventors of C.)

I will place at least one additional required reading on eReserve at Burling Library.

Course work and grading distribution:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Date</i>
Assignments (8-10)	40%	approximately weekly, except test weeks
Midterm Test I	20%	Mon, February 26
Midterm Test II	20%	Mon, April 9
Final exam	20%	Thurs, May 17 (9:00 am–12:00 noon)

Schedule of course topics*

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Applied</i>	<i>Theory</i>
1	1/22 - 1/26	basic introduction to C, bash shell commands	representation of integers
2	1/29 - 2/2	input/output, functions in C	floating-point numbers
3	2/5 - 2/9	floating-point error	Gries, Chapters 1-2
4	2/12 - 2/16	arrays in C, testing and debugging	Gries, Chapter 4
5	2/19 - 2/23	pointers	Gries, Chapter 5
6	2/26 - 3/2	characters, strings, string library functions	Gries, Chapter 6
7	3/5 - 3/9	command-line arguments, sscanf	Gries, Chapters 7-9
8	3/12 - 3/16	structs, dynamic memory allocation	Gries, Chapters 10-11
	3/19 - 3/30	<i>Spring Break</i>	
9	4/2 - 4/6	linked data structures, building multiple-file programs	Gries, Review/Catch-up (after break)
10	4/9 - 4/13	more linked data structures, file I/O	Gries, Chapter 13,14
11	4/16 - 4/20	function pointers, bitwise operators	Gries, Chapter 15, 16.1-16.3
12	4/23 - 4/27	static checking of C programs, environment variables	Gries, Chapter 16.4-16.5
13	4/30 - 5/4	system calls, signals	formal methods in C programs
14	5/7 - 5/11	shell scripts	to be determined

*Please note that this is a rough schedule, and as such it is subject to change.

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 (i.e., two 24-hour extensions) 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 one exists.

Class attendance:

I expect you to come to every class prepared to participate. This means you should do the assigned readings before the class session. If you cannot attend a class session, you are responsible to get any class notes from a classmate, and you are responsible to complete missed laboratory exercises on your own time.

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).

Collaboration and academic honesty:

Students are encouraged to work collaboratively on laboratory exercises; however, collaboration is not allowed on (written or coding) homework assignments and tests.

Grinnell College policy requires me to report any suspicion of academic dishonesty to the Committee on Academic Standing. That is no fun for anybody. Please don't go there.

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