

## CSC201: Data Representation, Memory Management, Formal Methods (S'08)

### Instructor: Marge Coahran

Science 3827

coahranm[at]grinnell.edu

**Office hours** (*tentative*): Tues/Thurs 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.

**Class meetings:** MTWF 8:00-8:50 am (*Eeek!*), Science 3819

Class meetings will include some lectures and many laboratory activities.

**Course website:** <http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~coahranm/csc201/s2008>

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

### Textbooks:

We will use the following two texts; however, both of them are “suggested”, not “required.” I think they are both good references that you may want to own and keep for the future. However, I also understand that CS texts are expensive, and not everyone learns best by reading. I will post reading assignments on the course website, but I will not check whether you have read them. I trust you to know your own best learning style. I may also place readings from other texts on eReserve at Burling Library.

- 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.)
- K.N. King, *C Programming: A Modern Approach*, W.W. Norton, 1996.  
(Don't be confused by references to the 2nd edition of this book. It has been promised for several years, but it is not out yet. Get the 1st edition.)

### Course work and grading distribution:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Date</i>
Assignments (8-10)	35%	approximately weekly, except test weeks
Midterm Test I	20%	Fri, February 22
Midterm Test II	20%	Fri, April 11
Final exam	25%	Thurs, May 15 (9:00 am-12:00 noon)

### Schedule\* of topics:

<i>Approximate timeline</i>	<i>Topics</i>
Week 1-2	GNU/Linux: bash shell commands and utilities
Week 2-3	introduction to C programming
Week 3-4	data representation and floating-point errors
Week 5	arrays in C; debuggers
Week 6	correctness proofs; characters and strings
Week 7	pointers; command-line arguments
Week 8	structs; file I/O
<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
Week 9	dynamic memory allocation; multi-file programs
Week 10	linked data structures in C
Week 11	function pointers, macros, bit fields
Week 12-13	communication between processes
Week 14	bash scripts; latex

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

**Homework assignments:**

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

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. This year, 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.

**Class participation:**

I know that the 8:00 am timeslot is difficult for many people, but I do expect everyone to attend class on a regular basis. If you cannot attend a particular 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!

**Collaboration and academic honesty:**

Collaboration is not allowed on tests, of course, but it is 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 the full grade that the assignment earns.

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. The point of allowing collaboration is to improve your learning, not to increase your free time. (Don't let collaboration detract from your learning instead.)

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