CS120 Fall 2018

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• Office hours MWF 11-12
  • Frequently TTh mornings from 9-12, send an email to schedule something

• Course web page: www.cs.binghamton.edu/~pmadden/courses/cs120/index.html

• Two sections; A0 and B1.

• Labs -- check BU Brain, go to your lab session
Grading

- Three exams, 25% each
- Lab: 15%
- In-class quizzes: 10%

Letter grade mapping: roughly 90-100 for A, 80-90 for B, 70-80 for C. Below C might be an indication that you should consider a different career path.
The grade is not the most important thing

After a few years, you'll be looking for a job, thinking about grad school, or something like that. If you don't know what you're doing, the letter grade won't matter. And if you do know what you're doing, the letter grade won't matter. Interviewers, people you work with; they'll be able to tell if you know your stuff. You can't fake it.
Lectures

Show up for class, pay attention, take notes. Ask questions if you don't understand something. Being able to take notes, ask questions, show up on time; these are important parts of being a professional. If you don't intend to be a professional, this might be a good time to consider a different career path.

CS120 is to a certain extent a "weed out" course. If a computer science career is not right for you, finding that out early is good.
Labs

The TAs will decide if you get credit for the lab. Show up, put in a good effort, try to figure stuff out. A career in computer science will require you to do a bit of detective work, actively engage in reasoning, some careful thinking. The TAs will nudge you in the right direction, but they won't spell everything out.

There will be roughly 11 labs, worth 1.5% each, and you can miss one.
In-Class Quizzes

These will be easy, if you're here, and you're paying attention. There will be roughly 12, worth 1% each, and you can miss two.
About missing labs and quizzes

Chances are you'll get sick, abducted by aliens, or something else, and you'll be gone for a day somewhere in the semester. The grading assumes that will happen once or twice, which is why you can miss a few before the grade starts being reduced.

But that's it; if you get abducted by aliens ten times; sorry, gotta knock your grade down. Try getting abducted by aliens less next semester.
Show up on time

Some of the quizzes may happen at the start of class. Some might show up at the end. And an interesting correlation. People who do poorly on the exams also seem to be miss lots of quizzes, making it numerically easier to move them into the "F" bucket.
Read The Book

Slides for each of the chapters are on the textbook resource page (there's a link from the course page). Plenty of examples, and with a little bit of effort, it should all make sense. Some of the time, what we cover will be painfully obvious. Other times, it will really stretch your brain. And we will shift back and forth between these two rather abruptly. Stay on top of the material, work at it, and your odds of surviving are pretty good.
After four years, you should be a professional

- Tell the truth. Always.
- Take responsibility, and figure stuff out.
- Ask questions if you don't know or don't understand.
- Get work done without anyone having to yell at you.
- Show up on time, be reliable, organized, consistent.
- https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics