

CIS105 - Syllabus Updates

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Requirements and Grading

DIFFERENT from what's in your lab manual!

- Midterm exam 1: 15%
- Midterm exam 2: 15%
- Final exam: 20%
- Labs/Homeworks/Quizzes 20%
- Programming Assignments 30%

Special Rule: Final course average may not be more than 10 points higher than exam average.

Late submission of assignments

DIFFERENT from what's in your lab manual!

- My philosophy is the same as that in the lab manual
- However, I use a simpler calculation:
 - On time: no deduction
 - Up to one week late: 10% deduction
 - More than one week late: no credit.
 - No extra credit available for late submissions.
- Note that unless otherwise announced, assignments will be submitted electronically via WebCT, so submission times are timestamped by the system.

Exams

DIFFERENT from what's in your lab manual!

- Lab manual says closed book...
- But I allow one 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.
 - Must have your name on it
 - Must be turned in with your exam
(because of multiple sections)
- Will apply to midterms and final.

Quizzes

DIFFERENT from what's in your lab manual!

- Count as part of lab/homework grade
- Are closed book (no notes sheet)
- Usually happen on Fridays, but may happen at any time.
- Lowest quiz score will be dropped.
 - This will allow you to miss one quiz without penalty (e.g. for illness).
- Quizzes missed due to “excused absences” as defined by university policy will not be made up
 - the nearest quiz score (chronologically) will be double counted.

Academic Honesty

- Sadly, we know that many students cheat on their assignments in CIS105, CIS181 and CIS220.
- The most blatant kind of cheating:
 - copying programs verbatim from your classmates
 - copying programs verbatim from folks who took the class in years past
- But there are other kinds, which I'll discuss shortly...
- If we catch you, the consequences can be severe.
- If we don't catch you, the consequences are worse.
- Do your own work!

Examples of prohibited collaboration:

- Comparing answers before turning in an assignment
- Supervising a classmate typing in a program, or having a classmate supervise your typing
- Copying any part of a computer file from containing any part of another student's assignment into your own
- Allowing anyone else to copy part of your assignment
- Two or more people working together on an assignment then submitting the work separately as individual work
- Editing the output of a computer program to make it appear that the program functions differently than it actually does.
- Anything else that respect for honesty and common sense would indicate should not be permitted.

The penalty of *not* getting caught

- Loss of your self-respect
 - living with the knowledge that you are a fraud
 - living with the knowledge that your grades are a lie
- Erosion of your integrity
 - becoming a person that is comfortable with cheating
 - becoming less a person whose word can be trusted
- Disgrace when your incompetence is eventually found out
 - Eventually you'll be in a situation where no-one will be available or willing to bail you out.

Deep thoughts...

Don't overestimate the importance of a *single course grade* to your life
Don't underestimate the importance making *integrity* a habit.
It is better to *fail with honor* than to *succeed in disgrace to yourself*.

Difficulties?

- See me and/or your TA early and often!
 - My office hours are 3-4PM Mon-Thu.
 - Or by appointment
 - I get good student evaluations on the help I give during office hours, so give it a try!
- Come in at the *first* sign of trouble!
 - If the line is too long, make an appointment.
- Don't wait until after you've failed two midterms and three programs to come in for help.
 - By then it will be too late, and I will tell you so.
 - You can't learn the whole course in a few days.
 - If you wait until November to come in for help with September material, you have already sunk your own ship.