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Course Information

Computer Science 1026B - Computer Science Fundamentals I

Winter 2022 Term

Calendar Description: The nature of Computer Science as a discipline; the design and analysis of algorithms and their implementation as modular, reliable, well-documented programs written in a modern programming language. Intended for students with little or no background in programming.

Course Details: Programming skills will be developed using the Python programming language. Course topics Include: data types, variables, expressions, program constructs, strings (text), functions, basic data structures (lists, tuples, sets, and dictionaries), objects, object-oriented design, classes, modularity, and problem-solving techniques. Programming examples and assignments are taken from a variety of disciplines.

Lecture Schedule

- Tuesday 9:30-10:30 – Zoom (until Jan 31 at the earliest), in-person (when available) WSC 55
- Thursday 9:30-11:30 – Zoom (until Jan 31 at the earliest), in-person (when available) WSC 55

Lab Schedule

- See your schedule for Lab times

Prerequisites

This course has **no prerequisites**.

Antirequisites: CS 1025, CS 2120, ES 1036, DH 2220

Instructor

Mike Domaratzki

- Email: mdomaratzki@uwo.ca
- Office: MC 355-E.
- Telephone: 519-661-2111 x82561

Notes on Contacting me:

- Phone calls are **not recommended**, as I'm often not available in my office.
- Use your Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses to contact me.
- Any **general questions about the course** (assignment questions, etc.) should be posted on the OWL forum.
- Emails will be responded to as soon as possible. In general, email responses in the evening and on weekends are not guaranteed.

Office Hours

- Office hours will be on Zoom only until classes are in person (January 31 at the earliest)
- When classes are in person, office hours will be by zoom and in person
- Hours for all times will be posted on OWL.

COVID Contingency Planning

All material in the course will be delivered online until January 31. The course will return to in-person as directed by the University.

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgences during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

In the event of a midterm or final exam that is online due to COVID-19, the exam will use a remote proctoring service (such as ProctorTrack or Proctorio). By continuing in this course, you consent to the use of this software, and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and that the session may be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service.

More information about remote proctoring, including technical requirements, can be found at remoteproctoring.uwo.ca

Course Materials

Course materials will be available for the course on the OWL site, including notes and videos.

There is no required textbook for the course. The recommended textbook is on zybooks:

- **Book id:** UWOCOMPSCI1026ABDomaratzkiSpring2022

To get the textbook:

- Go to learn.zybooks.com
- Create an account.
- Use the book id to subscribe.

The textbook is recommended for those who would like more exercises or examples than are covered in class or the videos.

Course Evaluation

- Assignments (4) – 25%
- Labs (10) – 10%
- Midterm (March 3, in class) – 20%
- Final Exam (date TBA) - 45%

To be eligible to receive a passing grade in the course, your mark on the final exam must be at least 40%. If your mark on the final is under 40%, your maximum grade in the course will be 45%.

To be eligible to receive a grade of 60% in the course, your mark on the final exam must be at least 50%. If your mark on the final is under 50%, your maximum grade in the course will be 58%.

Assignments

Assignment Submission

Instructions for the submission of assignments will be posted on the course website or as part of each assignment description. It is each student's responsibility to read and follow the instructions. Failure to follow the submission instructions may result in the assignment losing marks or receiving a mark of zero.

- You will be required to submit each programming assignment electronically through OWL. Details will be given in the assignment descriptions. We reserve the right to use similarity detection software to detect possible cases of inappropriate collaboration or plagiarism.
- It is each student's responsibility to keep up-to-date backups of assignment disk files in case of system crashes or inadvertently erased files.

Assignment Due Dates

Assignment	Due Date
Assignment 1	February 15
Assignment 2	March 8
Assignment 3	March 22
Assignment 4	April 5

- The exact time assignments are due will be given in the assignment specifications.
- The late penalty for assignments is 0.5% per hour (or part of an hour), up to a maximum of 48 hours, after which assignments will not be accepted or marked.
- No individual extensions will be given for assignments; however, if a student has serious medical or compassionate grounds, they should take supporting documentation to the Office of the Dean of their faculty and their instructor will be contacted.
- Students using Self-Reported Absences for an assignment will have an extension to submit the assignment, after which the assignment will not be marked. See the section on **Self-Reported Absences**.

Assignment Marking

- Assignments are tested by automated testing software and the software provides a score. It is imperative that when submitting assignments that students adhere to the requirements for naming files and components of programs. Failure to do so will cause the automated testing software to assign 0; such assignments will be marked by the Teaching Assistants, and the assignments may receive a deduction for failing the automated testing.
- Assignments are also reviewed by the Teaching Assistants who evaluate the program design, structure, use of required programming constructs, and adherence to good programming practices and assign marks for good programming practices and adherence to assignment requirements.
- Assignments may be compared for similarity to one another using software such as MOSS.

Requests for assignment mark reconsideration must be made within the deadline provided after the assignment is returned. Requests for reconsideration must be made through OWL as described in class. Requests that are beyond the deadline or not submitted through OWL will not be considered.

Labs

The purpose of the weekly labs is to give students opportunities to work in smaller groups with a Teaching Assistant, ask questions, review material, see programming examples, etc.

For each lab, there is a small set of exercises that should be done by the student before the lab. These exercises and other examples will be covered in the labs. The lab materials will be available on the course website in advance.

Exams

- There is a midterm exam and a final exam. Both exams are closed book. No reference materials, calculators or other electronic devices are allowed.
- There will be no makeup midterm exam, except for students requesting a special midterm exam for University recognized reasons. These students must have notified the course instructor and filed documentation with their Dean's Office at least 2 weeks prior to the midterm exam. If there are other serious medical or compassionate grounds for missing the midterm exam, please take supporting documentation to the office of the Dean of your faculty, who will contact the instructor. In such cases, the weight of your midterm exam will be shifted to the final exam.

- The final exam is scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during the final exam period. Students are advised not to make travel plans until they have consulted the final exam schedule.
- Computer-marked multiple-choice exams may be screened for similarity by software that checks for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Technical Requirements

This course requires a stable internet connection and device capable of streaming video, to review the videos posted on this website. For at least the duration of remote learning, you will also require a computer capable of running the required software for this course - python and an IDE for programming (pycharm is suggested).

Self-Reported Absences

Students using self-reported absences should adhere to the University policies around Self-Reported Absences. For CS1026, self-reported absences are handled as follows.

Assignments

1. For Assignments 1-3, the student may use an SRA to request an extended late period in which to submit the assignment after the due date; this extended late period is one week after the assigned due date. The assignment would be marked as usual, but without a late penalty.
2. For Assignment 4, the extended late period is three days (until the last day of class).
3. The extended late period is to allow the student to complete the assignment or a substantial part of the assignment. The student should endeavor to submit something by the end of the extended late period, even if the assignment is incomplete. Not submitting anything will result in a mark of 0 for the assignment.

Midterm

All marks for the midterm will be allocated to the final exam (i.e., the exam will have a weight of 60%)

Labs

Any lab missed due to SRA will be allocated to the remaining labs.

Using the SRA Form

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less. The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August
- Any absences in excess of the number designated in clause a above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, detailing the duration and severity of illness, or appropriate documentation supporting extenuating circumstances to the Academic Counselling unit in their Faculty of registration no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.
- The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm
- The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48-hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time
- The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed
- Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term
- Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course. Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self- Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence

Accommodation and Accessibility

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities policy can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence (SRA) form provided that the conditions for submission are met. To be eligible for a Self-Reported Absence:
- an absence must be no more than 48 hours
 - the assessments must be worth no more than 30% of the student's final grade
 - no more than two SRAs may be submitted during the Fall/Winter term

(ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner to the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration.

(iii) Submitting appropriate documentation for non-medical absences to the Academic Counselling office in their Faculty of Registration.

Note that in all cases, students are required to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period covered, unless otherwise instructed in the course outline.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.

For policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs, see: www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/procedures/academic_consideration_for_absences/index.html
For the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see: www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Religious Accommodations

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at: <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period, see https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/exam_schedule.html).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under Special Examinations).

Academic Policy

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

- In this course, assignments may be compared for similarity to one another using software such as MOSS.
- Your assignments must be your own individual work, not the products of group effort. You may discuss approaches to problems with other students, but the work you submit (programming code, answers to concept questions, etc.) must be an individual effort.
- With each assignment, you are required to confirm that you did the material you have submitted is exclusively your own work and that you understand the course policies concerning plagiarism and individual effort. You are responsible for reading and respecting the departmental policies on Scholastic Offences and Rules of Ethical Conduct. The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking
- The standard departmental policy for assignments that are judged to be the product of academic dishonesty is, for the student's first offence, a mark of zero for the assignment.
- The role of tutoring is to help students understand course material. Tutors should not write assignments, labs or any tests for the students who hire them. Submitting an assignment that contains material written by a tutor is an academic offence. Having employed the same tutor as another student is not a legitimate defense against an accusation of collusion, should two students hand in assignments judged similar beyond the possibility of coincidence

Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at (519) 661-2147 if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Student Development Centre (<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<http://www.health.uwo.ca/mentalhealth>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <http://westernusc.ca/services>.

This course is supported by the Science Student Donation Fund. If you are a BSc or BMSc student registered in the Faculty of Science or Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, you pay the Science Student Donation

Fee. This fee contributes to the Science Student Donation Fund, which is administered by the Science Students' Council (SSC). One or more grants from the Fund have allowed for the purchase of equipment integral to teaching this course. You may opt out of the Fee by the end of September of each academic year by completing the online form linked from the Faculty of Science's Academic Counselling site. For further information on the process of awarding grants from the Fund or how these grants have benefitted undergraduate education in this course, consult the Chair of the Department or email the Science Students' Council at ssc@uwo.ca.