Boston University

College of Liberal Arts

Computer Science Department
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CLA CS-101 (A1)

Introduction to Computers

Spring 1995

Meeting Time & Place: Tue & Thu (9:30am – 11:00am) in STONE B50

Web Home Page: http://www.cs.bu.edu/faculty/best/crs/cs101/Home.html

Instructor: Prof. Azer Bestavros

- ◇ **Office:** MCS 276
- ◇ **Email:** bestavros@cs.bu.edu
- ◇ **Web:** http://www.cs.bu.edu/faculty/best/Home.html
- ◇ **Phone:** 353-9726
- ◇ **Office Hours:** Tue 11:00am–1:00pm & Wed 12:30pm–2:00pm
  (or by appointment)

Teaching Fellow: TBA

Textbooks:

- ◇ **[CU]** *Computing Unbound: Using Computers in the Arts and Sciences* by David A. Patterson, Denise S. Kiser, and D. Neel Smith, W. W. Norton & Company. This book **is** available at the BU bookstore and will be used **throughout** the semester.
- ◇ **[AM]** *Approaching the Macintosh: A guide to learning Macintosh software* by Tao, Berner, Elliott, Chu, Fernandez, Finkelstein, and Frost, Second Edition, Addison-Wesley. This book **is** available at the BU bookstore and will be used in the **second half** of the Semester.

You are advised to buy your textbooks now since the bookstore runs out of copies few weeks into the semester.

Other Materials:

- ◇ Owning a personal computer (for example a Macintosh or an IBM) is **not required** for this class. However, if you do own one then parts of the Lab Work required for this class can be done on your machine.
- ◇ In the second half of the course, you will need **three to four** $3\frac{1}{2}$ **inch Double-sided, High-density, floppy disks** for your Macintosh Lab assignments. You can buy these at any computer store, the nearest ones from BU being the BU bookstore (3^{rd} floor) and Radio Shack.
- ◇ In the second half of the course, you will be working with applications such as MacPaint, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excell, and Hypercard. These applications **will be available at the Mac Lab of the CS department** for your use. If you own a Mac and would like to solve the homework assignments on it, you should acquire copies of these applications.

Lectures:

- ◇ You are responsible for *all* the materials covered in the lectures including any topics **not** in the textbooks.
- ◇ Class participation and questions are very welcome during the lectures. There is no such thing as a "stupid question". Failure to ask a simple question might result in the inability to follow the rest of the lecture.
- ◇ Up to 10 minutes at the beginning of every class will be devoted for answering questions related to topics discussed in previous lectures.

Sections:

- ◇ Discussion sections are smaller classes conducted by the teaching fellow.
- ◇ You must register for one of the discussion sections (A2, A3, A4, A5) offered in conjunction with this course.
- ◇ The following is the time and place for CS101-A1 section meetings:

Section	Time	Place
A2	Mon 8:00am - 9:00am	MCS B23
A3	Mon 3:00pm - 4:00pm	MCS B23
A4	Wed 5:00pm - 6:00pm	MCS B23
A5	Fri 2:00pm - 3:00pm	MCS B23

- ◇ In addition to answering your questions concerning topics covered in the lectures and/or addressed in the homework assignments, some new technical material will be covered **only in the sections** (and not in the lectures).
- ◇ You are responsible for all the topics covered in the discussion sections. For more information, contact the teaching fellow.

Homework Assignments:

- ◇ There will be approximately 8-10 homework assignments handed out throughout the semester. These assignments will be designed to help you understand the materials covered in lectures, in sections, and in assigned readings. Most of the problems in the homework assignments will be hands-on exercises on the computer. The homeworks will be worth 40% of the final grade.
- ◇ Homework assignments will be handed in/out in class. There will be a hefty penalty of 50% for a homework handed in one class late. No homework will be accepted if late for more than one class. There will be **no** exceptions to the above policy.
- ◇ Homework assignments will be graded and returned to you. Grades will not be changed, except in the case of a calculation or grading error.

Exams:

- ◇ There will be **a midterm exam** on Tuesday, March 14^{th}, from 9:30am to 11:00am. This exam will be worth 20% of the final grade, and will cover the material presented from the beginning of the semester and until the spring recess..
- ◇ There will be a **final exam** on Tuesday, May 9^{th} from 9:00am to 11:00am. This exam will be worth 40% of the final grade, and will cover the material offered *throughout* the semester.
- ◇ Please mark the exam dates on your calendar. There will be absolutely **no** make-up exams, except for documented medical emergencies.

Course Grade:

- ◇ The course grade will be broken down as follows:
  - **40%** Homework assignments
  - **20%** Midterm exam
  - **40%** Course final exam
- ◇ There will be **no incompletes** in this course.

Policy on Collaboration:

- ◇ There is nothing wrong in principle about discussing the topics covered in the course with your friends and colleagues. However, there are severe consequences to copying their solutions. Very soon you will find out that it is easy to copy solutions electronically from other people. This is nothing less than **plagiarism** and will be punished accordingly. Computers are double-edged swords. They make copying extremely easy, but they also make detecting such incidents possible! If you are caught cheating in a test or a homework, you will **automatically receive an F**.

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Syllabus

Class	Topic	Readings
1/17	Introduction: Hardware, software, and operating systems	CU:2
1/19	Introduction: From Mark-1 to the Connection Machine	CU:13
1/24	UNIX: A timesharing Operating System	
1/26	UNIX: Bits, bytes, and file system	CU:3
1/31	UNIX: Emacs – An editor and much more	
2/02	UNIX: Internet applications and utilities	
2/07	UNIX: Conclusion	
2/09	Programming: Putting your expertise to work	CU:8
2/14	Programming: Variables and simple arithmetic	CU:9
2/16	Programming: The Edit-Compile-Debug-Run cycle	
2/21	Programming: Conditional execution	CU:10
2/23	Programming: Looping	CU:10
2/28	Programming: What else?	
3/02	Programming: Conclusion	
3/14	Midterm Exam (From 9:30am to 11:00am)	
3/16	Personal Computing & Macintoshes	AM:1
3/21	Artwork and Word Processing	AM:2,3
3/23	Anatomy of computers: Computer Arithmetic	
3/28	Spreadsheet programming	AM:4,5 & CU:5
3/30	Anatomy of computers: Computer Hardware	CU:15
4/04	Anatomy of computers: Computer Hardware	CU:15
4/06	Anatomy of computers: Languages and systems	CU:14
4/11	Anatomy of computers: The power of networking	
4/13	DataBase applications using FileMaker Pro	AM:6 & CU:4
4/18	Artificial Intelligence	
4/20	Computers and our lives	CU:16
4/25	Is there a limit to what computers can do ?	CU:17,18
4/27	Slack	
5/02	Review and Conclusion	
5/09	Final exam (From 9:00am to 11:00am)	

** Changes to this schedule will be announced if need be.*