Computer Science 250: Systems Programming
Syllabus – Fall 2017

Instructor: Bob Matthews
Office: VH 2168
Phone: 785-4298
Email: matthews@truman.edu

Office Hours: Consult the course web page located at `matthews.sites.truman.edu`. I have an open door policy. Students are always welcome to stop by my office to ask for help, to discuss the class or their course work, or to talk about any other concerns.

Course Description: This course serves as an introduction to programming in the Linux environment, including an introduction to the command line, development tools such as `make` and `gdb`, and the programming languages C and C++.

Texts: "The C Programming Language", 2nd edition; Kernighan, Brian and Dennis Ritchie. "Absolute C++", 6th edition; Savitch, Walter.

Prerequisites: CS 181. If you have not completed this course with a grade of C or better, see the instructor immediately.

Grading: Grades in the course are calculated using a point-based system. Students will have the opportunity to earn 1000 points during the semester, distributed as follows
 • Four exams at 125 points each: 500 points
 • Four programs at 125 points each: 500 points

At the end of the semester, grades will be assigned according to the total number of points earned, using the following scale[1]:

    900 or more points: A
    800 - 899 points: B
    700 - 799 points: C
    600 - 699 points: D
    599 or fewer points: F

Late Policy: Programs are due ***at the beginning of class on the due date*** unless otherwise announced. Late programs are penalized 10% of the total possible points if they are submitted after the beginning of class on the due date. Each additional day accrues another 10% penalty. The late clock does not run on days when the university does not hold classes. The only purpose of this policy is to encourage on-time submissions. You should make every effort to submit something for each homework and programming assignment, even if it is not on time.

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[1]The instructor reserves the right to deviate from this scale on an individual basis and solely at his own discretion. If such deviations occur, they will never result in a grade lower than the announced scale. They may, however, result in grades higher than indicated by the scale. For example, if you earn 800 points, you are guaranteed a B. If you earn 799 points, however, you may receive a B if the instructor feels a higher grade is merited.

Programming Policy: While you are encouraged to discuss the lecture with other members of the class or the academic community, ***any programs or exams that you submit must be solely your own work. Please note that I take this policy very seriously.*** Either giving help to or receiving help from anyone else on a programming project or exam (whether that person is a member of our class or not) is a violation of this policy. Violations will result in a zero on the offending program or exam and may lead to other penalties, including failure of the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university.

Course Web Page: Copies of handouts and assignments will be posted there, sometime after they are distributed in class.

Attendance: There is no attendance policy in this course. Whether you are in class or not, however, you are still responsible for all material covered during lectures, including handouts and announcements. If you are unable to sit for an exam, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor before the exam time. ***Missed exams where the instructor was not notified before the exam time count as a zero.***

Email Correspondence: Often times the easiest way for you to communicate with me is by email. Please understand, however, that even though I teach Computer Science, I do not have a computer permanently attached to my body. Email sent to me during the evenings or on weekends is unlikely to receive a prompt reply.

Final Exam: Sec. 01 – Thu. Dec. 14, 9:30 a.m.
                 Sec. 02 – Mon. Dec. 11, 11:30 a.m.

The final exam will be given only during the official final exam time. Keep this in mind when making plans to depart from campus at the end of the semester.

Persons with Disabilities: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Disability Services office 660-785-4478 as soon as possible.

Title IX Federal Regulations: Under federal regulations imposed by the jack-booted thugs of the federal Department of Education, college professors are forced to report all information that they become aware of regarding sexual misconduct or crimes that may have occurred on the Truman campus. You may wish to speak with me confidentially, but you should know that, under penalty of federal law, I am forbidden from keeping this type of information confidential. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the University Counseling Services at 660-785-4014 during normal business hours, or 660-665-5621 for after-hours crises counseling.