CSE250 Course Syllabus Fall 2011

Instructor

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TAs:

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Lectures

LEC MWF 11–11:50pm in 220 Nat. Sci.

Recitations—All in the Baldy 21 basement programming lab.

(R1) Mon. 1:00–1:50pm

(R2) Mon. 3:00–3:50pm

(R3) Mon. 4:00–4:50pm

(R4) Mon. 12:00–12:50pm, right after lecture.

Recitations will meet in Week 1, for basic UNIX instruction. In Week 2, special times will be arranged to make up Labor Day. Attendance will not be tied to your registered recitation until Week 3. For those unable to make these arranged times in weeks 1–2, special office hours will be provided (within reason).

Required Reading:

(1) [KW06] E. Koffman and P. Wolfgang, *Objects, Abstraction, Data Structures, and Design Using C++*, John Wiley and Sons, 2006.

(2) The newsgroup *sunyab.cse.250*. Although all official course information will be given in lectures, you may catch it first here, as well as information about assignments. Students are invited to post queries of general interest. Please do not, however, post answers unless and until cleared with the instructors and TAs.

(3) Some additional handouts, either given out in class or placed for purchase at *Great Lakes Graphics* in the UB Commons, or placed on reserve at SEL, *may* be required for certain assignments. More information about these will be given later, if applicable.

(4) Web pages, maintained at `www.cse.buffalo.edu/~regan/cse250/` and possibly at other locations. There is a partial draft of a handout "From Java To C++" there already. A direct link to it is `http://www.cse.buffalo.edu/~regan/cse250/Java2C++`.

The webpages will hold official information and handouts and items that tend not to change much over time, whereas the newsgroup will be the preferred vehicle for assistance with projects and homework. *Please do not print out copies of webpage documents* (unless instructed to do so)—you will receive better-formatted hardcopies in class or at Great Lakes Graphics.

Examinations:

- Two *prelims*—roughly one week past the 1/3 and 2/3 points of the course. The CSE move in November may affect the latter date.
- One *cumulative* 3-hr. final.
- Possible quiz components of assignments.

Grading: The course will be graded on a total-points system. Letter grades will also be given for individual exams and some assignments, as a help in telling you where you stand, but only the point totals will have official significance. The weighting of grades in this course will be:

Prelims:	$2 \times 10\% = 20\%$
Final:	30%
Homework:	50% (split between problem sets, projects; quizzes up to 5%)

Besides the "pop-quiz" option, we reserve the right of 5% leeway in the weights for assigning the final letter grade. This is typically done for students who do markedly well on the final exam—treating it as though it were weighted 35%. This will only be done to an individual student's advantage, and will have no effect on others' grades.

Once all points are converted to percentages, the course will use a pre-set curve: 90% = A, 84 = A-, 78 = B+, 72 = B, 66 = B-, 60 = C+, 54 = C, 48 = C-, 42 = D+, 36 = D. Exams and assignments will be "curved" further only if some error or unforseen circumstance afects the results.

1 Assignments

Problem sets will involve both pencil-and-paper questions and exercises that require programming (although in some cases, only "pseudocode" will be asked for). The 50% for assignments will be divided roughly 20% for homeworks and 30% for projects, but the line may not be so sharp—e.g. a "project" may have a hardcopy piece, and one of the first "homeworks" will ask you to submit some small C++ program(s).

Programming exercises may be developed on any system and IDE (such as "Eclipse") of your choosing, but submitted code *must compile and run from the command line on the designated CSE machine*, which is `timberlake`. To get a CSE account if you do not already have one, you must first have or obtain one on `ubunix`; then it will be generated for you automatically from class-lists.

1.1 Academic Honesty

A university is a *community*, and every community has values and rules that go hand-in-hand with membership in the community. At universities one rule is the standard of *academic honesty* as it has been understood and followed for **all** of the just-ending millennium. This rule is not written down in a standard text such as Magna Carta or the Constitution, but is the same for every educational institution even though they all have individual statements of it. The CSE Department now requires that students in every course have read UB's statements of the rules, which are now online and collected as links on the page `http://www.cse.buffalo.edu/shared/policies/academic.php`.

More specific information will be given out on assignments, readings, and individual/joint-work policies.