



COSC 1436.01W – Intro to Computer Science & Programming

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Kaoning Hu	
Office Location:	JOUR 220	
Office Hours:	MON 10:00 – 12:00, 15:30 – 16:30; WED 10:00 – 12:00 (tentative)	
Office Phone:	903-886-5409	
Office Fax:	903-886-5404	
University Email Address:	Kaoning.Hu@tamuc.edu	
Preferred Form of Communication:	Email	
Communication Response Time:	1~2 business days	

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

No textbook is required.

Software Required: Windows OS, Mac OS, or Linux (not Chrome OS).
Python IDE with PyGame Zero library (Mu preferred), Java IDE.

Optional Texts and/or Materials:

Official Python online documentation
Official PyGame Zero online documentation
Official Java online documentation

Course Description

This is a lecture and laboratory course to introduce computer science and programming. Topics include programming languages and algorithm design. **Examples and assignments on video game development will be used in the labs.**

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Learn basics of low-level machine instructions and understand the low-level fetch-decode-execute cycle
2. Differentiate between high-level and low-level programming
3. Understand the basic syntax of Python.

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4. Comprehend various data types and how to use them
5. Comprehend standard input and standard output
6. Comprehend how primary storage and secondary storage work
7. Comprehend arithmetic operations and operator precedence
8. Comprehend control structures: selection and repetition, and how they translate to low-level representation
9. Comprehend basic data structures: arrays and lists
10. Learn how to divide a program into many modules and comprehend how to use functions or subroutines
11. Develop, run, and test basic programs including game-driven examples
12. Apply general problem-solving strategies to the development of computer algorithms.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students enrolling in this course should have mastered computer essentials including how to interact with a graphical user interface, text editor, and web browser. If the use of a personal computer is preferred over university laboratory computers, it is expected that the student can download, install and configure software.

Instructional Methods

We will have weekly lectures. Slides, supplementary materials, and assignments will be released online via D2L. *Please upload your assignments to the appropriate folders on myLeo(D2L).*

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. View every lecture online timely.
2. Check myLeo at least twice a week.
3. Read the text materials every week, and use the slides as your guideline.
4. Start your homework assignments early.
5. Do your own work. If you have difficulties in an assignment, ask the instructor. Do not copy other people's work.
6. Contact the instructor when you are confused.
7. Seek help from lab tutors in Jour 101 or 200 when you need.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

The weight total grade is computed as

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- Exams: 50%
- Average of quizzes: 15%
- Average of assignments: 20%
- Lab participation: 10%
- Attendance: 5%

Assessments

There will be

- 5~6 homework assignments
- 7~9 lab exercises
- 3~4 quizzes and
- 2 exams.

Assignments will be graded on the following:

- meet specification of assignment
- have good organization and logic
- demonstrate good form, including remarks and indentation
- on-time (Late submission subject to the penalty.)

Quizzes and exams are graded based on the correctness of the answers.

Lab exercises are graded based on whether the student have participated in the exercise. (i.e., You receive the credit as long as you work on the exercise question, even if your answer is incorrect.)

Exams are comprehensive. The time and location of each exam will be announced one week before the exam.

Quizzes are not comprehensive unless otherwise specified. The time of each quiz will be announced before the quiz.

Make-up quizzes/exams are given only if there is an emergency. If you take a make-up quiz/exam, you may receive a different set of questions with approximately the same difficulty level as the regular quiz/exam. Alternatively, you may also choose to receive a grade based on your in-class ranking in the next quiz/exam.

All assignments must be completed on time. Late submission is subject to penalty: up to 10% if late but no later than 24 hours; up to 20% if later than 24 hours but no later than 7 calendar days; up to 100% if later than 7 calendar days. However, the students and the instructor can negotiate on the due time and late penalty of the assignments.

Bonus credit – in some situations, the students may be awarded bonus credits. Bonus credits will not be counted towards the weight total grade. However, bonus credits will be considered when the student's weight total grade is very close to the borderline between two letter grades.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

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<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

To communicate with me about this course you are to use the email address on this syllabus. Please include the course number in the beginning of the subject field for every email message. During the week, you can generally expect a response to your emails within 1 business day. *If you do not receive my response in 2 business days, please send a second email to me.*

You can also call me at my office or stop by my office during office hours. You can also schedule an appointment by email.

My office location, phone number, and office hours are subject to change and amendment.

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Late submission of assignment subject to the penalty. However, you may negotiate the due date with the instructor before the assignment is overdue.

Make-up quizzes/exams are given only if there is an emergency. If you take a make-up quiz/exam, you may receive a different set of questions with approximately the same difficulty level as the regular quiz/exam.

When a make-up quiz/exam is impossible, you will receive a grade based on your in-class ranking in the next quiz/exam. E.g., if you miss Quiz 1 because of an emergency, and your rank in Quiz 2 is 10th in the class, then we will copy the 10th grade in Quiz 1 to your grade.

Extra credit may be possible.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

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Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Important: *In this course, the use of AI is disallowed.*

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

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- 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty
- 13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1	Introduction to computer systems and programming concepts
Week 2	Variable declaration
Week 3	Variable declaration (continued)
Week 4	Binary number system and data representation
Week 5	Operators and expressions
Week 6	If statement
Week 7	If statement (continued)
Week 8	Midterm exam Input/output
Week 9	Functions
Week 10	Functions (continued)
Week 11	Functions (continued)
Week 12	Repetitions
Week 13	Repetitions (continued)
Week 14	Lists
Week 15	Lists (continued)
Week 16	Final Exam

Course calendar is **tentative** and will adapt to the actual progress of the classes and may not be accurately the same as the table above.

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