

COSC 1436 – Intro to Computer Science & Programming

FALL 2026

INSTRUCTOR	OFFICE HOURS	LOCATION	EMAIL	RESPONSE TIME
Andi Doty	T/R 9:00 – 10:00	Journalism, Lab 200	Andi.J.Doty@gmail.com	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).

Installation of [Code with Mu](#) required.

Optional Materials – Documentation, Resources

[Official Python Documentation](#)

[Official Pygame Zero Documentation](#)

Course Overview

This course consists of a lecture and laboratory section to introduce computer science and programming basics. Topics include, but are not limited to, computer science history, computer fundamentals, syntax of programming languages, and designing algorithms. Assignments will be game development projects, which are also used in the labs.

Student Learning Outcomes

Low-level machine instruction and the **fetch-decode-execute cycle**.

The difference between **high-level** and **low-level** programming.

Data types used in programming.

Handling **standard input and output**.

The basic **syntax** of Python and the ability to **write simple programs**.

Differences and similarities between **primary** and **secondary storage**.

Arithmetic operators and operator **precedence**.

Control structures, such as selection and repetition, and how they are translated to low-level representation.

Data structures, such as arrays or lists.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skill

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 Brightspace**. Please upload your assignments to the appropriate folders on myLeo, email me if you have any questions related.

Tips to Succeed

1. Attend all lectures you can (if you cannot attend, please email me as soon as you can).
2. Check myLeo at least twice a week.
3. Read the text materials before each lecture, using the slides as a guide.
4. Start your homework assignments early, submit early if you can, feedback will be given. You can resubmit your changes as long as it's before the deadline.
5. Do your own work. If you have difficulties in an assignment, ask the instructor. Do not copy other people's work, we can see the source of files and compare scripts to one another for similarities.
6. Contact the instructor either during office hours or via email when you're confused.
7. Ask for help from the mentors or GATs in Lab 101 / 200 during school hours.

GRADING

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

Letter Grade	Percentage Grade
A	90% – 100%
B	80% – 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	<= 59%

The weight of each category is the following:

Assessment Type	Percentage of Grade
Exams	50%
Assignments	20%
Quizzes	15%
Lab Participation	10%
Attendance	5%

There will be the following assessments:

- 2 Exams
- 5 Assignments
- 4 Quizzes
- 7~9 Lab Exercises

Assignments will be graded on the following:

- Program meets **specifications** of the assignment.
- Program maintains **logical organization**.
- Program does **not** contain **syntax errors** or **inconsistent formatting**.
- Submission was **on time (5% penalty / day)**.

Additional Grading

- **Exams** and **quizzes** are graded by correctness of answers and may contain **multiple-choice** and **short-answer questions**.
- Quizzes are **not comprehensive**.
- Exams are **comprehensive**.
- Labs are graded based on **in-person participation** and **completeness**.
- **Make up** exams / quizzes are only granted in emergency cases. Alternatively, you may also choose to receive a grade based on your in-class ranking in the next exam / quiz.
- Assignments and labs must be submitted **on time**. Late submissions will receive a **5% penalty per day late**. Exceptions can be made if discussed with the instructor ahead of time!
- Bonus credit may be offered on occasion, when a student is awarded credit for additional work outside of class. This bonus will be considered during the final assignment of letter grades.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

D2L Brightspace LMS

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

[LMS Requirements](#)

[LMS Browser Support](#)

[Zoom Video Conferencing Tool](#)

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).

Phone Number:

(903) 468-6000

Email:

helpdesk@etamu.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, an open computer lab, etc.

Personal laptops can be rented by students at the ETAMU library, free of cost.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are experiencing difficulties with the **course material**, please reach out to your instructor via email **immediately**.

If you're having technical difficulties with **D2L Brightspace**, please contact their support line.

Phone Number:

(877) 325-7778

[Additional Support Options](#)

Interaction with Instructor Statement

My preferred form of communication is email, and it is the fastest way to get in touch with me. Please include the **course number (COSC 1436)** at the beginning of the **subject line** for all emails. During the week,

you can expect me to reply after 1 business day. **If I do not reply** within 2 business days, please send a second email as I may have missed it.

You can also **schedule appointments**, both in-person and virtual, via email on a case-by-case basis.

Lastly, you can stop by **during office hours**. My office location, phone number, and office hours may be subject to change and amendment.

COURSE PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Late Submissions / Extensions

Late submission of assignments will be subject to the **penalties** described in this syllabus unless sufficient **documentation** is provided. However, if you contact the instructor **before** the assignment is **overdue**, you may be able to get an **extension** on your assignment.

Make-up quizzes and exams are only provided in the event of an **emergency** or **required accommodation**, both of which require sufficient documentation. When you receive a make-up exam or quiz may receive **different questions** of the **same difficulty** level as the regular quiz or exam.

When a make-up quiz or exam is **impossible**, you will receive a grade based on your **in-class ranking in the next quiz or exam**. For example, if you miss Quiz 1 due to an emergency, but take Quiz 2 and rank the 10th best score, your grade for Quiz 1 will be copied from the 10th best score of Quiz 1.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for students of what to expect and plan for this semester.. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced both in class and on D2L Brightspace.

UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

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 student handbook and code of conduct elaborate on these expectations below.

Handbook:

<http://etamu.edu/student-handbook/>

Code of Conduct:

<https://www.etamu.edu/student-code-of-conduct/>

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>

ETAMU Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend **all class meetings** for each course they are enrolled in. Students are responsible for **understanding** and **complying** with attendance requirements published in the university catalog, the Student Guidebook and the course syllabus. Faculty members will outline attendance expectations in the **course syllabus** and maintain attendance records for their classes.

The university does not require faculty to report daily attendance and does not maintain centralized records of students' daily class attendance. However, faculty members may maintain records of **excused and unexcused absences**, as certain financial aid and other programs may require documentation of attendance.

[Full Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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](#)

[Graduate Academic Dishonesty](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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 the SDS office below.

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services (SDS)

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library, Room 162

Phone

(903) 886-5150

(903) 886-5835

Fax

(903) 468-8148

Email

studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website

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

Nondiscrimination Notice

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

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 ETAMU 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.

[Carrying Concealed Handguns on Campus](#)

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all ETAMU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at (903) 886-5868 or 911.

Student Mental Health Resources

The Counseling Center at ETAMU, 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.

Phone:

(903) 886-5145

Website:

<https://www.etamu.edu/counseling-center/>

AI Use Policy

Important: In this course, the **use of AI is disallowed**. You must NOT use AI to generate **any code**. East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chat Bots, 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 source.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	SUBJECT
Week 1	Introduction to Computer Systems; Programming Basics
Week 2	Declaring Variables
Week 3	Declaring Variables*
Week 4	Binary Number System; Data Representation
Week 5	Operators; Expressions
Week 6	If Statements
Week 7	If Statements*
Week 8	Midterm Exam; Input / Output
Week 9	Functions
Week 10	Functions*
Week 11	Functions
Week 12	Iteration
Week 13	Iteration*
Week 14	Lists / Arrays
Week 15	Lists / Arrays*
Week 16	Final Exam!

* Continued from previous week.

This course calendar is **tentative** and will adapt to the **actual progress** of each class, which may be a little faster or slower than this schedule.