

Advanced Placement Computer Science Guidelines

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Class Schedule is on my office door. Grading is by an average of homework and tests (see grade sheet). Please realize we have a great deal of work to cover in very little time. The AP exams are in early May, which gives us about 140 class days.

In particular, be aware that CSAP is not "Comp Sci II" and is quite different from the department's introductory class. At the introductory level, a program is satisfactory if it works at all. Here, it must work *efficiently*; also there is much more emphasis on programming theory. While previous programming experience is not required, it is most helpful.

Students are expected to be able to do independent work. Most homework is assigned several days or so before it is due; it is the student's responsibility to pace her- or himself accordingly. Often, students may elect to work together on some major project; permission for such should be obtained from the instructor in advance. Please read the homework and plagiarism policy of the computer department and consult with the instructor if you have any questions.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. You may earn full, partial, or no credit for each assignment submitted. If an assignment is not turned in on time and no special arrangements have been made, no credit is given, i.e., **assignments cannot be turned in late and cannot be made up.** You are responsible for the completion of all assignments and material covered in class, even if you were absent on the day(s) concerned.

You are not expected to successfully complete all assignments. Some may prove too difficult, you may not have enough time, or you may simply elect to skip a particular day. However, since assignments cannot be made up, it is best to submit at least some evidence of effort for partial credit.

Grading and tests: There will be two or three major tests each quarter (four to six a semester), and a first semester exam. There is however no final exam at the end of the year. The American Computer Science League (ACSL) competitions occur four times in the year; the take-home problems are graded as homework; the quizzes are averaged together and weighted as one test. *Unlike the policy of Computer Science I, a student's lowest test score is not dropped. Likewise, tests are not open book, in order to prepare for the AP exam.*

In addition, each student will have a homework project on a topic of her/his own choosing, to be completed in May after the AP exam. These projects may be done jointly other students. The topic of the project must be cleared in advance with the instructor. While the project is not due in final form until the end of the year, it will be regarded as an on-going activity throughout the entire year.

The semester exam and the project will each count approximately 20% of the test and homework averages, respectively (see grade sheet). The two semesters are weighted approximately equally to determine the final grade.

SOFTWARE USE AND LICENSE

All the software used in the class (JCreator, BlueJ, and the Java language itself) are freeware and thus are available without charge to use here and/or on your own computer. Also, please read and understand the separate homework and plagiarism policy sheets.

This year we are experimenting with an online tutorial at www.eimacs.com. Please be aware that this is a supplemental service we are using to accommodate students' different learning styles; it is not the primary source of material. The department's homework and plagiarism policy apply to work done and submitted to and from this site just as it would to work done in the classroom.