

# CS2104: Introduction to Problem Solving

## Fall, 2008

- Class:**
- (1) CRN 97726: MW 4–5:15; Hutcheson 204
  - (2) CRN 97727: TuTh 3:30–4:45; Architecture Annex 109
- Instructor:**
- (1) Dr. Lenwood S. Heath, 2160J Torgersen Hall  
Email: [heath@vt.edu](mailto:heath@vt.edu)  
Office Hours: 9:30-11 Tuesdays and Thursdays
  - (2) Dr. Pardha S. Pyla, 636 McBryde Hall  
Email: [ppyla@vt.edu](mailto:ppyla@vt.edu)  
Office Hours: 2-3:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Teaching Assistants:** See the web site
- Textbooks:**
- Strategies for Creative Problem Solving, Second Edition*  
by H. Scott Fogler and Steven E. LeBlanc
- Problem Solving and Comprehension, Sixth Edition*  
by Arthur Whimbey and Jack Lochhead
- Other Sources:** *Effective Problem Solving, Second Edition*  
by Marvin Levine
- Course Notes:** See the web site
- Prerequisites:** ENGE 1024  
MATH 1205 or MATH 1526
- Course Website:** <http://courses.cs.vt.edu/cs2104/Fall108>

**Honor Code.** The Honor Code (and in particular, the Computer Science Departmental Honor Code) applies to this course and will be strictly enforced. All homework submissions that involve working problems **MUST** contain the following Pledge Statement:

**I have not received unauthorized aid on this assignment. I understand the answers that I have submitted. The answers submitted have not been directly copied from another source, but instead are written in my own words.**

**Assignments and Grading Policy.** The course will be graded on the basis of approximately 1000 total assigned points. There will be in-class assignments and exercises, including quizzes. Approximately half the course grade will be based on in-class assignments and the final exam. The remaining half will be based on weekly homework or programming assignments. In addition, there will be a few special problems given for extra credit during the semester.

Solutions to homework assignments will be submitted via Web-CAT. (See the course web site for a link to Web-CAT.) We will accept homework submissions either in PDF (preferred) or in any format that can be opened with MS Windows, except the docx (MS 2007) format. Note that presentation (i.e., readability and clarity) will count in grading.

Assignments are due to Web-CAT at 11:00pm on a given day (typically a Tuesday). Assignments received late will receive an automatic penalty of 1 point/minute unless the instructor has given a pre-arranged individual extension.

**Pair Problem Solving.** One of the major topics covered in this course is pair problem solving. Some assignments are required pairs, some are required individual, and some are optional pairs. When students turn in a joint assignment, both students will normally receive the same grade. You are free to use different partners for different assignments. Groups of more than two people working together on an assignment are strictly forbidden and will be treated as an honor code violation. You may not switch partners in the middle of an assignment. In other words, you may not discuss solutions for any one assignment with more than one person in the class.

When students work in pairs, it is important that both students involved completely understand the answers that they submit. The instructor reserves the right to require any student to present the answers to their homework assignment verbally to insure that each student does in fact meet the minimum requirement of understanding the solutions they submitted, and may reduce credit given for the assignment (to both students!) if the verbal answer is not compatible with understanding of the written answer. All joint submissions **MUST** contain a statement that clearly indicates, for **EACH** problem, the contribution of **EACH** student to the problem. Some possible contributions for a problem might include one or more of the following: Cracked the problem, wrote up the solution, found flaws/improved earlier versions of the solution.

**Special Accommodations.** If any student needs special accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor during the first week of class.

**Electronic Information.** Information such as copies of the syllabus and assignments, assignment solutions, and class grades, will be made available through the class web site. Notice of homework deadlines, test dates, etc., will be posted at the course web site. The course instructor accepts no responsibility or obligation for making such announcements in class. The course web site is the official source for all course notifications. The course homepage URL is <http://courses.cs.vt.edu/cs2104>.