

# CS2104: Introduction to Problem Solving

## Fall, 2009

**Class:** (1) CRN 91828: MW 4:00pm–5:15pm in Hutcheson 204  
(2) CRN 91829: TuTh 3:30pm–4:45pm in McBryde 210  
(3) CRN 96939: TuTh 11:00pm–12:15pm in Pamplin 3008

**Instructors:** (1) Mr. N.D. Barnette, McBryde 632, 540-231-7350  
Office Hours: See the web site; E-Mail: [barnette@cs.vt.edu](mailto:barnette@cs.vt.edu)  
(2 & 3) Dr. C.A. Shaffer, Torgersen 2000A, 540-231-4354  
Office Hours: See the web site; E-Mail: [shaffer@cs.vt.edu](mailto:shaffer@cs.vt.edu)

**GTAs:** Tozammel Hossain, [tozammel@vt.edu](mailto:tozammel@vt.edu)  
Shahtab Wahid, [swahid@vt.edu](mailto:swahid@vt.edu)  
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Office Hours: McBryde 106, see the web site for times.

**UGTAs:** Ryan Honig, [rhonig22@vt.edu](mailto:rhonig22@vt.edu)  
Rob Wyland, [rwyland@vt.edu](mailto:rwyland@vt.edu)  
Office Hours: McBryde 106, see the web site for times.

**Textbooks:** *Strategies for Creative Problem Solving, Second Edition*  
Fogler and LeBlanc  
*Problem Solving & Comprehension, Sixth Edition*  
Whimbey and Lochhead  
Course notes will be posted at the course website.

**Course Website:** <http://www.cs.vt.edu/cs2104/Fall109>

### Honor Code:

The Virginia Tech Honor Code applies to this course and will be strictly enforced.

### Assignments and Grading Policy:

The course will be graded on the basis of 1000 total assigned points. There will be in-class assignments and exercises, including quizzes and/or midterms. Roughly half the course grade will be based on in-class assignments, quizzes or tests, and the final. The remaining half will be based on weekly homework assignments.

Solutions to homework assignments will be submitted via Web-CAT. (see the course website for a link to Web-CAT). We accept homework submissions PDF or in any format that can be opened with MS Windows, **with the exception that we do not accept .docx format**. Note that presentation (i.e., readability and clarity) will count in grading.

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

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

### **Attendance Policy:**

Educational studies consistently show a strong correlation between class attendance and class grade. Much of the grading for this class will be based on in-class assignments and activities, some of which are difficult or impossible to make up at another time. Attendance to every class is mandatory, and will be monitored at every class meeting. Students will lose 10 points (1% of the semester grade) for every class missed. There are no excused absences for any reason. However, any student who needs to miss class for a legitimate reason can recover those points by scheduling a meeting with the instructor (normally this must be done before the next class) at which the student presents the gist of the material covered during the missed class. The instructor may choose instead of a meeting to have the student write a 1-2 page summary of the material from the missed lecture. Notice that the student is presenting the material, not the instructor! So the student will need to prepare for the meeting or the summary writeup by carefully reading the lecture notes and any associated reading assignments. Lecture notes will be available from the course website shortly before or after each lecture.

**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 website. The course instructor accepts no responsibility or obligation for making such announcements in class. The course website is the official source for all course notifications. The course homepage URL is <http://courses.cs.vt.edu/cs2104>.