

CS2104: Introduction to Problem Solving

Spring, 2009

- Class:** (1) CRN 17385: TuTh 12.30-1.45; McBryde 209
- Instructor:** (1) Dr. Alexey V. Onufriev, 2160C Torgersen Hall
Email: alexey@cs.vt.edu
Office Hours: 2.45 - 3.45 pm 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
- The Art and Craft of Problem Solving*
by Paul Zeitz
- 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/Spring09>

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 1/3 of the course grade will be based on in-class assignments and

the final exam. Approximately 1/3 of the course grade will be based on weekly homework or programming assignments. And the remaining 1/3 will come from the group project assignments.

In addition, there may be a few special problems given for extra credit during the semester.

Solutions to homework assignments will be submitted via Moodle. (See the course web site for a link to Moodle.) 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 Moodle at 11:00pm on a given day. Assignments received late will receive an automatic penalty of 1 point/minute unless the instructor has given a pre-arranged individual extension.

Problem Solving as part of a group. Some assignments require groups of 3 or more students, some require pairs, some are individual, and some are optional pairs. When students turn in a joint assignment, both students will normally receive the same grade. You may not switch partners in the middle of an assignment. In other words, you may not discuss solutions for any one assignment unless you are working on a group assignment. Then you are NOT allowed to discuss the assignment with members of other groups.

When students work in groups, 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/Spring09>.