

Instructor: Bill McQuain
631 McBryde (231-5605)
mcquain@cs.vt.edu

Office Hours: 1:30-3:00 MWF and by appointment

TAs: Information about the Teaching Assistants for this course will be listed on the course Website.

Objectives: This course extends the concepts of primitive data types by teaching the student a classical set of data structures that pervades both the theoretical and practical domains of computer science. Topics discussed include lists, queues, stacks, trees, data storage, file system organization, and access methods.

Prerequisites: CS 2704 and Math 2534. Computer Science majors and minors must have completed the CS prerequisite with a final grade of C or better, and Computer Engineering majors must have completed the CS prerequisite with a grade of C- or better – I will grant absolutely no exceptions to these requirements!

Text: *Data Structures and Program Design in C++*, by Kruse and Ryba, Prentice-Hall 1999. Course notes will be posted, as available, on the course website.

Course Web Page: (<http://courses.cs.vt.edu/~cs2604/>) The course Website will include copies of the course contract (this document), pertinent department policy statements, office hours, test dates, programming project specifications as available, and timely announcements. You are advised to consult the Website on a regular basis, especially if you are foolish enough to skip class regularly.

The course Website also will have links to other useful information, possibly including brief tutorial introductions to C++ background, file parsing, example programs, test koofers, and the course notes.

Assignments: Your grade will be based on two tests, a final exam, homework assignments, and a sequence of four programming projects, weighted as follows:

| Item | Weight | Tentative Dates |
|----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Programming Projects | | |
| Minor Projects | 20% | various, TBA |
| Major Projects | 25% | various, TBA |
| Homework | 12% | TBA |
| Quizzes | 3% | pop |
| Midterm Test | 15% | TBA |
| Final Exam | 25% | Friday, December 8, 4:25–6:25 |

Programming Projects: The programming projects must be implemented in Standard C++. You may use any Standard conformant compiler you like, however all programming assignments submitted are required to compile under either Microsoft Visual C++, version 6.0 or the GNU g++ compiler installed on the FreeBSD machines in McB 124. Programs will be tested under either Windows NT or FreeBSD. It is your responsibility to ensure that your programs execute correctly in the appropriate environment.

The MS Visual C++ 6.0 compiler is the only one supported for this course. That means that neither the instructors nor the TAs for this course will answer questions about the use of any other compiler, including earlier versions of Visual C++. The Visual C++ compiler is installed on the Windows PCs in the McBryde 116/118 computer lab, and in several University computer labs around campus. If you are using another operating system or compiler you are strongly advised to test each of your programming projects in the lab prior to submission.

All the programming projects will be submitted electronically, using the Curator System. See the Curator Project Guides Page (<http://ei.cs.vt.edu/~eags/CuratorGuides.html>) for details and software. Be sure to download and read the *Student Guide to the Curator* — it contains the answers to most of the questions students have about the Curator System. The *Student Guide* also contains information about how the Honor Code applies when using the Curator; be sure to read and follow the guidelines given there.

Each of your programming projects may also be graded for adherence to good software engineering principles, including documentation, design, conformance to the stated specification, and programming style. Each project specification will include explicit guidelines that you will be expected to follow, in addition to the general SE principles discussed in class.

Homework: There will be a number of homework assignments throughout the term. It is possible, but not guaranteed, that one homework score will be dropped. Homework assignments will also be submitted electronically.

Quizzes: There will be a number of in-class quizzes throughout the term. Quizzes will generally be short and based upon class discussions and/or assigned readings.

Tests: Your score on the final exam will replace the lower of your two test scores, if it is an improvement. You must bring your Va Tech ID card to the tests and final exam!

Grading Policies: This course is largely devoted to the development of skills understanding and implementing a number of data structures and related algorithms, as reflected in the relatively heavy weight given to the programming assignments. You will be expected to produce programs which are not only functionally correct, but also well-structured, well-documented and readable. The Computer Science Department Documentation Standards, described in *Elements of Programming Style*, will be enforced on any programming assignments that are human-graded (a copy is included with the course notes).

Backups: It is your responsibility to maintain a up-to-date backup copy of each programming project (that is in addition to the copy you submit). The hard drives of the lab machines are re-cloned periodically, so don't try to leave a backup there! Keep a spare copy of all the relevant files for each project on floppy disk in case your assignment is mislaid.

Late Work: Each programming project will have a due date and time and will include instructions for submission. Except in the very rare case that an extension is granted, late project submissions will incur a penalty of 20% per day, and will not be given any credit if submitted after graded assignments or solutions have been released. Any request for an extension must be made at least 24 hours prior to the due date.

Plan your time carefully for the programming projects, especially if you will be using computers in the campus labs — you may be competing with other students for scarce resources, so don't put things off until the last minute.

Note well: delays resulting from machine availability, lab schedules, hardware failures or your failure to maintain a backup of your work do not merit an extension.

Quizzes and homework assignments will not be accepted late.

Statute of Limitations: Any questions or complaints regarding the grading of an assignment or test must be raised within one week after the score or the graded assignment is made available (not when you pick it up).

Absences: If a serious illness prevents you from taking any of the tests, send your instructor an e-mail message, or a friend with a note, describing your condition before the scheduled test. Also, to establish a valid excuse for an illness you must get a note from a physician or the University infirmary. Before missing a test for any reason, you must make every effort to discuss the problem with your instructor before the day of the test. Excuses other than an illness must be reported to your Dean's office so that they can send your instructor a written explanation of the

absence. If you need to be away for an official University event, this must be cleared with your instructor in advance. Without a valid excuse, no makeup tests or exam will be given.

Grade Scale: Final grades will be set according to the usual 10-point scale; i.e., 90% guarantees at least an A-, 80% at least a B-, etc. A curve may or may not be applied to the final averages; that decision will be based on the overall class performance. The decision to utilize a curve rests entirely with the course instructor.

Honor Code: An exhaustive list of Honor Code violations would be impossible to present here, but among other things, each of the following is a flagrant violation of the Virginia Tech Honor Code, and violations will be dealt with severely (Honor Court charges will be filed):

- ◆ Working with another student to derive a common program or solution to a problem. There are no group programming projects in this course.
- ◆ Discussing the details required to solve a programming assignment. You may not share solutions.
- ◆ Copying source code (programs) in whole or in part from someone else.
- ◆ Copying files from another student's disk even though they might be unprotected.
- ◆ Editing (computer generated) output to achieve apparently correct results.
- ◆ Taking another person's printout from a lab printer, remote rprint printer, trash can, etc.

It is acceptable to discuss with classmates a programming assignment in a general way, i.e., to discuss the nature of the assignment. In other words, you may discuss with your classmates what your program is required to accomplish but not how to achieve that goal using C++. In no way should the individual statements of a program or the steps leading to the solution of the problem be discussed with or shown to anyone (including private tutors) except those people cited in the following statement.

Feel free to discuss the assignment and your specific program code with the instructor and teaching assistants. The discussion of your individual program must be limited to these people.

If you have any question as to how the Honor Code applies to this class, remember that:

- ◆ Any work done in this class must be done on an individual basis.
- ◆ Credit will be given only for work done entirely on an individual basis.
- ◆ Do not make any assumptions as to who can provide help on a programming assignment.
- ◆ Evidence indicating the violation of the policy stated above will be turned in directly to the Honor Court.
- ◆ It is much easier to explain a poor grade to parents or a potential employer than to explain an Honor Court conviction.

In addition, the Honor Code statement included in the *Student Guide to the Curator* is in force for this class.

The Honor Code will be strictly enforced in this course. All assignments submitted shall be considered pledged graded work, unless otherwise noted. All aspects of your work will be covered by the Honor System. Honesty in your academic work will develop into professional integrity. The faculty and students of Virginia Tech will not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty.