

CS2604: Data Structures and File Processing

Fall, 2004

- Class:** (1) MW 2:30:pm-3:45pm in McBryde 126
(2) TuTh 12:30-1:45pm in McBryde 126
- Instructors:** (1) D. McPherson, McBryde 625, 540-231-9637
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- (2) Dr. C.A. Shaffer, McBryde 331, 540-231-4354
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E-Mail: shaffer@cs.vt.edu
- GTA:** Zhiyan Shao, Email: zshao@vt.edu
Vidhya Vijayaraghavan, Email: vvijayar@vt.edu
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- Prerequisites:** CS2704 and either Math2534 or Math 3034
- Textbook:** *A Practical Introduction to Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis – Second Edition*
by Clifford A. Shaffer
A copy of the overheads is available from
A-1 Copies in University Mall
- Class Homepage:** <http://courses.cs.vt.edu/~cs2604>
- Grade Weighting:** 4 Projects: 45% total
Midterm and final: 35%
Pop Quizzes: 5%
Homework: 15%

Honor Code:

The Honor Code, and in particular, the document “DEPARTMENTAL POLICY ON KOOFERS, OLD PROGRAMS, CHEATING, AND COMPUTER USE,” (posted at the course website) applies to this course and will be strictly enforced. Homework and exams **must** be done strictly on an individual basis. Design and coding of programming assignments **must** be done strictly on an individual basis. 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 except the graduate teaching assistants, the instructor, or the free tutors provided by ACM or UPE. Any discussion of your program source code must be limited to these people.

Always give credit for work that is not entirely your own (e.g., parts of programs or homework answers borrowed from a book).

Prerequisites:

The Computer Science Department rigorously enforces the prerequisite requirements for all courses. Additionally, for majors or minors in Computer Science the Department enforces the requirement that all prerequisite Computer Science courses be completed with a grade of C or better. Any student not meeting these requirements and not obtaining written permission from the course instructor to remain in the course, must withdraw from the course within the first week of classes. Any student who is subsequently found not to meet these requirements **will be subject to an honors violation report** on the basis of falsification of qualifications. Instructors are NOT bound to investigate the records of students to ascertain their prerequisite status; this is the student’s own responsibility.

In **all** cases, **the student is responsible** for knowing all prerequisite material.

Assignments and Grading Policy:

This is in large part a programming course, and programming projects count for 45% of your grade. You are expected to produce programs which are both readable and correct. The CS Departmental Documentation Standards entitled “Elements of Programming Style” (available from the course website) will be enforced.

One purpose of a data structures course is to teach efficient algorithms and use of appropriate data structures. Another purpose of this course is to exercise your design abilities. It is not sufficient that a program generate the correct answer and be written with good documentation style. Projects will also be graded in part on design and organization quality, and in part on efficiency. You should certainly pay attention when the instructors discuss issues related to “good” and “poor” design choices for the projects. These issues directly affect your grade.

Solutions to homework assignments must be typeset either using a word processor or in plain ASCII text. No handwritten work (including scanned documents) will be accepted.

All programming assignments will have a stated due date, a stated early bonus date (generally 1-2 days preceding the due date) and a stated “drop dead” late submission date (generally 2-3 days after the due date). Working programming assignments handed in by

the specified time on the bonus date will receive a 10% bonus. Programming assignments turned in after the stated due date will be penalized as stated on the assignment. A final late date will be listed. Programming assignments will not be accepted after that time, unless an extension has been granted.

Homework assignments are due at the date and time specified. No late homework assignments will be accepted unless an extension has been granted.

All assignments will be submitted electronically. The acceptor program used to receive your assignments will provide the official timestamp used to determine whether a program is on time. Assignments will lose 1 point per minute late until reaching the credit level for the next due date. For example, if a program is worth 100 points, and is turned in 3 minutes after the early bonus due date, then it would receive $100/10 - 3 = 7$ bonus points. If the program were turned in more minutes late than the amount of the early bonus, but prior to the regular due date, it would simply be counted as being turned in on time. A similar calculation applies to projects turned in a few minutes after the regular due date or the late date. **Be warned** – the “few minutes late” penalty is automatic, and there will be no exceptions or mitigating circumstances. **Don’t push deadlines.**

Requests for extensions for homework or programs must be made at least 24 hours **in advance** of the due date (**not** the late submission date).

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

Equipment and Programming Language:

All programming for this course will be done in **C++**. The GTAs will compile and test programs using Gnu **G++** under Mandrake Linux. It is the responsibility of the student to submit a program that will successfully compile and execute on the specified platform. Computing facilities are available for use in the Departmental Computing Lab in McBryde 124.

Test data files will be provided via the CS2604 website.

Class Forum

The class forum can be found at https://forum.cs.vt.edu/forum_show.pl. This forum will be the source for all official announcements related to the class. We might remember to announce a test, assignment, or change to spec or due date in class, but there is no guarantee or promise that we will. The class forum is the **only** official, reliable source for announcements, changes, etc for this course. If something an instructor says in class conflicts with information posted at this forum, then **the forum takes precedence**. Verbal instructions are easily mis-interpreted, nor do they leave a paper trail. The excuse “my instructor/GTA said something else” will not be accepted. Check the forum daily.