

CSC 121: INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

1:00–1:50 p.m. WF, BR 206; Lab: 1:00–2:40 p.m. M, BR 165

Eric Patterson, Ph.D.

BR 114, Office Hours 3–4 p.m. M, 1–3 p.m. T, 2–4 p.m. W, or by appointment

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Course Description: (Prerequisite: MAT 111 or 115). Problem solving methods and algorithms in a modern, high-level programming language. Introduces one or more programming environments. Emphasis on programming style and the design, coding, and testing of complete programs. Two lecture and two laboratory hours each week. (A grade of “C” or better is required for taking any course for which CSC 121 is a prerequisite).

Required:

Wu, C. Thomas, *An Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming with Java*, 3rd edition.

Storage media such as portable flash drive.

Optional:

Sierra, K. and Bates, B, *Head First Java*, 2nd edition.

Grading:

Quizzes, Homework	10%
Tests	5%, 10%, 15%
Final Exam	20%
Projects	25%
Lab	15%

Course Information:

This is the first required course for Computer Science majors. Students may declare a major in Computer Science after completion of CSC 121, 133, and 221 with a grade-point average of at least 2.5 for these three courses. (Students intending to major in Computer Science are encouraged to take CSC 133: Discrete Structures during the same semester or prior to CSC 121. In CSC 133 students study the logic and mathematics underlying computer science.)

CSC 121 is the first of a three-course sequence (121, 221, 332) involving computer programming using the Java™ programming language. No previous programming experience is assumed. Core concepts of computer science and the fundamentals of software design will be covered as the primary focus. Students will learn basic problem-solving strategies and design patterns to facilitate the software development process. Students will also discover elements of the art of computer programming, considering issues of aesthetics, simplicity, and elegance in addition to functionality.

Every student in CSC 121 must be enrolled in a lecture section and lab section. Individual course grades will incorporate grades from both class and lab work. CSC 121 can be a challenging and time-consuming course, but learning the material can be very rewarding. Students should expect to spend five to ten hours per week on the course outside of class and lab time, reading and practicing beyond formal hours.

Programming concepts will be covered in the lecture section, including algorithms, syntax, semantics, and program design. Projects and labs will also be discussed. Come to lecture prepared by having read the current material from the text and studied and/or tried any sample programs. A current class schedule will be maintained on the website.

Lab hours will be used for hands-on programming activities. Additional programming projects will also be assigned. Students may often work in pairs that change throughout the semester. Some assignments, though, may be individual-only and timed. Bring the textbook, your notes, and storage media to labs. Be prepared to write and test code during lab hours. For your convenience, regularly make backup copies of your programs both for labs and projects.

Attendance is required. Grades will be affected by absences. More than three class absences may result in course failure. Students are individually responsible for keeping current with course material and assignments. A supplemental web page will be maintained along with the class, but class announcements and material supersede posted material.

Academic honesty in all your work is required for a passing grade. Projects or labs noted as individual-only must be completed alone.

If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation in this course, you should inform the instructor in writing the first week of class. If you have not already done so, register with the office of Disability Services in Westside Hall (ext. 3746) and obtain a copy of your Accommodation Letter. Upon receiving the letter, meet with your instructor to make mutually agreeable arrangements.

This syllabus may be subject to change with reasonable notice.