

MCS-177

Introduction to Computer Science I

- Spring 2014

Louis Yu



Schedule

- Lectures:
 - MCS-177-001, MWF 12:30PM – 01:20PM, OHS 317 (Lou)
- Labs:
 - MCS-177-003, TR 09:00AM - 09:50AM, OHS 326 (Jeff)
 - MCS-177-004, TR 11:30AM - 12:20PM, OHS 326 (Max)
 - MCS-177-005, TR 12:30PM - 01:20PM, BH 326 (Max)

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Instructor

- Louis Yu
 - Office: Olin 303
 - Email: lyu@gustavus.edu
 - Your email should get response within a few hours
 - Homepage: <http://homepages.gustavus.edu/~lyu/>
 - Office Hours: see next page
- Max Hailperin
 - Office: Olin 306
 - Homepage: <http://homepages.gustavus.edu/~max/>
 - Office Hours: go any time
- Jeff Engelhardt
 - Office: Olin 312
 - Phone: x7479
- Tutors & Location:
 - Location: Olin 326
 - Time: TBA
 - Kevin Dexter (kdexter@gustavus.edu)
 - Helen Wauck (hwauck@gustavus.edu)
 - Diana Mueller (dmueller2@gustavus.edu)



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Louis Yu's Schedule (Spring 2014)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
10:00am - 10:30am						
10:30am - 11:00am		MCS-178-003 Computer Science II Lab OHS 326		MCS-178-003 Computer Science II Lab OHS 326		
11:00am - 11:30am		MCS-178-003 Computer Science II Lab OHS 326		MCS-178-003 Computer Science II Lab OHS 326		
11:30am - 12:00pm						
12:00pm - 12:30pm						
12:30pm - 01:00pm	MCS-177-001 Computer Science I Lecture OHS 317		MCS-177-001 Computer Science I Lecture OHS 317		MCS-177-001 Computer Science I Lecture OHS 317	
01:00pm - 01:30pm	MCS-177-001 Computer Science I Lecture OHS 317	Office Hour	MCS-177-001 Computer Science I Lecture OHS 317	Office Hour	MCS-177-001 Computer Science I Lecture OHS 317	
01:30pm - 02:00pm		Office Hour		Office Hour		
02:00pm - 02:30pm		Office Hour		Office Hour		
02:30pm - 03:00pm	MCS-394-001 Topics:Social Computing Lecture OHS 319	MCS-178-004 Computer Science II Lab OHS 326	MCS-394-001 Topics:Social Computing Lecture OHS 319	MCS-178-004 Computer Science II Lab OHS 326		
03:00pm - 03:30pm	MCS-394-001 Topics:Social Computing Lecture OHS 319	MCS-178-004 Computer Science II Lab OHS 326	MCS-394-001 Topics:Social Computing Lecture OHS 319	MCS-178-004 Computer Science II Lab OHS 326		
03:30pm - 04:00pm	MCS-394-001 Topics:Social Computing Lecture OHS 319		MCS-394-001 Topics:Social Computing Lecture OHS 319			
04:00pm - 04:30pm						
06:00pm - 08:00pm						Office Hour



Optional help
- Exam prep
- By arrangement

Saturday 6pm – 8pm

Office Hour

Seeking Help

- In general your email should get a reply within a few hours
- The objective is for you to learn the material
 - Feel free to schedule an appointment
 - If you schedule an appointment outside my office hours, please note that I (sometimes) have a life too
 - It's all about you (learning the material), not about me (I am here to help you)
 - If you need anything (or have any suggestions), don't hesitate to ask (or speak your mind)
 - If you miss an appointment, I might hesitate to schedule another one with you outside my office hour
 - But we can stick to office hours

Materials

- Textbook
 - [Python Programming in Context by Bradley N. Miller and David L. Ranum.](#)
 - Two editions
 - The first edition is cheaper, but has some minor errors (we can point those out for you as we progress)

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Materials

• World Wide Web

- The URL for this course is <http://homepages.gac.edu/~lyu/teaching/mcs177-s14/>
 - Lectures notes and codes will be available before the lecture
 - Projects will be posted 3 days before we start working on it in the lab
 - Projects are due by the beginning of class on due date

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Class/Lab Attendance

- *Attendance, both physical and mental, is required*
 - I reserve the right to lower your grade if I feel that you are missing or showing up late too often
- If there is a project due that day, you should be sure to submit it on time.
- You do not need to explain why you missed a class unless there is a compelling reason to do so
 - Email me ahead of time
 - Provide the necessary notes
- Should you need to miss a class or lab for any reason, you are still responsible for the material covered in there.
 - You will need to make sure that you understand the reading for that day
 - Ask another student for the notes from that day

Project and Lab Days

- Tuesdays and Thursdays, OHS 326 computer lab.
 - One or more of those lab days will be provided for you to work on each project.
 - You will often need to spend additional time on the project outside of class.
- In lab
- 10 projects (see schedule for due dates)
 - Projects are posted 3 days before we start working on it in the lab
 - **MAKE SURE you read and understand the project BEFORE we start working on it in the lab**
 - **DO NOT wait until the lab starts to read and try to understand the project; thus wasting precious lab time**

Homework Exercises

- In some cases, you will be given exercises to work on individually at home
- These problems are designed to help you further understanding the class materials at your own pace
 - With less time constraint
- The homework exercises are due before the start of the next lecture
- At the end of the semester, 4 homework exercises will be chosen at random to count towards your final grade
- There will not be any make-up for homework exercises

In-Class Exercises

- In class, you will be given exercises to work on in groups.
 - You will decide your group a little later in the class (in our first in-class exercise)
- You will practice writing programs by hand (without the help of a computer).
- This will also help you preparing for the tests and the final
 - Similar time constraint will apply
- 4 in-class exercises will be chosen at random to count towards your final grade
- There will not be any make-up for in-class exercises
- If a group have trouble finishing an in-class exercise within the given time. They may choose to work on it at home and hand it in before the next lecture.
 - A penalty of one point will be applied to the late submission

Tests and Final Exam

- There will be two in-class tests during the semester and a final exam as scheduled by the registrar
- Tests will be closed-book and mostly closed-notes. You may, however, use a single 8 1/2 by 11 sheet of paper with **hand-written** notes for reference (written on both sides of the sheet are OK)
- I will post a test/final prep sheet 2 weeks before the test/final
 - List of topics covered
 - Sample questions

Grading

10 projects, 20 points each	200
(4) Homework exercises	20
(4) In-class exercises	20
2 tests, 50 points each	100
1 final, 100 points	100

440 points

A: 408-440 **B+:** 379-393 **C+:** 335-349 **D+:** 291-305 **F:** 0-261
A-: 394-407 **B:** 364-378 **C:** 320-334 **D:** 262-290
B-: 350-363 **C-:** 306-319

General Approach To This Class

- Students in this course have a wide range of backgrounds/majors/previous experiences
- Focus on yourself
 - Your ability is different than your classmates' abilities
- The point is for you to learn the course material
- Ideal reduction: you should be “rewarded” by the effort you put into this course (and your willingness to learn)
- Lesson learned from the previous semester: the students who focus too much on getting a certain grades often have not properly absorbed the course material
 - Plagiarism might occur
 - They often receive lower grades at the end

Honor

- Rule of thumb: it is OK for students to get together in small groups to go over material from the lectures and text, solve problems, study for exams, and discuss general ideas and approaches to projects
- **But, no hardcopies should be taken away from the discussion**
 - No pieces of paper or computer files can be taken away, no codes should be copied down
 - If you wrote down ideas on a piece of paper, the paper should be destroyed after the discussion
 - If you wrote down ideas on the board, the board should be erased after the discussion

It is very easy for us to find out (don't test us)

Moodle

- <https://moodle.gac.edu/>
 - Lecture notes and projects will be available on Moodle
 - Lecture notes, projects and code used in class will be available on the course web page
 - You can check your grades on Moodle as they are given
- <http://homepages.gac.edu/~lyu/teaching/mcs177-s14/moodle.html>
- <http://homepages.gac.edu/~lyu/teaching/mcs177-s14/checkgrade.html>

Schedule

- <http://homepages.gac.edu/~lyu/teaching/mcs177-s14/schedule.html>

Links

- <http://homepages.gac.edu/~lyu/teaching/mcs177-s14/links.html>

In-class Exercise #1- Team Formation, NOW!

- Form a team of 5, put your chair together, sit together.
- Introduce yourself to your team members, learn your team members' names.
 - This will be your support group / group for in-class exercises for the rest of the semester. **You will sit together during each lecture.** Please help each other!
- Decide on a team name, write it down on a blank piece of paper (in big letters, using marker).
- Write each of your name on the same piece of paper (under your team name)
- When your team is ready, call me over and I'll take a picture of you and your team members. Please have somebody in the center holding the piece of paper with your team name on it.

