

Syllabus

COSC-072, Computer Science II, summer 2011
Computer Science Dept.
Georgetown University

Prof. Richard K. Squier

Class Meetings:

Intercultural Center 102
15:40-17:30 Mon-Thu
11 Jul - 11 Aug
Final Exam: Thu 11 Aug

Textbook:

[1] Deitel & Deitel: C++ How to Program, 7/e
or
[2] Deitel & Deitel: C++ How to Program, 8/e

NB--The bookstore has ordered [2]. However, [1] and [2] are near enough for our purposes. If you have the choice and it is no sacrifice, get [2].

Goals:

Our intention is to get the many cluttering details of programming practice well enough in hand so that by the time we reach the Data Structures course we can concentrate on its concepts and content rather than our befuddlement at the arcane but necessary mechanics of writing programs. The endpoint will be our ability to write programs that implement abstract data structures such as dynamic lists of various types, including queues, trees, and so forth. Topics covered will include pointers and pointer-implemented data structures (lists, queues, and trees), operator overloading, inheritance, polymorphism, templates, stream and file input/output, exceptions, string and character processing, sorting and searching, templates and the standard template library

Grading:

My grading system does not depend on evaluating your progress based on material of unknown origin. Homework is graded, but used solely to provide feedback, not in determining grades (However, see class participation below.) I do use your submitted material as a guide in developing examinations, and will ask that all your work be returned to me temporarily; so, keep ALL your work together as a portfolio. If you feel you are not being evaluated thoroughly enough, it is incumbent on you to bring this to my attention while there is still time to address your concerns before grades are submitted. You are welcome to discuss these issues with me

at any time.

Midterm exam: 10%, Final Exam: 40%, Project inquiry: 35%, Participation (in class discussions and number and completeness of homework submissions) 15%. In addition, verifiable, documented, extraordinary extension of project work may receive up to a 100% boost in overall score. The project inquiry is an oral question and answer session coupled with an examination of the project. It is designed to probe the student's understanding of those concepts and knowledge which the project is meant to make concrete.

Homework markup system:

A check mark means:

"I mostly agree with what you said", "I cannot find anything worth quibbling about", "Technically the answer is correct and I have no complaint."

A "-" means :

"I think you are about 1/2 right", "There is something missing here, but not entirely wrong", "You missed the point somewhat, but what you did say was not exactly incorrect."

An "X" means:

"You did not answer the question", "The answer was too skimpy", "You basically missed the point".

A "?" means:

"I do not understand what you said", "Are you sure this makes sense?", "I think a part of what you said might not actually be true", "I wonder, I am not sure I believe you, but maybe you are correct".

A "+ +" means:

"I like what I see", "You went beyond the call of duty", "Nice job".

Homework grading should be thought of as a discussion, rather than a score. We mark up your work and return it to you. You can, and should if you feel it worth it, return your work with comments. I might then follow up in class or with additional comments, or you might follow up in class. In this way, a discussion takes place.