

Syllabus

Lecture Information:

Lecture: Tuesday 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm PLS 1140
Textbook: B. Kernighan and D. Ritchie, *The C Programming Language*, 2nd edition, Prentice Hall 1988.
Class URL: <http://ter.ps/enee140>
Instructor: Dr. Tudor Dumitras
Office: 3425 A.V. Williams Building
Email: tdumitra@umiacs.umd.edu (the best way to contact)

Lab/Recitation Information: AVW 1442

0101 WF 9:00 am – 9:50 am Xi, Linagchen xlc@mail.umd.edu
0102 WF 10:00 am – 10:50 am Huang, Eric richuang@terpmail.umd.edu
0103 WF 11:00 am – 11:50 am Huang, Robert rhuang@terpmail.umd.edu

Office hours: All rooms will be in A.V.Williams Building

Liangchen Tu 11:00 am – 12:00 pm @ AVW 1442
Eric TBD
Robert TBD
Tudor Tu 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm @ AVW3425

Please forgive the UTFs if they are a little late or have to leave a little early as they might have classes before or after the office hours. Check the class website for possible updates on the office hours.

Grading Policy: *(dates, except that for the final exam, are subject to change)*

Letter grade will be decided based on the total score of the following five categories:

20%: Homeworks 10-13 weekly recitation assignments, due every Friday.
40% Projects 3 programming assignments.
Tentative due dates: March 23, April 13, May 11
15% Midterm Exam Tuesday, March 31 in class.
25% Final Exam Wednesday, May 20, 10:30am-12:30pm, in class
10% Bonus Points (e.g. for answering your classmates' questions in the Discussions section of the web site)

Other important dates:

First lecture: January 27 Last lecture: May 12
First lab: January 28 Last lab: May 8
Spring break: March 15 – March 22

Religious holidays

If the midterm or the final exam are scheduled on a **religious holiday** that you are compelled to observe and you must make arrangement to take the exam on a different date, please discuss this with Dr. Dumitras no later than Monday February 2.

Students with disabilities

If you have a **documented disability** and wish to discuss academic accommodation with me, please contact Dr. Dumitras as soon as possible, but not later than Monday February 2.

Students with learning difficulties

If you are experiencing difficulties in keeping up with the academic demands of this course, contact the Learning Assistance Service, 2201 Shoemaker Building, 301-314-7693. Their educational counselors can help with time management, reading, note-taking and exam preparation skills.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

The University Code of Academic Integrity, which can be found at http://thestamp.umd.edu/gh/academics/academic_integrity, prohibits students from committing the following acts of academic dishonesty: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty in this class includes copying the lab reports or exam answers of other students; however, discussing homework problems and exchanging tips is encouraged (students will receive bonus points for answering general questions on the discussion board). If there are any take-home exams, discussing the material with anyone, inside or outside of the class, is also considered academic dishonesty. Instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to Office of Judicial Programs.

Dissection of the Grading Policy:

Lab-work/Homework: (20%)

- There will be weekly programming assignments, normally assigned during the lecture on Tuesday and due at the end of the second lab/recitation on Friday of the same week or Wednesday of the following week. You are supposed to work on most parts of these assignments during the lab sessions with the help of your TA.
- Lab-work will normally be submitted electronically by the end of lab/recitation, by using the `submit` command, which attaches a timestamp to your submission. Detailed electronic submission instructions will be discussed in the lab/recitation.
- **Late lab-work will not be accepted.** If you must miss a recitation where a hardcopy of the lab work is due, it is your responsibility to contact your recitation TA before the due date.
- It is acceptable, and you are encouraged, to discuss lab work assignments with others, but you have to prepare the final submission version by yourself. Both copying other's work and allowing others to copy your work will be considered as academic dishonesty (see above for more details).

Project: (40%)

- We will have 3 programming projects. You need to submit them electronically before midnight on the due dates.
- The project will be posted on the course web page and announced in the lecture. Normally you will have 2-4 weeks to complete a project; however, you are strongly recommended to start early.
- The projects must be done in Eclipse and must compile on the GRACE UNIX machines. Projects must be submitted electronically. Electronic submission will be automatically time-stamped. Late submissions will be accepted, subject to some non-trivial penalty. Detailed submission information will be provided with the project assignment.
- It is acceptable to discuss project ideas with other students, but you have to write the code by yourself. Both copying project and allowing others to copy your project will be considered as academic dishonesty (see above for more details).

Exams: (40%)

- Both the midterm (15%) and final exam (25%) will be closed book, closed notes, and no calculators, PDAs, or laptops will be allowed. Please turn off cell phones.
- **There will NOT be any make-up midterm exam.** If you must miss the midterm exam and believe that it is an excusable absence according school policy, you must receive permission from Dr. Dumitras at least 48 hours before the exam so that portion of the grade can go to the final exam. Otherwise, 0 (zero) will be counted as the score for the missed midterm exam. Read school's student attendance policy for more details:
http://faculty.umd.edu/teach/attend_student.html

How Letter Grades are Assigned

- + and – system will be used in this course (A+,A,A-,B+, B, ...).
- There will not be curve of any kind in any of the above categories.
- The letter grades will be assigned based on the sum of the above categories (100% total) using the following method:
 - Rank the sum of each student from high to low
 - Find the difference between each two adjacent sums (highest – second highest, second highest – third highest, ...)
 - Make a cut (in letter grade) when the difference is large
- There is no quota for A's and there is no guarantee for any kind of grade distribution. Everyone starts the semester with an A and it is yours to lose. You will receive a good grade if you follow all the instructions.
- Some facts from the past semesters
 - A couple of students get A+ each semester.
 - Normally there are at least 20% of the students get A's, more than 2/3 of the class get B- or better letter grade for the course.

- A couple of students “work very hard” to “earn” D or F each semester (hopefully we will not have any this semester.)
- Normally, 90% or higher will be at least an A-, and 85% or lower will get a B+ at the best.

Disputing your Grade

- If you **dispute your score on any exam/project/lab report**, you must contact Dr. Dumitras (for the exam) or your UTF/GTA (for others) within one week from the date that the score is announced. After the one-week period, all scores will be considered final and no changes will be made.
- **Project re-grade after debugging:** if you receive a considerably low score on the project and believe that you have only made minor mistakes in your code, please contact Dr. Dumitras as soon as possible. In most cases, you will be given a couple of days to debug your program and re-submit the project. Based on how much your code has been modified and the nature of the modification, we will re-grade your re-submitted project.

***Important:** this policy aims to encourage you to debug your code and to correct the minor mistakes you may have made. Do not abuse this. If the code changes are major, your original score will stand.*