

**Computer Science Technology Department
Houston Community College
Northwest College**

Wednesday, January 02, 2013

COSC 1436 – Programming Fundamentals I

Semester – Spring 2013

Distance Education Section, Delivered via the Internet – 24/7 at your convenience

Eagle on line (go to: <https://hccs1.mrooms3.net/login/index.php>)

For In-class: Assignments, supplementary reading materials, and quizzes are on-line.

Professor: Alireza Nikzad - Phone 713-718-5546 (Leave a Voice Message)

Regular E-mail: Ali.Nikzad@hccs.edu

To the Course: <https://hccs1.mrooms3.net/login/index.php>

Office Hours: By appointment as needed

**Final Exam for THIS course is conducted ONLY at
Spring Branch Campus IT IS NOT OFFER ONLINE OR IN
ANY OTHER HCCS CAMPUS**

Final Exam is on May 4th between 9:00 am – 3:00 pm in Room 117 (no admission after 1:00 pm)

NOTE: MEMINGITIS IMMUNIZATION REQUIRED FOR SPRING REGISTRATION

Texas Senate Bill 1107 passed in May 2011, requires that new HCC students and former HCC students returning after an absence of at least one fall or spring semester who are under the age of 30 are required to present a physician-signed certificate showing they have been vaccinated against bacterial meningitis. Beginning with spring 2012 registration, students will have to satisfy this requirement prior to enrollment. For more information and a list of exemptions, please go to <http://www.hccs.edu/hccs/admissions-registration-center/new-student-general-admissions-steps/submit-meningitis-documentation>

Complete Syllabus: The course syllabus consists of this instructor provided section. Please look at the course materials on EAGLE ONLINE for more information

Acceptance Guidelines (For Distance Education students): Not all people are well suited for independent study. A general set of guidelines is used to determine if you should be accepted into the Distance Education sections of COSC1436. These guidelines will require you to:

1. Be self motivated or self starter: This usually means having completed at least 6 credit hours of college and having a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better. Exceptions should be discussed with the instructor.
2. Meet the course prerequisites: This means being ready for ENGL1301 and MATH1314 (i.e. no remediation needed) and high school computer literacy or equivalent.
3. Already be familiar with microcomputers by having used:
 - a. Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows ME, Windows 2000 Pro, Windows XP, Windows Vista or Windows 7
 - b. A word processing software product
 - c. An Internet browser
 - d. Files and folders. This means that you should be able to **create, rename, delete, locate, move and copy files and folders**. You should also be familiar with switching between the **icon view and the details view** in My Computer/Windows Explorer. A basic understanding of the above file management skills is required.
4. Have access to computer resources:
 - a. **either**, have adequate hardware with software installed on a computer at home or work including adequate Internet access with DSL or cable speed

- b. **or**, be able and willing to use open lab times provided by the college to complete the course.
- c. **Please note**, the network or computer going down the night before an assignment is due is NOT a valid excuse. Assignments have ample lead time before the “Due Dates” to allow for these types of situations. Start work early and submit your work early and you should not have a problem.

Textbook: Text book:

- a. If you are planning to taking only this course , you can purchase the textbook HCC bookstore sells for COSC 1436andthat is
Starting Out with C++ Early Objects, by: Tony Gaddis et. al., 7th Edition ISBN: 0-321-51238-3
- b. If you are planning to take COSC 1437 and next COSC 2436 (Data Structure , Programming Fundamental III) you can purchase the text book I recommend and that is
C++ Programming: Program Design Including Data Structures, with D. S. Malik ISBN-10: 1133526322 | ISBN-13: 978-1133526322 | Edition: 6
This book also has electronic version as well, you can purchase it from publisher or any site of your choice

Flash Drive: You will need a 128MB or larger flash drive to save your work. [NOTE: Today you cannot buy anything new that is smaller than 1GB.] We will use this flash drive to save your programs and assignments.

Eagle on line Delivery of Instruction: All sections of the course taught by this instructor employ computerized internet delivery of course materials by using Eagle on line (educational delivery software). You will complete quizzes, submit lab assignments and do normal emailing within Eagle on line.

Compiler: MS Visual Studio and Visual C++ is recommended this is the link to the free download, or scroll down to Visual C++

<http://www.microsoft.com/express/download/default.aspx>

Related Material: This course requires the use of **C++ compiler software** (one is available free via the internet and we provide a free compiler within the course materials. More details are provided with the course materials) and word processing or specifically **text processing software** (students usually use Word 2007, Word 2003, Word Pad or Note Pad; all by Microsoft).

Student Attendance/Participation is Mandatory: Students attending on-campus should be regularly attending class. For those taking the course as a Distance Education section of this topic, you must make satisfactory progress in this course. Students may be withdrawn, if in the opinion of the instructor, the student has fallen behind in their assignments and it is not reasonable to expect the student to complete the course during the semester. For both on-campus and distance education students; if you decide to quit participating in the course **before** the Last Day for Administrative/Student Withdraws, you should chat with the instructor. He can properly withdraw so that you will receive a W. If you quit participating in the course **after** the Last Day for Administrative/Student Withdraws, you will receive an F. This will apply to all students. Incomplete grades are rarely given.

Thus, all students need to be in regular contact with your instructor during the semester. For the Distance Education students, most of this contact will be electronically within the Eagle on line environment. Two exams will be given during the semester (Exam 1 and the Final Exam) that will require the Distance Education students to come on-campus to a Distance Education testing sites (with more information to be announced as test days approach).

EGLS3 -- Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

Instructor Participation: I will normally enter the course via Eagle on line every business day (Monday thru Friday unless it's a Holiday), however for a variety of reasons (sick, out of town, computer broken, internet connection not working, etc.) I may not enter the course on a given day. Often I will enter the course more than once on a business day. I will usually enter the course on Saturday morning, but not always. Sometimes, I will enter the course on Sunday. Thus, it might appear that you have 24/7 instructor response and you could wrongfully expect immediate response to all your needs. I will try to respond quickly and you should normally have a response within 2 business days, so don't panic if you don't get a response immediately.

I will normally grade any lab **assignments** each Saturday morning.

Quizzes= will be graded by Moodle software (EAGLE ONLINE) will have your results immediately, if you do not see your grade send me an e-mail. You have two chances to complete a quiz. Not all quizzes have same number of points. REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PRINT AND DISTRIBUTE QUIZZES AND EXAMS.

I will read all Eagle online "Mail" every time I enter the course and normally will respond that same day. Once in a while a student's question requires a couple of days for me to research his question to allow me to formulate a good (correct) response.

Final Grade: Your final grade will be posted within your student information system (People soft) however official grades are provided to students by the Registrar and are available shortly after the end of the semester. There is no other official method of posting a student's final grade. Final grades will not be given over the telephone by either the professor or any HCCS employee. If you need an official transcript see the registrar and request a transcript be sent after posting of the grades for the semester.

During the course, your progress (quiz, lab and exams scores) will be reported to you via our "My Grades" feature within Eagle online. You should check this regularly to confirm your progress in the course is current.

Telephone and Email Address: Make sure that your address is correct on your student ID card and that the system has your correct telephone and email information.

Examinations & Final Grade Determination:

• Quizzes	(10 Quizzes)	200	points
• Lab Assignments	(10 programs)	250	points
• Exam 1	(1*150=150)	150	points
• Final Exam	(1*400=400)	400	Points
• Total Points		1000	Points

Based on the points above a final course grade awarded as follows:

A - 900 to 1000	points
B - 800 to 899	points
C - 700 to 799	points
D - 600 to 699	points
F - 0 to 599	points

One special note:

Failing the final with an exam score of less than 50% will cause you to fail the course regardless of what your grades have been on the assignments, quizzes and other exam.

If you do not score at least 50% on the final, I assume you have not truly learned the materials in the course, thus you will fail the class.

The "Participation" portion of your grade will be determined by several factors, including (but not limited to):

- Entering the Eagle on line course regularly – at a minimum of every 3 days (twice a week).
- Answering all "Mail" every time you enter the course
- Reading new "Announcements" as they appear

- Reviewing new “Calendar” entries as they appear
- Reading all items posted to the “Discussions”
- Participating in “Discussions” as requested or appropriate
- Interacting with assigned email buddies/study groups – details provided later
- Using “Chat” rooms (which also have white boards) as needed
- Providing general information for the “Roster”
- Providing a picture for the “Roster” (optional)

The instructor has a feature called “Tracking” that shows your activity in the course by date and time. Do not try to bluff your way and lie about being seriously involved in learning course materials and have me look at the tracking and call your bluff. (See the bolded information about procrastinating within the next syllabus item.)

Collectively as a class (which includes on-campus and distance education students) you should all be working on the same materials (chapters) at the same time. The deadlines for lab assignments and quizzes will prevent procrastination. This will have several advantages:

1. Students will be able to interact with each other via Eagle on line “Mail” and “Discussions”. Additionally the “Chat” tool (with white board feature) is available for student interaction. Sharing questions and getting help from each other can be vital to your learning process. This will be part of the participation grade.
2. By necessity you will not be able to procrastinate. To succeed in this course you should complete chapters within a group (including the lab assignments and quizzes that are within each chapter) before you take the super-quiz for that group. Not doing so will set you up for failure. We don’t want you to get behind.
3. Thus, you will need to set for yourself a regular study schedule that should include between 12 to 15 hours per week. Remember this is a 3 lecture, 3 lab course that would normally meet on-campus for 6 hours of instructor contact per week. With an additional 1 to 1 ½ hours per week out of class for study for every hour in class (6 to 9 additional hours) your total hours of weekly participation in this course should be between 12 to 15 hours. Some of it spent on-line in Eagle on line and most spent doing reading, study and lab assignments (all of which can be done outside of Eagle on line). It is suggested that you have a regular schedule (set dates and times – 3 to 4 times a week) to both visit the Eagle on line course on-line and to study. During the summer term the pace is about 60% faster with approximately 20 to 25 hours of study per week. We suggest 3 to 4 hours of study daily; 6 days a week. Procrastinating by not having a regular schedule of time to do an on-line Internet **delivered Distance Education course is the number one cause of poor performance and thus of student withdrawal. Surprise, not having regular study habits is also the number one cause of poor performance for students attending on-campus courses.**
4. If you run into difficulty, I can hopefully help you get back on track quickly. As with all good professors, I am concerned with having an appropriate student completion rate for any course that I teach. Overcoming problems helps to get more students to complete the course having learned the material well.

There are some disadvantages; they are:

1. You can’t be a hermit. You will be required to enter Eagle on line regularly (at least twice a week) and participate in Eagle on line’s “Mail”, “Discussions”, etc.
2. Each lab assignment and quiz has a due date. You can’t (or should not) wait until just before a super-quiz and cram to complete a several chapters.

Deadlines: Memory building activities, lab assignments and quizzes for the Foundations Topic Learning Group should be completed before the student takes the on-campus exam for that learning group. Memory building activities may be taken as many times as a student desires.

Each **lab assignment** (one assignment per chapter) has its own due date and if submitted after the due date the grade will be reduced to 50% of the grade earned on that lab. This penalty might be waived for the first couple of lab assignments in the course. Additionally, all lab assignments have a cut-off date and will not be accepted for grading after that date (you get a zero).

The **quizzes** for a given chapter have the cut-off date for that chapter. You may take each quiz up to two times and we count your best score. We suggest that you take the quizzes as you complete a chapter. The quizzes are all self-grading and thus the student has immediate feedback. However, a few students insist on waiting until the last available date to take the quizzes for a chapter and then will try to take the quizzes 2 times in a row. Beware! This insidious practice has been stopped! I have set a parameter on all of the quizzes that requires a 2 hours wait before the student can take another attempt. Don't wait until the last day or you will have only one attempt at the quizzes for that chapter.

Missed Exams: Missed exam creates a serious problem. There is usually a 30% penalty for taking an exam late. If you miss an exam window of availability, contact your instructor via Eagle on line email and telephone.

Schedule: The tentative schedule is outlined below. Any changes will be announced within the Eagle on line course.

NOTE Distance Education students are paced as if they were on-campus students taking the course on a Tuesday/Thursday schedule and will need to complete materials on-time. Additionally, some of the due dates might fall on days when the college campus is closed (Spring Break, Easter and Thanksgiving) however, the internet connections to Eagle on line will normally be working and you will have access to the course for the submission of your assignments as well as taking quizzes, learning new materials, etc. You are in charge of your life and you should plan on completing materials and submitting them before the due dates to avoid any personal or religious conflicts that you might have with any of the due dates.

WEEK	TOPIC AND QUIZZES	QUIZZ & ASSIGNMENT DUE / CUTOFF DATE
1	An Over View of Computers and Programming Languages	1/19 – 1/20
2	Basic Elements of C++ and Visual C++ Compiler	1/26 – 1/27
3	Basic Input / Output	2/2 – 2/3
4	Control Structure I (Selection)	2/9 – 2/10
TEST 1 COVERS CHAPTERS 1 - 4 (YOU MUST TAKE QUIZZES BEFORE YOU TAKE THE EXAM)		2/16
5	Control Structure II (Repetition)	2/23 – 2/24
6	User – Defined Functions I	3/2 – 3/3
7	User – Defined Functions II	3/9 – 3/10
8	User - Defined Simple Data Types, Namespaces, and the string type	3/16 – 3/17
TEST 2 COVERS CHAPTERS 1-6 (YOU MUST TAKE QUIZZES BEFORE YOU TAKE THE EXAM)		3/23
9	One-dimensional Arrays and String	3/30
10	Multi-dimensional Arrays	4/6 – 4/7
11	Parallel Arrays and more input / output files	4/13 – 4/14
12	Sorting algorithm and Array (Bobble sort)	4/20 – 4/21
13	Searching algorithm and array (Sequential Search)	4/27 – 4/28
14	Structure and Class (if time allows)	5/1
Final Exam at School , Spring Branch Campus ONLY Covers everything from Chapters 1-8 On MAY 4th 2013 in Room 117 You must take Final Exam to earn a grade for the Course		

For on-campus students: *We will show you how to access the course on the first day of class. Please, wait until the instructor walks you through it.*

For distance education students:

DE Course Orientation: Each student taking this course via Distance Education is expected to complete the Distance Education Department's orientation. You complete an orientation for each course you are taking (including completing a DE Date Form for each course). Click on the "Orientations" link on the Distance Education's home page at: <http://de.hccs.edu/portal/site/de/>

The Distance Education site has links to get you access to the correct Eagle online course area. Or, you may go to the web site directly at: <https://hccs1.mrooms3.net/login/index.php>

When you get to Eagle online web site, follow the "Notice to Students".

DE Student User ID: Your student login user id will be your **HCC User ID (sometimes referred to as the "W" number)**. All HCC students have a unique User ID. It is the same number you used for class registration. The default student password will still be "distance." As always, students will then be prompted to change their password after their first login.

NOTE: You may want to bookmark this in your browser at home.

and

NOTE: At home you should complete the three items listed on the right of the Login screen.

Eagle on line Technical Support for HCC – For all students

HCC has contracted with Eagle online and Presidium Learning to establish a 24/7 support environment to provide comprehensive technical help desk services for all users (students, faculty members, and staff). There will be a 24/7 toll-free phone service, a comprehensive online Eagle online knowledge base, real-time chat and the ability to submit and track a "trouble ticket". Click on the "Student Help" link on the Eagle on line Access page.