Faculty & Staff

Dr. Amirhossein Chinaei  
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Office hours

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00-4:45 PM  
Thursdays 10:30-11:30AM or by email appointment

Course Syllabus

Comparative study of programming styles including imperative, object-oriented, functional, logic, etc.; Formal specification of the syntactic structure of a language; Context-free grammars and parse trees. Details of topics for each lecture will be published in the course website along the term.

Prerequisites

ICOM 4035 – Data Structures

Lectures

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45 PM, S-205  
Tuesday/Thursday 5:00-6:15 PM, S-204

Course Credits

3 credits
Course Website

The course will have a website holding many useful resources to help you throughout the course. It is important that you check the course website frequently and at least once before each lecture day. We try to make an effort to keep the website updated and working; please let us know about any problems with the website, if any, as soon as you detect them.

URL: http://www.ece.uprm.edu/~ahchinaei/courses/spring2010/icom4036/icom4036.htm

Email

Email will be an essential means of communication between students and staff during the term. Important classroom items are communicated via email. Every student is expected to have an email account on upr.edu or uprm.edu machines. Please send me your email address today (not later than Jan 19, 2010) with the following information:

  Email subject: ICOM4036; your name; your student ID; your telephone number
  Email body: empty.

  * Make sure to state “ICOM4036” as part of your email subject in all your emails to me.
  * Do not send your emails in html format; only use text-only emails (exclude signature files too.)
  * You could send PDF attachments as well; only PDF (convert other formats to PDF.)
  * You are assumed to check your email once every 24 hours in weekdays.

Textbook & References

  Concepts of Programming Languages (6th Edition) by Robert W. Sebesta
  Publisher: Pearson Addison Wesley; 6 edition (July 24, 2003)
  ISBN: 0321193628

  Programming Language Pragmatics by Michael L. Scott
  Publisher: Morgan Kaufmann; 2 edition (November 7, 2005)
  ISBN: 0126339511

An additional set of programming language references will be posted on the course website.

Office Hours

The professor holds weekly office hours (T-TH 3:00-4:45 & TH 10:30-11:30). This is an excellent opportunity to go over the material discussed in class on a one on one basis and at an individual pace. Unfortunately, many students who may greatly benefit from it, seldom visit the professor before their doubts have accumulated to the point where it becomes very hard to keep up with the course. We commonly get student complains near the end of the semester about the difficulty of some concepts and their inability to keep up with the course. Such complaints seldom come from students who have frequently attended office hours. If you do not understand a concept discussed in class please use this important resource.
Course Evaluation

Your grade will be based on the scores that you obtain in the class assignments, partial exams, and a final exam. Each such piece of work will be graded on a scale of 0-100. The weights assigned to each of these categories are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partial exams</td>
<td>60 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>40 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>Plus up to 10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your total score will be calculated as a weighted average of your average scores in each category.

** Each exam will carry the same weight within its corresponding category.

** There are many assignments and each may have a different weight. (Furthermore, assignments will be graded after May 11, 2010 and will not be returned to students.) Your final grade will be determined by a standard curve as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Interval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>(90,∞)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>(80,90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>(70,80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D or F</td>
<td>(0,70)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!

In order to pass the course you must turn in all your assignments and attend all exams.

Students are expected to provide the best possible solution to assignments and partial and final exam questions in order to get full credit. We will not only evaluate correctness; we will evaluate quality as well. Students will have ten (10) working days after their graded work is returned to them to make any claims about incorrect grading of the exams. No further claims will be considered after this time.

Final Exam

A comprehensive final exam will be administered at the time and date determined by the UPRM Registrar. The exam carries a weight of 40% towards your final score. The registrar usually announces the date for the exam several weeks in advance.
Partial Exams

We will have four up-to-75-minute partial exams on the following dates and times:

- **February 11, 2010 at 8:00 PM**
- **March 4, 2010 at 8:00 PM**
- **March 25, 2010 at 8:00 PM**
- **April 29, 2010 at 8:00 PM**

Each exam will cover materials up to and including the material covered before the date of the exam. However, emphasis will be placed on the material discussed but not tested by previous exams. For each student, I will exclude the partial exam in which they have the minimum grade before computing your final grade in the course. You are responsible for planning ahead of time. Having other exams the same day is no excuse for changing the dates. Attending partial exams is a requirement of this course. **If you miss an exam, you will get 0 for that exam. Missing two exams would be reason enough to fail the course.** (Certain exceptions may be made for emergency cases.)

In some cases and under the discretion of the professor, the exam scores may be normalized to compensate for an unexpected degree of difficulty as demonstrated by student scores. Students must work individually on all exams. You will find more on this below under academic integrity.

Changes to this Reference

These “rules of the Game” may suffer some informational minor changes during the course of the semester. However, major changes will require a special procedure in order to get approved. The final decision will be made during a lecture session, but all students will be notified at least 24 working hours in advance about such an impending decision via email so as to give everyone an opportunity to attend and vote. Major changes may only be approved with the written consent of the professor and at least 90% of the students who attend the class during which the decision is made. Students with a major fortuitous reason not to attend the vote may vote via email at most 24 hours after the decision is made in class.

Students with Disabilities

If you believe that you are at a disadvantage against other students due to a physical or mental difficulty, please contact the professor individually and immediately so that some reasonable accommodation can be made to attempt to circumvent or ameliorate the difficulty. It is not only our desire and duty but it is also your right as established by the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. Learn about your rights and demand them.

Academic Integrity

- The usual university policies on academic honesty, fair use of computing facilities, etc., apply by default. Furthermore, students must attend **on time** for all classes, lab sessions, and exams; and, phones **must be turned off** during the lectures.