

CS3000 Fall 2009 Computer Science Undergraduate Seminar
MWF 8:30-9:20, Main 117

Instructor: Don Cooley, (office)M414, don.cooley@usu.edu, 435-797-2451

Office Hours: M,T,Th, F 11:00-12:00, others by appointment

For setting up appointments or asking questions: Use e-mail, it's fastest

Prerequisites:

- Completion of CS2420 with a grade of C- or better
- Completion of CS2450 and (CS2810 or CS2550) (grade of C- or better) or concurrent enrollment
- Completion (pass) of all CIL exams

Text: None

Grading: P/F only

Course Subject/Test Areas

1. Advanced standing examinations (ASE) (3)
 - a. Algorithms and Data Structures
 - b. Computer Organization (CS2550) or Computer Architecture (CS2810, F2008)
 - c. Software Engineering
2. Resume writing
3. Linux homework
4. Ethics paper
5. Grammar test (GT)

In order to pass the class, **all** seven subject area assignments or exams must be passed. Students who do not pass all three of the advanced standing exams (ASEs) by the end of the semester will receive a grade of I/F until they have passed all three examinations or until one year has passed, at which time the class grade will change to a permanent F. Students who do not pass one or more of the ASEs are allowed to retake them, but no more frequently than once per month. After an exam has been taken **once**, each subsequent retake of that exam will require payment of a \$25 fee. The other four assessment elements (resume, Linux, ethics, and grammar test (GT)) must be passed **during** the semester in order to pass the class. Students taking the GT are charged a fee of \$7 for each re-take of the exam. The GT may be taken as many times and as frequently as desired, but remember, the first take is free and subsequent retakes cost \$7. There are no “retakes” in the other three assignment areas, i.e. Linux homework, ethics paper, or resume writing. Failure in any of these items will result in an F grade for the class. If a student retakes CS3000, they must re-do all assignments and exams of the class, regardless of the results from the previous class. Students are not allowed into upper division (>3000 level) CS classes with an F grade in CS3000. Students are not allowed to register for upper division CS classes for longer than one semester after receiving a grade of I in CS3000.

Grammar Test:

Although sometimes ignored, an important test for this class is the Grammar Test. This test was developed as a prerequisite for the MIS 2200 class. You may take this test as many times and as frequently as desired. The first take of this test must be done in Old Main (come to Main 414 with your id). Subsequent retakes must be taken in the CIL lab in ESLC 131. If you are at a distance site, you should make arrangements at your site. The pass score for this test is 75%. If you have already taken and passed this exam, you should inform the instructor. Also, if you have had AP English and received a score of 3 or better on the AP English test, or you received a score of 25 or higher on the English section of the ACT, you don't need to take the Grammar Test, but you must still inform the instructor. For more information on the grammar test, or information about the class in general, go to the class web site <http://digital.cs.usu.edu/~cooley/>

Final:

*The three advanced standing tests for the class will be open to take at two set times during the semester. One of those times is the final examination time, and the other will be the 7 day period following the review given in class for the exam. If you take the three tests prior to finals week, at the assigned times, then you do not need to come to the final; however, if you do not do so, you **MUST** come to the final to take the test(s)– Friday, 7:30-9:20. **NO EXCEPTIONS!***

The advanced standing examinations and the grammar test, are computer-based. During the exam, you are allowed to use a calculator. Notes may not be on the calculator. The only Internet site you are allowed to access during the taking of any of these exams is the cil test site. (ciltest.usu.edu). A sheet of paper will be supplied which you may use as scratch paper. You must turn this paper in to the proctor upon completion of the test.

Learning Outcomes:

- Possess a basic understanding of Linux, and some of the major tools associated with this operating system
- Understand ethical issues, and the analysis of the same, especially those associated with being a computer scientist, and be able to perform a coherent well written analysis of an ethical problem.
- Be able to write a quality resume and cover letter for future employment
- Possess sufficient background knowledge in computer organization, algorithms and data structures, and software engineering to be successful in upper division computer science classes. This knowledge will be shown by passing the three advanced standing exams

Course Goals:

The major goals for this course are:

1. Build a sense of community in the department;
2. Become familiar with what it means to be a computer scientist: professionally, technically, and ethically; this includes understanding the importance of reading directions and meeting schedules;

3. Learn about departmental research areas and the content of the 5000-level electives in order to facilitate a more informed choice of senior level electives;
4. Understand graduation requirements, and be familiar with the opportunities for graduate work in the department;
5. Be familiar with the services of the Career Services Center and the hiring, job search, and interview processes;
6. Pass the advanced standing exams, and show adequate writing and critical thinking skills for success in upper division computer science classes.
7. Come to understand that computer science is fun, and the faculty members are here to help.

FAQ's

1. If, for one or more of the exams, I am currently enrolled in the associated class, should I take the exam following the review, or should I wait until the end of the semester and take it as part of the final? Wait (remember the \$25 fee for a retake).
2. As long as I get an assignment in before the end of the semester, I will be ok? **WRONG!** One of the purposes of this class is for you to understand the importance of deadlines. If a deadline, i.e. the due date, is missed for something, e.g. the ethics paper, you **FAIL** the class. There are **NO** late hand-ins for these assignments.
3. What is a passing score for one of the advanced standing exams? This varies, but it seldom goes more than one standard deviation below the mean for that test. However, don't take this to mean that it will always be at this value, it may be higher depending on the distribution of scores.

Attendance:

As with nearly all classes in the department, attendance is optional. However, a student not attending class is responsible for any and all material presented in class. For example, should a new assignment be given or a change made to the syllabus, the student is responsible to know that information. Should the due date on an assignment be changed, the student is responsible to meet the new deadline. Not knowing, i.e. ignorance, is not an excuse!

Lecture Schedule:

Note: The following lecture schedule is tentative. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class. Note that the formal lectures for the class will end before the end of the semester.

8/24	Introduction to Class – Cooley	10/2	Interviewing – Dean Mathias
8/26	Graduation Requirements – Cook	10/5	Placement – Donna Crow
8/28	5 year BS/MS – Cooley	10/7	Placement – Donna Crow
8/31	Unix Tools – Jacob Christensen	10/9	Placement – Donna Crow
9/2	Unix Tools – Jacob Christensen	10/12	Algorithms & Data Structures – Ali
9/4	Unix Tools – Jacob Christensen	10/14	Algorithms & Data Structures – Ali
9/7	LABOR DAY – No class	10/16	FALL BREAK - no class
9/9	Unix Tools – Jacob Christensen	10/19	Algorithms & Data Structures – Ali

9/11	Unix Tools – Jacob Christensen	10/21	Algorithms & Data Structures – Ali
9/14	Unix Tools – Jacob Christensen	10/23	Algorithms & Data Structures – Ali
9/16	Ethics – Cooley	10/26-30	NO CLASS, take Alg. test
9/18	Ethics – Cooley	11/2	Software Engineering – Clyde
9/21	Ethics – Cooley	11/4	Software Engineering – Clyde
9/23	Ethics – Open Source - Cooley	11/6-11	No Class take S.E. test
9/25	Computer Arch./Org.– Cooley	11/13	Review of current test scores
9/28	Computer Arch./Org. – Cooley	11/15-12/4	No class
9/28-10/5	Take Computer Arch./Org. Test	12/9	Final Main 406, 7:30-9:20
9/30	CS5000 electives overview P&DS - Cannon , BI - Flann , AI – D Bryce , SS – Clyde		

Taking an advanced standing exam during the semester:

Students may take an advanced standing exam at any time (8:30AM-3:30PM, M-F) on the days assigned in class to take that exam. Those exam dates are:

Computer Organization & Architecture:	September 9-October 5
Algorithms & Data Structures:	October 23-October 30
Software Engineering:	November 4-November 11

They do so by sending an e-mail to don.cooley@usu.edu giving:

- their name and A#,
- the day/time they want to take the exam,
- which exam they want to take, and
- whether or not this is a retake or a first take of the exam.

This must be done at least two working days before the date of the exam. At least 10 minutes before the day/time selected to take the exam, come to Main 414 and show your student ID to the secretary. You will then be given a sheet of scratch paper, and allowed to take the exam in Main 406.

When taking an exam:

- Open Internet Explorer (use only this browser, and this can only be done in Main 406 except for retakes of the grammar test which must occur in ESLC 131 after the semester has ended.)
- Open the site: cilttest.usu.edu
- Log in using your assigned username and password
 - If you do not already have a CIL account, your assigned username and password will be:
 - Your A# = username

- Your Banner Pin = password

Since some may not already have a CIL account, it is your responsibility to have established the account at least one week before taking the first of the exams. If you do not already have a cil account, the first time you log into ciltest your account will be created. After this is done, send an e-mail to the instructor so that you can be added to the CS3000 group. This must be done before you take the first exam.

Upon completion of a test, you will receive a score (percentage), and you will be given percentages correct for the various sections of the test. Should you not pass a test, this should give you an idea of where you need to study.

Taking an Advanced standing exam during the final:

Students who have not taken one or more of the advanced standing exams during the semester are required to take all such exams during the regularly scheduled final exam time (December 9, 7:30-9:20 AM). Thus if you have already taken two of the exams and are satisfied with your scores, you must take the third exam during this time. This is also the only time during the semester for students currently registered for CS3000 that an exam retake may occur. Remember, there is a fee of \$25 for a retake. Note also that early final exams are only allowed under university defined criteria, e.g. going home early for Christmas does not qualify.

Re-Taking an Advanced Standing Exam:

If it has been at least one month (date to date) since your last take of an exam that you did not pass, you may retake the exam; however, as a retake, there is a \$25 fee. Under these circumstances, the student must come to the Department secretary (Main 414) to arrange for such a retake prior to taking the test. This process can take a day or two, to complete. It requires that you acquire a fee form from the secretary; go to the fee payment office and pay the fee. Once you have the form/receipt showing you have paid the fee, send an e-mail to schedule the exam. When you come to take the exam be sure to bring your id and the receipt showing payment.

A student is **required** (in order to pass the class), to take **each** of the CS **exams at least once during the semester**. If you are taking one or more exams as part of the final, you **MUST** do so at the scheduled time for the final. Students who do not take the exam at the scheduled final time, and do not take it during the semester, will have a score of 0 recorded for the exam – no exceptions, and hence an **F** for the class.

Code of Conduct:

The department adheres to the USU Student Code of Conduct. The department also adheres to the following department code of conduct:

Code of Conduct for Computer Science Classes

As a computer scientist, or someone taking a computer science class, you are expected to perform your work at all times in an ethical manner. This means that in addition to doing your own work and giving appropriate credit when the work of others is used, you are required to protect your work.

A student that protects their work will not allow another student access to that work whether it be allowing it to be copied, or treating its security in such a way as to give unintentional access, such as "accidental" loss. It is the policy of the department that when duplicate (essentially the same) work is turned in by two or more students, without acknowledgement of allowed cooperation, all involved students will be considered in violation of this department policy. Under such circumstances, each student will receive minus the points possible for the work.

Thus, for a 15 point assignment, all would receive -15 points. If the infraction is deemed more egregious, then further action may be taken.

Please be aware that during the taking of one of the exams, if you have open on your desktop (in your browser) a site for other than ciltest, then you will be considered guilty of violation of the department's code of conduct.

Test and/or Homework make-ups:

Except in documented extenuating circumstances, there are no make-ups. If a student misses a homework for a legitimate reason, e.g. documented illness, then they should immediately discuss the matter with the instructor.

Incompletes:

The University policy will be adhered to for incompletes. This means that an incomplete cannot be given to prevent receipt of a bad grade. Under no circumstances can an incomplete be given for which a re-take of the class is required to make up the work. In such situations, a withdrawal or late withdrawal is required. If a student feels that an incomplete is appropriate, it is their responsibility to immediately discuss the matter with their instructor.

Adding & Dropping

- The last day to add this class is January 9. Attending this class beyond that date without being officially registered will not be approved by the Dean's Office.
- January 26 – last day to drop without notation on transcript
- March 6 – last day to drop with a W
- March 30 – Drops show as WF
- March 31 – No drops allowed

ADA Compliance:

Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, (435)797-2444 voice, (435)797-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.