CSCI-1190 - Beginning C for Engineers
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Spring 2003
Syllabus

Instructor: Bettina Schimanski
Office: Lally 1B (in the basement)
Office Phone: x8465
E-mail: schimb@rpi.edu
Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. and by appointment.
   Email is a good way to contact me when you cannot come to my office.

TAs: James (Jim) Chenard
     Charlene Chotalal
     Cory Nugent (nugenc@rpi.edu)

Course Web Page: http://www.cs.rpi.edu/~schimb/ beginC.

   The course web page contains:
   o All handouts
   o Lecture materials
   o Important announcements (check these often)
   o Homework assignments
   o Studio exercises and solutions
   o Other useful information

Class Hours:  Section 2 – Wednesday  6:00 – 7:50 p.m. in Jonsson 3207
              Section 4 – Monday  6:00 – 7:50 p.m. in Jonsson 3207

Required Textbooks: C How to Program, by Deitel & Deitel

Prerequisites: None -- we start at the beginning but move fairly quickly.

Goal: The goal in this course is to acquire a basic knowledge of the C programming language.

Note: Students may not take credit for this course if they take any other Computer
   Science course. If you desire more than an introduction to programming, you
   may wish to take Computer Science 1 instead.

Homework: There will be four homework assignments given this semester. I will provide
   details on how each assignment should be submitted.

   The expectation is that homework assignments will be done using the gcc compiler. This is what
   the grader will use to check your homework when you turn it in.
The graders will grade your homework on the basis of:

- How well you fulfilled the project specifications.
- How the source code looks, both with regard to style and comments.
- The extent to which you take advantage of appropriate language features.
- How the output looks, both in terms of aesthetics and content.

Note: Any homework submitted which does not compile will receive no credit.

*Late Homework* – A homework assignment is considered late if I do not receive it by the due date and time. A penalty of 15% will be assessed for each day late or fraction thereof. No assignment will be accepted more than three days after the original due date.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED:**

You are expected to do all homework assignments by yourself – DO NOT GIVE YOUR CODE TO YOUR FRIENDS! The reason for this is very simple – to learn to program a computer, you must actually do it yourself. If someone else does it for you, you will never learn. You should never copy someone else’s code and hand it in as your own. Academic dishonesty such as this will not be tolerated (see the Academic Integrity policy for this course). It is surprisingly easy to identify programs that are copied. The graders will be looking for this.

The Academic Integrity Statement must be signed and handed in by the end of the second class. No assignments or exams will be graded without this form having been submitted.

**Project:** Project details will be given out on the fifth week of class, and due the last day of class. You must work on the project ALONE.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be the last class meeting (March 3 for the Monday section, March 5 for the Wednesday section). It is worth 30% of your overall grade, and is closed-book/closed-notes.

**Class Organization and Studios:** Each class will be part lecture and part studio exercises, where you practice what we discuss in class. Some classes will have more than one studio. If you do not finish the studios by the end of class, you must submit them by midnight the following day. No late studios will be accepted, as solutions will be posted soon after the studio is due.

**Schedule:**

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<th>Section 2</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<th>Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>1/13</td>
<td>1/15</td>
<td>Introduction, types, expressions, variables</td>
<td>Chap 1, 2</td>
<td></td>
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<td>1/20</td>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/27</td>
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<td>Conditional Execution</td>
<td>Chap 3</td>
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<td>2/3</td>
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<td>2/12</td>
<td>Functions</td>
<td>Chap 5</td>
<td>HW 3</td>
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Final Grade: Your final grade will be computed as follows:

- Homework Assignments = 25%
- Project = 25%
- Final Exam = 30%
- Studios = 20%

Letter grade cutoffs:
- ≥ 90 → A
- ≥ 80 → B
- ≥ 70 → C
- ≥ 60 → D
- < 60 → F

I reserve the right to raise or lower the final letter grade of a student in the event of unusual circumstances that so warrant it in my opinion.

Attendance: Because the course is only 7 weeks long, the pace will be quick. It is therefore essential that students attend every class. A maximum of one absence is allowed. Any absences beyond that will result in a full letter grade reduction in your final average for each class missed beyond one. In extenuating circumstances, this penalty can be waived if appropriate documentation is provided (e.g. note from a doctor or school health center).