CSCI 431/531: JAVA PROGRAMMING

INSTRUCTOR:

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CLASS MEETING TIMES:

Mondays 4:30 PM – 7:10 PM, JOUR 104  

TEXTBOOK:

ISBN: 978-0-470-50948-7

PREREQUISITES:

Some familiarity with programming; knowledge of C and/or C++ is especially helpful.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We will begin with a general overview of the rules (syntax) of the Java language. This includes a study of data types, variables, arrays, simple classes, and various logical control structures such as if/then statements, for loops, etc. As the Java language was designed to facilitate object oriented programming, we will then spend several lectures describing classes, methods, console and file input/output, exceptions, and the concepts of inheritance, encapsulation, and polymorphism. We then spend approximately three weeks learning about the development of graphical user interfaces (GUIs) in Java. This will include the programming and imbedding of Java Applets into html code. In the final weeks, we will also cover streams, multi-threaded programming, and client/server applications. At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to design fairly complex software programs consisting of several classes and GUI-based front-ends.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1) Code, compile and run a Java program.  
2) Master programming techniques for console input and output.  
3) Apply logical constructs for branching and loops.  
4) Define classes and methods.  
5) Create and access arrays.  
6) Develop linked data structures.  
7) Employ exception-handling programming techniques.  
8) Utilize file input and output procedures for sequential and random access.  
9) Use the Swing library to develop programs with graphical user interfaces.

This syllabus is subject to change at any time and for any reason.
**METHOD OF EVALUATION (Tentative):**

Your grade in the course will be calculated as follows:

Homework Assignments: 25%
Quizzes: 25%
Midterm Exam: 25%
Final Project: 25%

Assignments and projects will be posted in the university’s e-College communication system. Assignments must be turned in online in the appropriate drop box. Quizzes will be random and unannounced.

All code must be readable. What this means is that you indent nested statements and provide a generous amount of comments. As an example, consider the following two pieces of code, both of which calculate the factorial of an integer n:

```java
//Good Code
//This function calculates the factorial of its non-negative integer input n. Output type is integer.
public static int factorial(int n) {
    if (n == 0) //Base Case: 0! = 1
        return 1;
    else
        return n*factorial(n-1); //For n > 0, recursively let n! = n*factorial(n-1)
}

//Bad Code
public static int factorial(int n) {return n>0?n*factorial(n-1):1}
```

While both are correct, the second version can be very difficult for another person to understand. Conversely, don’t over-comment your code to the point where I’m struggling to find the locations of the actual Java statements. When evaluating your code, I will take coding style into account. I believe that it is imperative for programmers to produce readable code, especially when working on massive team-based software development projects.

Your final letter grade will be determined as follows:

A - total number of points ≥ 89.5
B - 79.5 ≤ total number of points < 89.5
C - 69.5 ≤ total number of points < 79.5
D - 59.5 ≤ total number of points < 69.5
F - total number of points < 59.5

I reserve the right to curve the grades in the course; however, for a given raw average, you will at least earn the grade letter shown above (if not better). As you will notice, I have already incorporated a standard rounding scheme into the schedule of grades. Thus, please do not ask me to round your grade at the end of the semester.

At the end of every semester, there is always at least one student who asks to have his/her final grade changed due to some external heart-breaking circumstance (e.g. I need an “A” because a “B” will keep my core GPA below 3.0

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and I can’t graduate.) Don’t try this on me! It is a waste of my time and your time. The only time I ever change a grade at the end of the semester is if there is an error on my part in grading.

ACADEMIC ETHICS:

"All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

_Students are expected to be present at all class lectures._ If a student is absent from class on the due date of any assignment, they are expected to make alternative arrangements to assure that the assignment is turned in ON TIME. Any student wishing to withdraw from the course must do so officially as outlined in the class schedule. THE INSTRUCTOR CANNOT DROP OR WITHDRAW ANY STUDENT.

COURSE REQUIREMENT DEADLINES:

Credit will be given for ONLY those exam(s), program(s), and/or project(s) turned in no later than the deadline(s) as announced by the instructor of this class unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

ACADEMIC ETHICS AND HONESTY STATEMENT:

_Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct._ Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on tests, plagiarism and collusion. _Cheating_ includes copying from another student’s test or homework assignments or projects or quizzes, using materials not authorized, collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test, knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, or soliciting the contents of an unadministered test, and substituting for another person to take a test. _Plagiarism_ is the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work. _Collusion_ is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for the fulfillment of course requirements. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense in college. You will be given not only a failing grade on the assignment or test, but also a failing grade for the class. Further, it will result in suspension from college.

PLAGIARISM:

In any written paper or test or assignment or quiz or project including code and/or documentation, you are guilty of the academic offense known as plagiarism if you half-copy or copy another author's sentences, words or any part of the content. **This will result in an automatic grade of "F" for the course.** Hence any of these must be fully avoided in order not to fail the class.

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Students copying from work done in previous semesters by former students as well as copying from internet sources without proper referencing will result in you failing this course. You cannot mix the author's words with your own or "plug" your synonyms into the author's sentence structure. To prevent unintentional borrowing, resist the temptation to look at the source as you write. The author's words, phrases, sentences must be put in your words and in your way of writing! When you do this, you are demonstrating your ability to understand and comprehend the material!

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee. For more information, please contact the Director of Disability Resources & Services, Halladay Student Services Bldg., Room 303D, (903) 886-5835

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