

SENG 6245: Software Construction

Spring 2015

Class Meeting	Tuesday and Thursday, 2pm – 3:15pm Science & Technology Building, Room 144 (Global Classroom) NOTE: We will be relocating at some point during the semester.
Instructor	Dr. Mark Hills
Office	Science & Technology Building, C-110
Office Hours	Tuesday 10:00am – 11:00am Wednesday 1:00pm – 3:00pm Wednesday evening 9:00pm – 10:00pm Thursday 10:00am – 11:00am
Phone	252-328-9692
Email	hillsma@ecu.edu (response within 24 hours during the week, possibly longer on weekends)
Course web page	http://blackboard.ecu.edu

Course Summary

The catalog description for this course is as follows:

Software development environments, data structures and algorithms, object-oriented techniques, and object-oriented programming.

The course teaches software construction including object-oriented programming and software unit testing. The course discusses and illustrates the concepts such as modularization, specification, information hiding, concurrency, abstraction, generics, design patterns, and parameterized unit testing. The purpose of this course is to give the students a solid understanding of modern software construction, and to prepare students to construct high quality programs.

Prerequisites

The only prerequisite for this course is the consent of the instructor. You are expected to be familiar with Java at the level of a student that has successfully completed an introductory computer science sequence. If you are familiar with a similar language, especially C#, adapting to Java should be fairly straight-forward. If you are not familiar with Java, please read, and go through the exercises in, the recommended course text.

Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, you should be able to:

- understand concepts of program abstraction, specification, generics, concurrency, and object-oriented design and programming;
- develop software using sound programming principles;
- develop algorithms for computational problems, including algorithms that require sophisticated representation of information, and be able to demonstrate the correctness of those algorithms;
- understand basic concepts of software testing and perform software testing using software testing tools.

Textbooks

There are two textbooks for the course, one required, and one recommended.

The required textbook is *Program Development in Java: Abstraction, Specification, and Object-Oriented Design*, by Barbara Ryder and John Guttag. This book is available through Amazon.com at <http://www.amazon.com/Program-Development-Java-Specification-Object-Oriented/dp/0201657686/> and is also available at the ECU campus bookstore.

The recommended textbook is *Java: A Beginner's Guide* by Herbert Schildt. This book is available through Amazon.com at <http://www.amazon.com/Java-Beginners-Guide-Herbert-Schildt/dp/0071809252/> and is also available at the ECU campus bookstore.

Other helpful material, including references to books, conference or journal articles, tutorials on the web, and videos will be posted as the course progresses.

Exams

The final exam for the course will be on **Thursday, April 30th**, from **2pm – 4:30pm** in our normal classroom. More details about the exam will be available closer to the exam date. The exam will be a closed book exam, but you will be allowed to bring one page (letter size, front and back) of notes. We will review for the exam on Thursday, April 23rd.

There will not be a midterm exam. Instead, we will have weekly quizzes over the course material. This is discussed further below.

If you are taking the course online, you must have a proctor for the final exam. You must use the University of North Carolina Proctoring Network. More information can be found at:

<http://online.northcarolina.edu/exams/overview.htm>

Grading

Students will be evaluated based on a combination of homework assignments, weekly quizzes, and the final exam. The following grade cut-offs, using a 100 point scale, will be used:

Grading	
A	≥ 90
B	≥ 80
C	≥ 70
F	< 70

This grade is based on the following relative weights of the various activities:

Weighting	
Homework	50%
Weekly Quizzes	30%
Final Exam	20%

Homeworks will be due roughly every two weeks. Quizzes will be issued on Thursday and will be due before class starts on the following Tuesday, and will be conducted online using Blackboard. More details about the homework and the quizzes will be made available during the course.

Starfish

This course uses the Starfish system to provide you with information on your performance within the course. For more information, please see <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/advising/upload/Starfish-Student-Getting-Started.pdf>.

Student conduct

Smoking is not permitted in classrooms. Please turn off telephones while in class. Laptops and tablets can be used for taking notes, but should not be used for other work (or recreational browsing, playing games, etc).

Students are expected to abide by the university's Student Honor Code. The homework that you do is a critical part of your education. Each student is expected to do his or her own work, except where teamwork is explicitly allowed or required. That does not mean you are not allowed to discuss your ideas with other students. Working in groups can be beneficial, and I encourage you to talk through ideas with other students. But outright copying is plagiarism and is unacceptable. Students who copy other students' work, or who allow their work to be copied, or who copy their work from other sources, such as the internet, are violating the ECU academic integrity policy.

Other potential academic integrity violations are cheating, falsification, multiple submissions of the same work in different classes, and attempts at any of these violations. Please see http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/policyhub/academic_integrity.cfm for more details.

Academic integrity violations can result in a grade penalty up to and including an F for the course.

Other Policies

No incompletes will be issued in this course except for extraordinary circumstances, and even then only if you are nearly done already, and have done work of acceptable quality, so that you have a realistic change to pass the course.

All homework solutions and quizzes are due by the posted due date. If for some reason you are not able to complete the assignment on time, you must contact me directly with an explanation and request an extension. If something comes up and you are having trouble keeping up with the class, talk to me right away, ***don't wait until the end of the semester!***

Course participation is an important part of the course. If you do not participate you will make it harder to have the kinds of discussions we need to make the class interesting. Please read any assigned readings in a timely fashion, due the homework promptly (so you know if you are going to get stuck!), and come to class prepared to talk.

Success in the class is directly correlated with class attendance, so I highly recommend that you attend and actively participate. If for some reason you cannot attend, please let me know – my expectation is that you will watch the lecture online and ask me questions about the material if you have any. For online students, I recommend that you watch the lecture the day it is given and send any questions before the next class session (so I can address them in class). Falling behind will make the course more difficult than it would otherwise be. I will be taking attendance at regular points in the class for my own records.

To encourage use of the discussion groups on Blackboard, I will not answer any questions about the course material using either email or Skype. These questions ***must*** be posted in the discussion groups. You are welcome to contact me directly with questions about grading or other personal class-related items, or to discuss the material with me more fully if I agree to take it “offline” from the discussion groups. I will answer questions about the syllabus, but will not answer questions where the answer is already clearly given in the syllabus.

All code, test scripts, and other software artifacts must be stored in an online source repository. I'm currently working to get GitHub access for the course, but if that is not possible we will use my private GitLab repository.

Weather emergencies

In the event of a weather emergency, information about ECU can be obtained through the following sources:

ECU emergency notices <http://www.ecu.edu/alert>
ECU emergency information hotline 252-328-0062

Students with disabilities

East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 ((252) 737-1016 (Voice/TTY)).

For more information, please see <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/dss/>.

Retention Requirements

Academic requirements for retention have changed. Please be aware of the following new GPA requirements. Please discuss the retention requirements, entrance to major requirements, and your goals with your academic advisor.

GPA Hours at ECU (identified in Transcript in Banner Self Service) plus transferred credit hours	"Old" Retention Requirement All courses taken at ECU	New Retention Requirements Effective with Fall 2011 grades All courses taken at ECU
1-29 semester hours	1.6 GPA	1.8
30-59 semester hours	1.8 GPA	1.9
60-74 semester hours	1.9 GPA	2.0
75 or more semester hours	2.0 GPA	2.0

Caveats

Occasionally, it may be necessary to revise this syllabus due to extenuating circumstances. I reserve the right to revise this syllabus if the need arises. If I do so, I will provide you with advance notice.