

CSCI 2194 (Professional, Ethics, and Design Seminar), Spring 2009

Syllabus

1 Course description

The objective of this course is to help you develop into a more qualified computer professional. As the course name suggests, the course has three primary objectives:

- Learn about professional conduct in computing.
- Learn about ethics in computing.
- Develop design skills.

While the first two are important to your long-term development as a computer professional, most of the time and effort in this course will spent on the third objective. One of the things that is difficult to teach in most courses but is very important for professionals involved with programming is the ability to turn a vague problem description into a detailed set of requirements and a design that meets them. To develop this ability, in this course students work in groups to design solutions to a single significant problem.

2 Basic information

Class meeting times and location

- M 2:30pm – 4:20pm, Science Lecture Hall (actually, most class periods will start with a joint meeting of CSCI 2194 and CSCI 3194 in SLH and then split into individual courses, with CSCI 2194 meeting in Halsell 340)

Prerequisites

- None.

Instructor contact information

- Dr. Berna Massingill
- Office: HAS 201L
- Office phone: (210) 999-8138
- E-mail: bmassing@cs.trinity.edu

Office hours

Scheduled office hours for this semester are as follows:

- Monday 12:30pm – 1:30pm
- Tuesday noon – 12:30pm, 2pm – 3:30pm
- Wednesday noon – 5pm
- Thursday noon – 12:30pm, 2pm – 3:30pm

These times are subject to change; a current schedule will be available on my Web page and outside my office door.

If I'm not in my office, I should be somewhere in the building (perhaps in one of the labs helping another student), and there will often be a note on my door saying where to find me.

Some office hours will be held in one of the classrooms/labs (times to be announced soon). These are "open lab" times, during which I'll be in one of the department's labs, prepared to answer questions. The intent is that students can use these times to work on assignments with someone available to help with any questions or problems.

In addition to scheduled office hours, you're welcome to drop by and see if I'm in my office and free to talk, or you can make an appointment by calling me or sending me e-mail.

E-mail is almost always a good way to reach me; I normally check it fairly often and reply promptly.

3 Course materials

Textbook

- Russell Miles and Kim Hamilton. *Learning UML 2.0: A Pragmatic Introduction to UML*. O'Reilly, 2006.

Web page

Most course-related information (this syllabus, reading assignments, etc.) will be made available via the Web. The course Web page is a starting point for Web-accessible course material; you can find it linked from my home page (<http://www.cs.trinity.edu/~bmassing>) or directly at http://www.cs.trinity.edu/~bmassing/Classes/CS2194_2009spring/HTML/.

Other references

Here are some additional references on UML.

- Martin Fowler and Kendall Scott. *UML Distilled: A Brief Guide to the Standard Object Modeling Language*. Addison-Wesley, 3rd edition, 2003.
- Meilir Page-Jones. *Fundamentals of Object-oriented Design in UML*. Addison-Wesley, 2nd edition, 1999.

4 Course requirements

Grading

Grades in this course will be determined on the basis of class attendance/participation, an ethics presentation, and the design project, weighted as follows.

Component	Maximum points
Class participation	10
Ethics presentation	15
Project	75

Numeric grades will be calculated as a simple percentage, by dividing total points earned on the above components by total points possible. These numeric grades will then be converted to letter grades based on a curve, but in no case will the resulting letter grades be worse than students would receive based on the following scheme.

Numeric grade	Letter grade
90 – 100	A-/A
80 – 89	B-/B/B+
70 – 79	C-/C/C+
60 – 69	D/D+
0 – 59	F

Ethics presentation

Detailed requirements will be provided via the course Web page. Ethics presentations are scheduled for March 16; please plan accordingly (i.e., please plan to be in class that day).

Project

Detailed requirements will be provided via the course Web page. Briefly, however: The class will be split into groups of four to five students each. All groups will work on the same problem, first analyzing the requirements and then developing a design and a prototype solution. Each group will turn in a written report (including UML diagrams) and do an in-class presentation. Each group member will also turn in an evaluation of other members of his/her group. Sophomores' design presentations are scheduled for April 27; please also plan to be in class on that date. Other due dates will be announced via the course Web page.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is strongly encouraged; class participation grades will be based largely on attendance.

E-mail

Course-related announcements will sometimes be made by sending e-mail to the Trinity e-mail addresses of all registered students. Students are strongly encouraged to read mail sent to their Trinity addresses frequently.

Late and missed work

Since most of the due dates for this course are linked to scheduled in-class events, they should be considered to be inflexible. Exceptions are possible only in very unusual circumstances; if you know you will be unable to meet a deadline, please notify the instructor as far in advance as possible.

Academic integrity at Trinity

All students are covered by the Trinity University Honor Code, which prohibits dishonesty in academic work.

The Code asserts that the academic community is based on honesty and trust, and defines specific violations as well as the procedure to determine if a violation has occurred. The Code also

covers the process of hearings for alleged violations and the various sanctions applied for specific violations. The Code also provides for an appeal process.

The Code is implemented by the Academic Honor Council. Under the Code, a faculty member will (or a student may) report an alleged violation to the Academic Honor Council. It is the task of the Council to collect the pertinent evidence, adjudicate, and assign a sanction within certain guidelines if a violation has been verified.

Students who are under the Honor Code are required to pledge all written work that is submitted for a grade: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance on this work” and their signature. The pledge may be abbreviated “pledged” with a signature.

The specifics of the Honor Code, its underlying philosophy, and the norms for sanctioning can all be found on the Academic Honor Council website, accessed through the Trinity Homepage, or directly [here](#)¹.

Collaboration and academic integrity in this course

Most work for this course is to be performed in groups, but some (e.g., the evaluations of other group members) is to be performed individually. Detailed requirements for the project and ethics presentation will spell out which is which. Work submitted by an individual student must represent that student’s own effort. Work submitted by a group must represent the efforts of members of the group only (i.e., collaboration between groups is not allowed). Unless otherwise stated all submitted work will be considered pledged work. Work that is identical beyond coincidence will be considered to be in violation of the honor code and *will result in disciplinary action*. You are responsible for the security of your work, both electronic and hard copy.

¹http://www.trinity.edu/departments/academic_affairs/honor_code/