COMPSCI 121 Attendance and Grading Policy

Every semester, we receive requests for date extensions for homework assignments and projects and for absences for lab and lecture due to various reasons. This attendance and grading policy helps you to understand what to do and how to approach us.

We fully understand that you are all very busy and engaged with many demands on your time and energy during a semester. Exams, projects, papers, etc. become due as we approach mid semester. This creates a larger workload for students and can be stressful. Managing the demands of multiple courses is a fact of academic life and it is up to each student to manage your time and energy according to your schedule. While we understand that workloads do fluctuate, we also cannot grant extensions or excuse absences due to academic workload. We encourage you to be aware of this and to make sure you plan your time, so that you get your work done on time for all of the courses you are taking.

LECTURE AND LAB ATTENDANCE POLICY

There can be situations when you do not attend a lecture or lab. For example, in the case of illness, religious or funerary events, university-related event (athletic event, field trip, or performance), and extenuating non-academic reasons (military obligation, family illness, jury duty, automobile collision). These are valid reasons for not being able to attend class.

Other events that may affect lecture and lab, but are not justified reasons for missing a lab:

1. Forgetting to attend lecture or lab.
2. Failure to obtain the required course materials, such as zyBooks access, or access to Gradescope.
3. Other academic demands, such as several papers or exams due. This is a fact of academic life and you should learn to manage this situation.
4. Family travel plans, including early departures for vacations, weddings, etc.

GRADING POLICY

You have an opportunity to review the grades you receive on labs, programming projects, and exams ***within 3 working days of the release of the grade***. It is important that you ask any questions as soon as possible to clarify any points about your grade or the content you submitted. We will not review any grades after 3 working days beyond their release date.

Extra Credit:
You can take advantage of the wide range of assessments to be successful in this course. We regret that there are no opportunities for *extra* credit.

Partial Credit for Late Work
We do not accept late work, and we do not give partial credit for work submitted after the due date.

Attendance Grade:

1. The first two weeks of lecture will not be counted.
2. We don’t take attendance at lectures if the class is remote.

Lab Grade:

1. You receive full credit, 20 points for attending lab and submitting the lab document.
2. If you do not attend the lab but submit the document, you receive 0 points for attendance and 15 points for the lab submission.
3. If you attend the lab but do not submit the document, you receive 5 points for attendance and 0 points for the lab submission.
4. If you do not attend the lab and do not submit the document you receive 0 points.
5. The first two weeks of lab will not be counted.
6. We will drop two lab sessions when computing your final grade for the first two labs.

Note that attendance is counted only when you sign the attendance sheet in the lab.

Programming Projects:
Each programming project is worth between 0 to 100 points. Grading of programming projects includes following good style (as defined in the course material), whether your code compiles, and if your code is logically correct (produces the correct output). *All programming projects are counted towards your grade; no project grades are dropped.* You have instant feedback and the score for your project submission as soon as the autograder executes in codePost.

One of the major goals of a programming course is to learn how to design and write successful programs. A program that doesn't work is not a successful program. In particular, a program that doesn't compile is a major failure. If the code doesn't compile, or that essentially doesn't run at all, it is considered a failing effort even if it is due to a "silly" mistake (if a mistake causes a program to not compile or run, it isn't a trivial mistake). The most common reason for submitting a project that doesn't work is simply not allocating enough time to do the project. We strongly recommend that you start your projects early and submit often in codePost.

Submitting projects:
Note that the autograder we use allows you to submit your project code any number of times *before* the deadline. If you encounter an extenuating circumstance and cannot submit the project before the deadline, you must submit documentation in the private forum in Moodle. You will be granted exemption/extension by the course instructors (not the TAs). Note that network or personal computer issues will not be accepted as reasons for granting an extension.
We suggest submitting code before the deadline, even if it isn't finished. That way, you have something in the system and will receive some credit, provided it compiles. Don't rely on being able to finish the work in the last seconds before the deadline.

zyBooks Exercises:

We use zyBooks' Programming in Java (early objects). The online textbook has embedded exercises and assignments. *Participation* activities are due before lecture and *challenge* activities are due after the lecture. See the deadlines in zyBooks for each chapter assignment.

If you encounter an extenuating circumstance, you may request an extension for zyBooks assignments. If you are granted an extension, any past-due work you have done on the extended assignment will be counted, so you would not need to re-do those questions.

Exams:

1. You are expected to attend and take all the exams. You will receive a score of 0 points if you do not take an exam.
2. ***In order to achieve a Pass grade or a letter grade of D or better, all exams must be attempted and the average of all exam scores must be at least 50% of the total exam points.***
3. If you have an excused absence, you must contact the professors via the Private Forum in Moodle to arrange a makeup exam. Examples of excused absences include: illness, religious or funerary events, university-related event (athletic events, field trips, or performance), and extenuating non-academic reasons (military obligation, family illness, jury duty, automobile collision). In these cases, relevant documentation is required to be uploaded in the Moodle Private Forum.
4. You must make arrangements with the professors for a makeup exam. You must do this a week before the exam. If you are cleared for a makeup exam, you will be sent information about the makeup exam (date and place).
5. Do not make travel plans that conflict with the exam. This is not an acceptable reason to take a makeup exam.

Students who are registered with Disability Services (DS) for time or other exam-related accommodations must schedule exams with DS to take the exam with them. You do not take the exam in the lab. Log into this site to schedule your exam.