General Information

Instructor

Matt Bishop
Phone: (530) 752-8060 (not a cell phone)
Office: 2209 Watershed Sciences
Office Hours: MWF 2:10pm–3:00pm in 2203 Watershed Sciences
Email: mabishop@ucdavis.edu
Web: http://seclab.cs.ucdavis.edu/~bishop

When you send me email, please begin the subject field with "ECS 36A" so I see that the letter has to do with the class. I receive lots of email and, while I look at it all, I *sometimes* miss things, or skim the subject lines to see which letters are very important. Putting "ECS 36A" in the subject field will tell me it is very important.

Teaching Assistant

Chris Jackson Fernandez, *Email*: cjfernandez@ucdavis.edu
Office Hours: MW 10:00am–10:50am, F 2:10pm–3:00pm in 53 Kemper

Lectures

MWF 1:10pm–2:00pm in 1010 TLC

Discussion Sections

Section A01: Mon 9:00am–9:50am in 205 Olson
Section A02: Wed 9:00am–9:50am in 205 Olson
Section A03: Fri 9:00am–9:50am in 205 Olson

The sections will cover the same material so you can go to any of the sections. If section meetings become too crowded, we reserve the right to change this policy.

Student questions may vary among the section meetings.

Course Outline

Computers and computer programming for students with some prior experience, algorithm design, and debugging. Good programming style. Use of basic UNIX tools.

Course Goals

Some goals we hope you achieve:

- develop expertise in using a high-level programming language (specifically, C);
- be knowledgeable in using basic operating system tools (specifically, Linux- or UNIX-based tools);
- develop good programming style; and
- develop into competent programmers with the ability to solve problems of reasonable size on a computer.

Prerequisite

Prior experience with basic programming concepts (variable, loops, conditional statements) required, and must satisfy computer science placement exam; or C− or better in ECS 32A.

Texts

- *Programming in C*, zyBooks, http://www.zybooks.com
  To use this, sign into http://learn.zybooks.com (you may need to create an account), and enter the zyBook code "UCDAVISECS036ABishopSpring2023" (without the quotes). You can then subscribe. It costs $58.00.
  Important: I have been told you can purchase the subscription from the UCD Bookstore for $52.20.
- *Shell textbook*: William E. Schotts, Jr., *Linux Command Line: A Complete Introduction*, No Starch Press, San Francisco, CA, USA (2012). ISBN: 978-1-59327-389-7.
  Available online at http://www.solutionsproj.net/software/The_Linux_Command_Linex.pdf.

Useful Notes on C

- *C Notes*: Stack Overflow folks, *C Notes for Professionals*, GoalKicker.com
  Available online at `https://goalkicker.com/CBook/`

Class Web Site

The class web site is on Canvas. To access it, go to `http://canvas.ucdavis.edu` and log in using your campus login and password. Then go to ECS 36A in your schedule. Announcements, assignments, handouts, and grades will be posted there, and you *must* submit any assignments there. The alternate web site, `http://nob.cs.ucdavis.edu/classes/ecs36a-2023-02` has everything except grades, and you cannot submit work there.

PTA Numbers

The department policy on issuing PTAs is available at `https://cs.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate/current-majors/policies/`; click on the bar "Permission to Add (PTA) Policy for Undergraduates". If you need a PTA, please read that, and follow the instructions there.

Exams

Midterm: Friday, May 5, *in class* (Moved to Fridy, May 12)
Final: Friday, June 9 at 10:30am–12:30pm
These will be closed book and closed notes exams. No early or late exam will be given; if you miss an exam for medical reasons (you ***must*** document this; no other excuses are acceptable), you may be allowed or required to take a make-up exam, or the other parts of the course will be counted proportionally more (the choice is the instructor's). In particular, forgetting the time or place of an exam is not an excuse for missing it!

Important Dates

First day of instruction: April 3, 2023
10-day drop deadline: April 14, 2023
Last day to add: April 18, 2023
Last day to opt for P/NP grading: May 5, 2023
Midterm exam: May 12, 2023 (Note new date)
Last day of instruction: June 8, 2023
Final exam: January 9, 2023 from 10:30am to 12:30pm

Grading

In this course, grades are assigned based on your overall score, which is out of 100 points. The letter grades, and the scores they are assigned to, are:

grade	%	grade	%	grade	%	grade	%	grade	%
		B+	87–89.99	C+	77–79.99	D+	65–69.99		
A	95–100	B	83–86.99	C	73–76.99	D	60–64.99	F	0–54.99
A−	90–94.99	B−	80–82.99	C−	70–72.99	D−	55–59.99		

Curve. The final grade will be curved *before* considering extra credit. Individual assignments and exams will not be curved.

Extra Credit. Extra credit is tallied separately and does not figure into the scores for assignments. At the end of the term, I will use the extra credit to determine whether to boost your grade should your score be on the border of 2 grades.

Weighting. The weights of the assignments and exams are:

Homework assignments 40%
Midterm exam 25%
Final exam 35%

Important Note. We reserve the right to change any of the grading scheme, curve, extra credit, and weighting.

Academic Integrity

The UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct, available at `http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/cac.pdf`, applies to this class. For this course, all submitted work must be your own. You may discuss your assignments with classmates or the instructor to get ideas or a critique of your ideas, but the ideas, words, and programs you submit must be your own.

Unless *explicitly* stated otherwise, collaboration is considered cheating. Also, remember to cite, and give the source for, anything you copy or paraphrase, as is standard academic protocol. Plagiarism, even (especially) copying code from a book or the web without crediting it, is cheating. It also deprives you of learning, as the goal is not simply to write the program, but is to learn how to analyze a problem and learn C.

The single exception to the rule against collaboration is debugging. *Once you have written your program*, if you need help debugging it, you are free to ask a classmate for help *providing that classmate has also written the program*. (This should avoid any unintentional copying.) Sometimes having someone else look over a program that is not quite working right will lead you to the best way to fix it, and you both will gain valuable experience in looking at programs and figuring out what is going on. But you must not collaborate on writing the program.

Any cheating will be reported to the Office of Student Support and Judicial Affairs.

Resources for Students

For information about the COVID campus policy, please see the Campus Ready web page at `https://campusready.ucdavis.edu/`. In particular ***stay home if you are sick***!

For other campus information, please see the Frequently Asked Questions — UC Davis Student Resources web page at `https://ebeler.faculty.ucdavis.edu/resources/faq-student-resources/`.

Students new to the campus often feel overwhelmed, depressed, or to have other mental health issues. This also happens to students who have been here a while! So if you want to talk to someone, or get help, there are resources available. Look at the Student Mental Health Resources web page at `https://mentalhealth.ucdavis.edu/`. In particular, don't feel embarrassed or that it's a sign of weakness to get help. It's actually quite natural and is in fact a sign of strength that you care enough about yourself to do it!