MIS 304: Intro to Problem Solving and Programming

Fall 2013 – Unique Numbers: 03985, 03990, and 03995

Instructor	Katie Gray – katie.gray@mccombs.utexas.edu Information, Risk and Operations Management (IROM) Department
Class Times	MW 12:30-2:00PM, 2:00-3:30PM and 3:30-5:00pm
Class Location	UTC 1.146 and MOD Lab – CBA 5.304 – see schedule for class location
Office	CBA 3.408 (near the south side of wide escalators on 3rd floor by the Hall of Honors)
Mailbox	IROM Department, CBA 5.202
Phone	(512) 232-8190
Katie's Office Hours	T 10:00 – 11:30am, TH 2:30-4:00pm and by appointment (email Katie 2-3 days ahead to make an appointment if you work or have class during office hours)
Class Discussion Site	https://piazza.com/utexas/fall2013/mis304/home
Teaching Assistants	Jace Barton & Carson Jones
TA Email	kgrayta@gmail.com (please use email for grade questions only; content questions should be posted on Piazza)

Instructor Transition

The first twelve weeks of this course will be taught by the primary instructor, Katie Gray. Sometime in late November, my fellow faculty members will take over the course so I can go on maternity leave. These experienced faculty members will be responsible for grading your final project and answering any grade questions for the last few homework assignments. I will handle all other grading before I go on leave. The TAs, other faculty members and I appreciate your flexibility with this somewhat unusual arrangement.

Course Objectives

1. Understand general principles of computer languages such as: branching (if/case structure), loops (while/for), functions, input/output (e.g. input from keyboard or a stored file, output to the screen or a stored file).
2. Understand basic object-oriented programming principles such as encapsulation and abstraction.
3. Develop problem-solving skills to translate 'English' described business problems into programs written using the VB.NET language.
4. Gain a basic exposure to other programming languages and appropriate uses for each of these languages.

Text and Notes

1. **Required Text**: *An Object-Oriented Approach to Programming Logic and Design*, Fourth Edition by Joyce Farrell. ISBN 978-1133188223
2. **Class Slides**: Available through Blackboard (http://courses.utexas.edu)
3. **Visual Studio 2012**: See separate document on BB for instructions for downloading/installing VS 2012. Please note that we are NOT using Visual Studio 2010 or Visual Studio 2013, and you do so at your own risk. The graders will grade assignments in the McCombs labs or on their home machines using **VS 2012**. If you submit a version using VS 2010 or 2013 and we cannot open it, you will receive a ZERO, so double-check your zip file in the McCombs labs.

Required Materials

1. USB Flash drive for saving your files (assignments) in the lab. You do not need an exceptionally large flash drive – 2 GB will be more than sufficient. You do NOT need a separate drive for this course.
2. Course Packet – Available at the McCombs Copy Center in GSB 3.136.
3. Access to email – make sure that the email listed in Blackboard is one you actually check. I will periodically use Blackboard to send you announcements.
4. CBA account number when we meet in the computer lab. This is your user name and password to login to the MOD Lab and Millennium Lab computers. If you don't know your username and password, contact the proctors in the Millennium Lab.

Classroom Participation

You are expected to participate in the classroom discussion by answering questions, asking questions, raising issues, and making observations.

Attendance

You will learn more if you attend class regularly, take notes, ask questions and contribute to discussions. Coming to class is important, since many exam questions come from lectures and class discussion. Attendance is taken periodically because it is helpful for me to know who is coming to class. **At the end of the semester, those with perfect attendance will have 10 points added to their Exam 3 grade**. (There are no "excused" absences for the bonus).

Piazza Discussion Board

This term we will be using Piazza for class discussion. You can find our class page at: https://piazza.com/utexas/fall2013/mis304/home. This is faster and more efficient individual emails to a classmate, the TAs or me. The quicker you begin asking questions on Piazza, the quicker you'll benefit from the collective knowledge of your classmates and instructors. We encourage you to ask questions when you're struggling to understand a concept.

Grades

Assignment	Weight
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Homework Assignments*	20%
Homework Peer Review	5%
Language Quick Reference	10%
Final Project	10%
Total	**100%**

* Your lowest homework grade will be automatically dropped.

Final Average	Final Letter Grade
93.34 – 100.00	A
89.50 – 93.33	A-
86.67 – 89.49	B+
83.34 – 86.66	B
79.50 – 83.33	B-
76.67 – 79.49	C+
73.34 – 76.66	C
69.50 – 73.33	C-
66.67 – 69.49	D+
63.34 – 66.66	D
59.50 – 63.33	D
0.00 – 59.49	F

Exams

All exams are scheduled well in advance. No exam grades will be dropped. If you miss an exam, you will be given a zero, period! There are no makeups. If you have a legitimate, non-academic reason for missing an exam, you must contact me by email or phone BEFORE the time the exam starts. **If you contact me AFTER the exam, it is considered missing the exam**.

Homework

You must follow the class programming standards on every homework assignment. (See separate standards document for details.) It is possible to have a project that works, but does not make an A. You will lose points if you fail to follow instructions carefully. **Small details matter in programming, and therefore matter in your homework.**

Turning in Homework

Turn in your VB.NET homework through Blackboard by 12:00 noon on the due date. After that, **no homework will be accepted**! Please note that in the past, many students thought they turned in their homework, but didn't actually submit the file, or they turned in the wrong version. Please be CAREFUL when submitting your homework on Blackboard. **Any errors in submission will cause you to get a ZERO!** Please do not ask me to make an exception for you. If I make one for you, I have to make it for everyone. This makes it impossible for students to get their grades back in a timely manner. In the "real world," consequences for not turning work in correctly are much more severe than a "ding" to your grade. I've heard from many professionals that if they failed to turn in a bid and lost business for the company, they would be fired. I realize that mistakes happen, but you need to act like a professional and accept the consequences. This policy is not flexible. ALWAYS double-check your submissions.

Peer Review

Part of your homework requirement involves reviewing your peers' work. After the homework turn-in deadline, you will be expected to test 2 of your colleagues' submissions and provide feedback. This I will give each of you a grading rubric to assist this process. Assignments for review will be randomly assigned to you by Blackboard. Peer review will expose you to alternate programming thought processes and increase the total amount of feedback for everyone. **Five percent of your overall course grade comes from completing these peer reviews for your classmates.** If you complete the peer reviews on time and make a good faith effort to review your colleagues' work, you will receive full credit for this portion of the class.

Ten percent of your grade for each homework assignment will come from evaluation by your colleagues. This part of your grade will be determined by taking the average score for each peer review and adding 0.5. For example, if one person gives you 10/10 and another gives you 8/10, your final peer review score will be 9.5. The maximum score for peer reviews is 10/10. In other words, if both of your peers give you 10/10, you will get 10/10 (and not 10.5/10) for your peer review score.

Language Quick Reference

Modern information systems are created on a variety of programming languages, including first generation languages like COBOL and FORTRAN and modern languages like Python, Ruby and R. Although we will be coding exclusively in VB for this course, I want you to be exposed to a variety of languages. During the middle weeks of the semester, teams of five students will give a short presentation about their assigned language at the beginning of class. The main deliverable for this assignment is a "cheat sheet" about the language for your classmates. That way, when you get to the "real-world," you will have a library of quick reference guides for a variety of languages. More specific instructions about this assignment will be posted on Blackboard. Also, you will be required to submit feedback about your teammates. I reserve the right to adjust your grade if you receive poor reviews from your group, so be a good teammate!

Final Project

The final project in MIS 304 will require teams of students to create an information system to solve a basic business problem. Completion of this system will require application of course concepts from the entirety of the semester. More specific instructions about this assignment will be posted on Blackboard as we get closer to the end of the semester. Also, you will be required to submit feedback about your team. I reserve the right to adjust your grade if you receive poor reviews from your partner, so be a good teammate!

Re-Learning on Assignments

Assignment feedback will be reported on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check the site frequently to confirm that your assignment feedback is correct. Asking questions after your deliverables are returned reinforces learning and helps you to understand your strengths and weaknesses with course material. Therefore, I encourage you meet with me OUTSIDE OF CLASS to discuss your assignments. However, you must do so within **one week** of the day the homework is returned or feedback is posted on Blackboard. ***After the one-week window, your grade for that assignment is permanent.***

Blackboard Use & Class Learning

Your use of Blackboard's email should be for course-related messages only; please see UT Austin's Acceptable Use Policy. Messages for selling football tickets and posting party invites are not considered course-related unless your instructor has specifically allowed this usage for his/her class. See UT's Acceptable Use Policy at http://www.utexas.edu/academic/blackboard/answers/email_abuse.html.

Information Privacy

Password-protected class sites, such as Blackboard, are available for all accredited courses taught at The University. Syllabi, handouts, assignments and other resources may be available within these sites. Site activities could include exchanging email, engaging in class discussions and chats, and exchanging files. In addition, class email rosters are a component of the sites. Students who do not want their names included in these electronic class rosters must restrict their directory information in the Office of the Registrar, Main Building, Room 1. For more information, see http://registrar.utexas.edu/students/records/ferpa/. **If you choose anonymity, please email your JDOE number to me so I can post feedback on Blackboard.**

Using Email for Official Correspondence to Students

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your email for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible for keeping the university informed about changes to your email address. You should check your email regularly and frequently. You can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating your email address at http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php.

Religious Holidays

By UT Austin Policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least 14 days before the date of observing a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Documented Disability Statement

The University of Texas at Austin provides, upon request, appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you require special accommodations, you must obtain a letter that documents your disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471-6259 or 471-4641 TTY). Present the letter to me at the beginning of the semester so we can discuss the accommodations you need. No later than five business days before an exam, you should remind me of any testing accommodations you will need so that I can make arrangements. For more information, visit http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/.

University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Scholastic Dishonesty Policy

I take this issue seriously. ***Any dishonesty—such as cheating, false representation, plagiarism, etc.—that comes to my attention will result in an F in the course.*** The University defines academic dishonesty as cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to avoid participating honestly in the learning process. Scholastic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to, providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement or an extension on an exam or other assignment, and submission of essentially the same written assignment for two different courses without faculty permission.

"The McCombs School of Business has no tolerance for acts of scholastic dishonesty. The responsibilities of both students and faculty with regard to scholastic dishonesty are described in detail in the BBA Program's Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty at http://www.mccombs.utexas.edu/BBA/Code-of-Ethics.aspx. By teaching this course, I have agreed to observe all faculty responsibilities described in that document. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe all student responsibilities described in that document. If the application of the Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty to this class or its assignments is unclear in any way, it is your responsibility to ask me for clarification. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, the integrity of the University, and the value of our academic brand, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. You should refer to the Student Judicial Services website at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/ to access the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty as well as further elaboration on what constitutes scholastic dishonesty."

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

BCAL is a service for students, faculty, and staff of the university to discuss their concerns about another individual's behavior. Trained staff members will assist the caller in exploring available options and strategies. They will also provide appropriate guidance and resource referrals to address the particular situation. Dialing (512) 232-5050 will connect you to trained staff members 24/7/365. Calls to BCAL can be anonymous, and there is also an on-line reporting form (not anonymous).

Campus Safety

Please note the following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, http://www.utexas.edu/safety/

- Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.
- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation should inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.
- Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050
- Further information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency.

Tentative Fall 2013 MIS 304 Course Schedule – Gray – Schedule Subject to Change

Wk	Cl	Date	Location	Class Topics	Readings	Homework	Language Presentation
1	1	W Aug 28	UTC 1.146	Introduction to Programming	Chapter 1		
2		M Sep 2		No Class - Labor Day Holiday			
	2	W Sep 4	MOD Lab	Introduction to Visual Studio	Chapter 9		
3	3	M Sep 9	MOD Lab	Variables and Data Types	Chapter 2		
	4	W Sep 11	UTC 1.146	More Data Types		Homework 1	
4	5	M Sep 16	UTC 1.146	Branching	Chapter 3		
	6	W Sep 18	UTC 1.146	Exam Review		Homework 2	
5	7	M Sep 23	UTC 1.146	**Exam 1**			
	8	W Sep 25	UTC 1.146	Loops, Part I	Chapter 4	Homework 3	
6	9	M Sep 30	UTC 1.146	Loops, Part II			COBOL
	10	W Oct 2	UTC 1.146	Exception Handling	Chapter 10	Homework 4	C
7	11	M Oct 7	MOD Lab	Advanced Controls Practice			Windows Batch Lang
	12	W Oct 9	UTC 1.146	Functions, Part I	Chapter 6	Homework 5	Java
8	13	M Oct 14	UTC 1.146	Functions, Part II			
	14	W Oct 16	UTC 1.146	Exam Review		Homework 6	Perl
9	15	M Oct 21	UTC 1.146	**Exam 2**			
	16	W Oct 23	UTC 1.146	Arrays and Structures, Part I	Chapter 5	Homework 7	
10	17	M Oct 28	UTC 1.146	Arrays and Structures, Part II			Python
	18	W Oct 30	UTC 1.146	Object Oriented Programming	Chapter 7	Homework 8	Ruby
11	19	M Nov 4	UTC 1.146	Object Oriented Programming	Chapter 8		R
	20	W Nov 6	UTC 1.146	Exam Review		Homework 9	Objective C
12	21	M Nov 11	MOD Lab	Visual Basic for Applications			ABAP
	22	W Nov 13	UTC 1.146	**Exam 3**		Homework 10	
13	23	MOD Lab	UTC 1.146	Connecting VS Projects to Databases	"Connecting VS Projects to Databases"		
	24	W Nov 20	UTC 1.146	Mobile Application Development		Homework 11	
14	25	M Nov 25	MOD Lab	Introduction to Final Project			
	26	W Nov 27	UTC 1.146	Project Work Day		Homework 12	
15	27	M Dec 2	MOD Lab	Final Project			
	28	W Dec 4	MOD Lab	Class Wrap Up and Course Evaluations			