Fall 2023 ENGR 103 syllabus

Course: ENGR 103 – Engineering computation and algorithmic thinking

Credits: 3

Instructor: Tim Alcon: timothy.alcon@oregonstate.edu

Students in this section may be required to interact with teachers, teaching assistants, and students in other concurrent sections of this same course.

Required textbook: None

Two fundamental rules

1. You are responsible for knowing the contents of the syllabus and all of the information about the course provided on Canvas.
2. You are responsible for knowing the contents of instructor announcements made on Canvas, which means that you should make sure you receive such announcements and that you check for new ones at least once a day.

Response times

When you email your TA or us (the instructors), you can normally expect a response within 24 hours. You should expect your assignments to be graded within four days of the due date. Some extra time may be needed to grade assignment 10, due to its greater complexity.

OSU catalog course description

Overview of fundamental concepts of computer science. Introduction to problem solving, software engineering and object-oriented algorithm development and programming.

Prerequisites: ENGR 102 and ALEKS score of 60 or higher
Co-requisite: MTH 112

Course content

- variables and data types
- assignment, input/output, casting
- conditionals, iteration
- functions
• recursion
• classes and objects
• string manipulation, lists
• tuples, mutability vs. immutability
• object references and identity
• dictionaries, sets
• introduction to C++

Course Learning Outcomes
At the completion of the course, students will be able to...

1. Demonstrate the ability to create a computer program to solve a problem using universal design.
2. Demonstrate the use of software to perform engineering problem solving.
3. Use critical thinking to identify computational solutions and articulate limitations related to social or structural inequities such as: racial, cultural, gender, socioeconomic and accessibility.
4. Describe the separate roles of modeling and analysis in engineering practice.
5. Acquire and apply new knowledge from external sources in engineering computation.

Course tools

• Canvas is the course management software used for this course.
• PyCharm is an IDE (integrated development environment) for Python. It's where you'll write your Python programs.
• Gradescope is the site where you'll submit your code for the programming assignments (except those for the last two modules).
• GitHub is a popular tool for hosting version-controlled code repositories.
• Microsoft Teams is a synchronous discussion forum where the TAs will hold their office hours, and which is also for more casual conversation with fellow students.

More information about these tools is available on the "Tools you will need" page, in the "Start here" module in Canvas.

Coursework and Grading Policies

• Your code will be tested to make sure it works correctly. It is your job to make sure that your code will behave correctly for any possible tests. One simple test is provided on
Gradescope, for which you get immediate feedback. The remaining tests are "hidden" until the due date has passed.

- You may submit assignments and quizzes up to 48 hours late for half-credit, except for the group assignments and assignment 10. If you have extenuating circumstances, please contact your instructor about them as early as possible.
- All assignments are due at **11:59pm Pacific Time**. Be aware of what time zone Canvas is using to display deadlines. If it’s not your local time zone, you can set it to be. **The Canvas phone app always displays times for the time zone the phone is in.** This is important to keep in mind if you will be traveling.
- Always ask first before using any commands or techniques for assignments that haven’t been covered in the **exploration pages** (the optional readings don’t count), **otherwise you will lose points**. The reason for this is so you don’t circumvent using material that the assignment was designed to make you practice.
- If you disagree with a score on any coursework, contact your TA by email within one week of receiving your grade. If you are dissatisfied with your TA's response (or if they neglect to respond at all), then you should contact your instructor about it.
- There is no extra credit.
- Grades will not be “curved”.
- Makeup quizzes will only be given for quizzes excused in advance by the instructor.
- Incompletes will be given very rarely. If you have been doing well in the course so far, but an emergency comes up that prevents you from continuing according to schedule, let the instructor for your section know as soon as possible.

**Weights for Grading**

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<thead>
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<td>Studios</td>
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<td>Co-curriculars</td>
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**Letter Grade Percentages**

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**Being Mentally Prepared**

Learning computer programming can be quite challenging for most people. You should expect to spend 16-20 hours/week. However, that is only an estimate. Some people will find the material more challenging than others - those people may require more time.

Other people in the course may have more background in the subject than you do. Don't feel intimidated or put off if other students talk on the discussion board about topics that we haven't covered yet (or may not cover in this class at all). What's important is that you understand what we have covered.

Taking online courses tends to feel more isolated than taking on-campus courses. Even though there are still all the normal course elements - lectures, readings, homework, a teacher whom you can ask questions, etc. - sometimes students in an online course will feel like they are "teaching themselves" because interactivity in such a course is less forced and less immediate. We can't see or hear you, so we can't judge whether you’re having trouble by your tone or expression. We are always happy to help, but you have to take the initiative and let us know when you run into problems.

**Getting Help**

When you have a question about something, please feel free to ask in class or during an office hour. You can also post a question in Teams or ask it via email.

The College of Engineering (COE) offers a variety of academic support resources for students. There are tutoring services available through the COE by appointment and drop-in. More information about these and other academic support services can be found on the COE’s [Academic Support website](http://www.oregonstate.edu/collegenew). If you have additional tutoring needs, or have questions about these services, please contact Casey Patterson at casey.patterson@oregonstate.edu.

**Establishing a Positive Community**

It is important you feel safe and welcome in this course. If somebody is making discriminatory comments against you, sexually harassing you, or excluding you in other ways, contact the instructor, your academic advisor, and/or report what happened at [studentlife.oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/reporting](http://www.studentlife.oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/reporting) so we can connect you with resources.

**Reach Out for Success**

University students encounter setbacks from time to time. If you encounter difficulties and need assistance, it’s important to reach out. Consider discussing the situation with an instructor
or academic advisor. Learn about resources that assist with wellness and academic success at [oregonstate.edu/ReachOut](http://oregonstate.edu/ReachOut). If you are in immediate crisis, please contact the Crisis Text Line by texting OREGON to 741-741 or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

### Technical Assistance

If you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact 24/7 Canvas Support through the Help link within Canvas. If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, or need assistance logging into a course, contact the IS Service Desk for assistance. You can call 541-737-8787 or visit the IS Service Desk online.

### Academic Integrity

The Code of Student Conduct prohibits Academic Misconduct and defines it as:

Any action that misrepresents a student or group's work, knowledge, or achievement, provides a potential or actual inequitable advantage, or compromises the integrity of the educational process.

To support understanding of what can be included in this definition, the Code further classifies and describes examples of Academic Misconduct, including cheating, plagiarism, assisting and others. See the Code of Student Conduct for details: [https://beav.es/codeofconduct](https://beav.es/codeofconduct)

You are expected to do your own work and demonstrate academic integrity in every aspect of this course. Familiarize yourself with the standards set forth in the OSU Code of Student Conduct Section 4.2. You must only access sources and resources authorized by the instructor. You may not show your work to any other current or future students without the instructor's authorization. Violations of these expectations or the Code of Student Conduct will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is your responsibility to seek clarification and approval from the instructor prior to acting.

**Academic Integrity DOs and DON'Ts**

- Do feel free to discuss course content with each other, even including general discussion of homework assignments and how to fix specific issues.
- Do feel free to post small snippets of non-working assignment code to the official course Microsoft Teams. If you have trouble narrowing the problem down to a small snippet, just describe the problem as well as you can and/or ask your TA for help.
- Do feel free to ask conceptual questions related to assignments on the official course Microsoft Teams.
- Do feel free to post code for the **exploration exercises** on the official Microsoft Teams page for the course.
• **Don’t** post any quiz questions or answers in any form.
• **Don’t** make your code for assignments publicly accessible, for example by posting it on Stack Overflow, Chegg, a public GitHub repository, etc. Any GitHub repository you post assignment code on must be **private**. Later courses will have assignments specifically designated as portfolio assignments, which you will be able to post in a public repository.
• Do feel free to share and compare your assignment code with other students on the official course Microsoft Teams **starting the Sunday after the assignment was due**. Keep in mind that there’s not just one correct way to write a program - there’s almost always a variety of correct approaches. As you compare with others' code, try to notice what seem to be advantages or disadvantages of a particular approach, and don’t be afraid to ask questions about why someone made a certain design decision.
• **Don’t** copy someone else’s code, in whole or in part, whether someone else in the course, a previous student in the course, or code you found somewhere online. It’s easy for us to detect plagiarism, it will impact your grade for the course, and it goes on your academic record. This also includes detailed plans for code, such as pseudocode.

**Students with Disabilities**

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at http://ds.oregonstate.edu. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

**Student Conduct Code**

This program strives to prepare students for careers in computer science, which includes preparing students to communicate professionally. Therefore, students in this class are expected to communicate in a professional manner in discussion forums, email messages and all communications for this course. Critiques, disagreements, problems, or other topics of a sensitive nature can be addressed, but should be addressed civilly and professionally. If a student's communications become unprofessional, disruptive, abusive, inflammatory, or if they otherwise obstruct the learning process of the class, the instructor may restrict the student from participating in the electronic forums associated with the class and notify the OSU Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. Productive learning communities and workplaces depend on civil, professional discourse. It is our hope that this policy strengthens your learning community and prepares you for the professional workplace.
Online Privacy

Posts to Canvas, Microsoft Teams and Canvas groups are public messages, and all such posts will be viewable by the entire class or the assigned group members. If you prefer that only the instructor sees your communication, use a private message or email.

Posting of personal contact information is strictly at your own risk.