

COURSE SYLLABUS

CS 278B . 01
SPECIAL TOPICS: PROGRAMMING in COBOL
Dr. Ken Hartness
3 credit hours
Fall Semester 2007

(Minor details may be changed and announced to the class. Students have a right to appeal any change to the syllabus.)

Location of Lecture: AB1 211

Meeting Times: 10:00 - 10:50 MWF

Office: AB1 212F **Phone:** (936) 294-3524

E-mail: csc_kth@shsu.edu

Office Hours: 9-10 MWF, TBA

URL: http://www.shsu.edu/~csc_kth

Catalog Description: In-depth study of a programming language (COBOL) used to implement information systems. This course may be repeated for credit with the approval of the undergraduate advisor. A different language must be covered to receive approval for repeat credit.

Prerequisite: CS 147 or CS 165 (may be taken as corequisite class with permission of instructor)

Course Objectives: The student should learn how to encode algorithms in the COBOL programming language as well as how to use features unique to the COBOL language. The student should add to their programming skills a knowledge of the appropriate use of sequential files for processing large quantities of information.

Required Text Book: A Simplified Guide to Structured COBOL Programming (2nd ed.), McCracken & Golden

Optional materials: Student may want to obtain a book that includes a COBOL compiler or try to purchase a compiler (try the Internet for Microfocus or other compilers; few software retailers carry COBOL). If working at home, you should obtain at least a 1985 version; preferably, get one with intrinsic functions and other extensions made since 1992.

Attendance Policy: Students are responsible for attending all classes. An absent student should make arrangements to get notes, announcements, assignments, etc., from another student. Assignment submissions will not be accepted late unless a class-wide exception is explicitly given (see Assignments for how programming assignments are handled). All absences must be approved by the instructor sufficiently in advance

that the student can complete any work due during the period of absence **before** the period begins. Unexpected but excusable absences require written evidence of the reason for the absence (e.g., note from clinic or doctor); the student should contact the instructor as soon as reasonably possible to make arrangements, if any may be made. Never assume that you can submit work late without discussing the matter with the instructor.

Assignments: Short-answer homework and program designs are completed outside of class and submitted at class time on the day due. These assignments are often assigned during class and may not always appear on Blackboard. The instructor is under no obligation to evaluate any homework submitted after class on the due date for any reason. If you have an acceptable excuse, some arrangement may be made; however, students will not be allowed to submit a specific homework assignment after correct answers have been discussed in class. Some assigned homework will be shared with the class and evaluated only at that time (in cases where every attending student is not guaranteed a chance to participate, such participatory work may be counted as extra credit). In-class quizzes may also count as homework grades. Programming assignments are always listed on Blackboard and will be numbered Program 1, Program 2, etc.

Exams: The student will have the opportunity to take three major examinations during the semester, followed by a comprehensive final exam; the lowest of the three exams will be dropped. Students may be tested over knowledge and skills obtained from homework and programs in addition to material covered during lectures.

Grading Policy: Each exam and assignment is assigned points. Exams are worth 100 points each, programming assignments are 20 points each, and homework assignments are worth 5 points each. However, you must earn every 102 points by attempting a program assignment (for example, a student who makes a perfect grade on three exams and ten homework assignments, but only attempts three programs, can only earn $3 \times 102 = 306$ of their 359-410 points). Grades will be calculated from the total points accumulated during the semester as a percentage of the total points possible, so those who earn 90% of the points can make an A, 80% make a C, etc. Assuming eight programs and ten homework assignments, a student can earn as many as 510 points with all perfect scores.

Points earned	Programs attempted			
	<= 2	3	4	>= 5
305	F	D	D	D
355	F	D	C	C
405	F	D	B	B
455	F	D	B	A

Note and follow submission requirements and program assignment instructions to receive full credit for programs. The quality of each program is evaluated against a 20-point scale, where 0 means no recognizable, unique solution was submitted, 1-6 means the program is incomplete and does not compile, 7-12 means it cannot run to a successful completion, and 13-19 refers to different degrees of successfully completing the assignment. An attempt is any unique, recognizable effort to submit a solution, even if it fails to compile. Program grades are normally calculated based on the submission prior to the deadline; a second submission, up to a week after the deadline, may be graded and averaged with the first. Always submit whatever you have done prior to the deadline. A program attempt may be recognized, but not necessarily graded, as late as the last class day of the semester.

The instructor reserves the right to curve grades consistently if he feels that they do not reflect student performance. Often, these decisions will be made AFTER the final exam.

Absence Policy: Students are encouraged to attend all classes, but absences will not be used in computing the course grade. *A zero will be recorded for all work missed due to absence unless arrangements to complete missed work are made prior to the class that is missed.*

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, materials copied or purchased from a tutor, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Assignments made from one semester to the next are similar of necessity. Assignments are developed with the goal of providing a student with the opportunity to develop the desired level of intellectual achievement while not over burdening the student with excessive work. The use of work done by others including students (past or present) or tutors (paid or unpaid) will be construed as cheating. "Any" verifiable instance of cheating will normally result in a grade of "F" for the course for all individuals involved. Students should not have in their possession labs or tests belonging to other students from the current or previous semesters.

Students from previous semesters providing materials to students in following semesters will be subject to all disciplinary actions provided by the university.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: University policy states students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the University. Cellular telephones and pagers and other disruptive devices must be turned off prior to the start of class. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive will be subject to removal by University Police and / or reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Visitors in the Classroom:

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html

Religious Holidays:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by

a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf