CIT135-03 Intro. to Computer Theory
Syllabus
(subject to change with notice)

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Contact Information

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Course Information

Course Title Intro. to Computer Theory

Course Number CIT-135-03

Course Description This course is designed to give you a broad based introduction to all aspects of computing. During the course we will be focusing on various aspects of the discipline, including hardware, networking, web, programming logic, ethics, and other aspects of the industry. The goal of this course is to give you a good overview of the computer industry and how things work in order for you to have a solid foundation of knowledge to begin your technical training at Champlain College.

The world of computers is advancing rapidly and becoming an ever more integrated part of our lives and as a result, the level of training for technical people is becoming higher and more difficult. Not that long ago, a course like this would have introduced you to a mouse, keyboard and word processor. Now, most people have those basic skills and we can (actually, have to) start the course at a higher level.

Many of you may be experts in one part of this field or just sophisticated users. That is great and you will be a real asset to the class! Hopefully, you will be learning new things about the field in this class. (If you are not then you should take the challenge exam.)

Course Date Fall 2008 (3-Sep-2008 through 10-Dec-2008)

Prerequisite(s) This course is designed to give you an introduction to the technical side of computers and **NOT** to computers in general (i.e. how to use a mouse, Windows or a word processor).

If you think this course may be too simple, you can take the challenge exam to get out of the course. If you think that you can pass the exam then you will need to arrange this with your instructor as soon as possible, but no later than the start of the second week of class. In addition to passing the challenge exam you must also obtain the permission of the Program Director of your major.

Student Learning Outcomes / Course Goals

- Students should demonstrate the ability to generalize programming logic and constructs common to all programming languages.
- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the physical structure and components of a computer system and how they work together with software.
- Students will be able to discuss the issues surrounding a global information society including current and emerging technologies.

Textbooks

Required

Title: **Invitation to Computer Science 4th Edition**
Author(s): G. Michael Schneider & Judith L. Gersting
Publisher: Thompson Course Technology
Year Published: 2006
ISBN 0-13-187289-3

Title: **Learning to Program with Alice**
Author(s): Wanda P. Dann, Stephen Cooper & Randy Pausch
Publisher: Pearson Prentice Hall
Year Published: 2006
ISBN 0-13-187289-3

Highly Recommended

Title: **A Pocket Style Manual Fourth Edition**
Author(s): Diana Hacker
Publisher: Bedford / St. Martins
Year Published: 2006
ISBN 0-312-40684-3
NOTE: You will need a writing style manual throughout your time at Champlain College. If you do not already own a copy of this pocket reference or an alternate Hacker reference I strongly recommend you obtain a copy. All formal papers and non-programming homework assignments should be submitted using proper MLA format.

Course Calendar

Although the instructor may deem it appropriate to deviate from the following schedule, the basic design of the course is shown in the table below. The reading assignments from the textbook correspond to the lectures and are found next to the date in the table. Quiz dates are also shown in this column of the table.

Planned Weekly Topics		Assignments		
Week	**Topics Covered**	**Schneider**	**Dann**	**Graded Assignments**
1	* **Comp.Theory:** Intro. to Computer Theory Computer History * **Prog.&Logic:** Alice: Intro. to Alice	**Chapter 1** * 2-32	**Chapter 1**	* Assign.#1
2	* **Comp.Theory:** The Algorithmic Foundations of Computer Science * **Prog.&Logic:** Alice: Program Design & Implementation	**Chapter 2** * 40-74 **Chapter 3** * 80-86 (Excludes 3.3.2) * 88-94 (Excludes 3.3.4) * 97 (The Tortoise and Hare) * 106-108 (Binary Search)	**Chapter 2**	* Assign.#2
3	* **Comp.Theory:** Boolean Logic and Gates * **Prog.&Logic:** Alice: Programming: Putting Together the Pieces	**Chapter 4** * 130-183	**Chapter 3**	* Assign.#3
4	* **Exam Review** * **Prog.&Logic:** More Alice (Lab 3.2)			
5	* **EXAM 1** * **Prog.&Logic:** Intro. to C++	**Chapter 8** * 342-374		* Assign.#4
6	* **Comp.Theory:** Computer System Organization * **Prog.&Logic:** C++ (Branching, Looping & Truth)	**Chapter 5** * 188-232		* Assign.#5
7	* **Comp.Theory:** The Virtual Machine Systems Software * **Prog.&Logic:** Alice: Classes, Objects, Methods and Parameters	**Chapter 6** * 240-284	**Chapter 4**	* Assign.#6
8	* **Comp.Theory:** Modular Programming Programming Paradigms * **Prog.&Logic:** Alice: Interaction: Events and Event Handling	**Chapter 8** * 375-397	**Chapter 5**	* Assign.#7
9	* **Exam Review** * **Comp.Theory:** Computer Networks The Internet * **Prog.&Logic:** Alice: Functions and If/Else	**Chapter 7** * 290-304	**Chapter 6** * 147-170	
10	* **EXAM 2**	**Chapter 9**	**Chapter 7**	* Annotated Bibliography 1 of 2

	* **Technical Writing:** The Annotated Bibliography Common Writing Problems Cool Word Processing Features * **Comp.Theory:** HTML * **Prog.&Logic:** Alice: Repetition: Definite and Indefinite	* 440-441 (9.3.1) * 441-443 (9.3.2) * 444 (Beyond HTML) * 452 (Simplicity . . .) **Chapter 10** * 508 (I Do Not Understand . . .)		
11	* **Comp.Theory:** E-Commerce Databases / SQL Information Security * **Prog.&Logic:** Alice: Repetition: Recursion	**Chapter 13** * 586-606 (Excludes 13.4)	**Chapter 8**	* Assign.#8
12	* **Comp.Theory:** Artificial Intelligence (Game A.I. vs. Real A.I.) * **Prog.&Logic:** Rock, Paper, Scissors (Alice & C++)	**Chapter 14** * 620-623		* Assign.#9
13	* **Technical Writing Re-visited:** The Annotated Bibliography Common Writing Problems Cool Word Processing Features * **Comp.Theory:** Computers and Society * **Prog.&Logic:** Alice: Lists and List Processing		**Chapter 9**	* Annotated Bibliography 2 of 2
14	* Exam Review * **Prog.&Logic:** Alice: Variables and Revisiting Inheritance		**Chapter 10**	
EXAM	* **FINAL EXAM**			

Participation, Attendance and Course Policies

1. **Assignment Submissions / Late Assignments**

   Assignment submissions are ONLY accepted via WebCT. No assignment will be accepted via e-mail or in any other manner. Most, but not all, assignments allow a grace period of one week. Assignments related to the final paper do not have a grace period. Any assignment submitted late but within the grace period will be accepted but will receive a 20 point reduction. Submissions outside this grace period will not be accepted.

2. **Discussions:**

   Your participation in discussion forums (both reading and posting) is consolidated into usage metrics. I will be focusing on the quality and timeliness of your participation. In general, it is recommended you access the WebCT environment at least four times each week. The more frequently you access the system, the easier it will be to stay current with the pace of the discussion(s). Succeeding in this depends greatly on consistency, so it is important that you check in regularly and participate actively in discussions.

   Participation is a key factor to success in an online class. Participation in the discussion forums weighs heavily on the final grade. In order to receive credit you will need to check into the discussion folders each week. Though it will vary from week to week, it is expected that you contribute at least one original post and respond to the posts of at least two other students each week. New discussion folders will be opened and past discussion folders will be locked at the start of each week, so points lost from prior weeks cannot be "made-up".

3. **Grades of Incomplete:**

   "Incompletes" will only be issued in the event of medical emergencies and at the instructor's discretion.

Methods of Evaluation

Your final grade will be based on a weighted average of the following graded items:

Graded Elements	Weights
Assignments (9) *To Include:* * *Questions* * *Alice Labs* * *C++ Labs* * *Articles*	50%
Exam 1	10%
Exam 2	10%
Annotated Bibliographies (2)	10%
Final Exam	10%
Participation *To Include:* * *Discussion* * *Attendance* * *Contribution*	10%

Total	**100%**

Grade Calculation

The following scale will be used to determine letter grades:

Grade	Range
A	93+
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	Below 60

Students With Disabilities

If you believe that you have a disability requiring accommodations in this class, please contact Janine Allo in the Counseling Department, Office of Disability Services, as soon as possible. After you receive your accommodation form, please contact the instructor ASAP to insure all accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. It is the student's responsibility to seek and secure accommodations prior to the start of a test or project. Accommodations cannot be provided until you supply the instructor with a form from Janine.

For information and forms, please contact:
Contact: Janine Allo
Counseling Department, Office of Disability Services
Office: Hauke 007
Phone: 802-865-5484
Email:jallo@champlain.edu

Academic Honesty

In the preparation and presentation of any assigned work-including examinations, tests, quizzes, term papers, reports, themes and other written or oral exercises-every student shall conform to a strict standard of academic honesty. Any attempt to deceive a faculty member or to help another student to do so will be considered a violation of this standard. In all assignments, students must acknowledge the words and/or ideas of others taken from print or electronic media, whether a direct quotation or a paraphrase; any omission of this is dishonest. Cheating on examinations or tests consists of knowingly giving, receiving or using-or attempting to give, receive or use-unauthorized assistance during an examination or test. A faculty member may record a grade of "zero" for any assignment on which a student has plagiarized or cheated. For repeat offenses within a single course, the faculty member may record a grade of "F" for the course. Violations of this policy in multiple courses may result in dismissal from the College. A student may appeal these decisions according to the Academic Grievance Procedure.

Refer to The Student Handbook (The document formerly known as The Rudder) for more information regarding this policy and associated procedures that apply. Additionally, the use of TurnItIn (www.turnitin.com) will be used to evaluate student work.

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