

You learn computer programming by writing computer programs. Accordingly, this is an intense "hands on" course.

This is a laboratory course. Most class periods will involve writing and discussing Java code in class. It should be possible for you to complete most of the programming assignments in the open labs throughout the course.

Required textbook readings and other assignments will be posted in the Assignments Log located in the Assignments folder on Blackboard. Readings will be assigned from the textbook and possibly from the Oracle site. Supplementary material will be posted as needed to support the learning objectives. It will be your responsibility to cover that material on your own, so plan your study schedule to do that. Feel free to ask questions as needed.

The course objective is to cover the first seven chapters of the textbook. There will be an objective quiz for each chapter.

I encourage a collaborative learning experience, so please help each other during the classes and the labs. It is understood, however, that you should not send files to each other or copy code. There is no reason to do that. Ask for help rather than receiving files from anyone or copying code written by another student. There are department tutors available to help you with programming assignments and other technical issues. You may also consult the OIT helpdesk as needed.

The pace of this course is not rushed, and this is to accommodate the background of most Information Systems majors, who are generally interested in systems analysis and design and management issues. Students in this class who are technically proficient are welcome, but the pace will not be faster because of your presence. You may help your classmates when you have finished your work. Many students will complete the assignments before the end of the class period, and others will continue to work until the end of the lab. If you have experience in Java, you should consider seeking a waiver from taking this course.

Students who maintain consistent studying throughout the course will achieve a high level of mastery, and that will be reflected in your grade.

Attendance in the course is mandatory. The instructor may take lab attendance for credit. The instructor may also deny lab credit for students who arrive late to class. Plan your schedules to arrive on time, taking into consideration problems with traffic and parking at UMBC.

**Students are responsible for monitoring the Blackboard course site and for meeting the deadlines posted in the Assignments Log. Late work will not be accepted. You should also plan to check often for email from the instructor and for announcements posted on Blackboard.**

Grades will be determined by the per cent of total points that you accumulate during the semester. The point values for the various assignments will be given as the course develops. The instructor will award points for assignments based upon his cumulative experience. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the value of the work throughout the course, to include lab credit and programming assignments. **The per cent of total points is presented in the gradebook on Blackboard. The percentage in that column will determine the grade in the course. You will not have to calculate the percentage.** You should check the status of the gradebook at least after every deadline for a graded course assignment. Check with the instructor if you have any question about the information presented in the gradebook.

There is no mid-term or final examination in this course. Students will be allowed to retake the quiz with the lowest score on the last class of the semester. That score will replace the previous score, even if it is lower.

There is no extra credit available in this course on an individual basis. The instructor may occasionally make extra credit opportunities available to the entire class.

Students will be excused from class for medical reasons, and documentation from a health care provider may be requested. Other emergency situations may be excused. **Whenever you miss a class for any reason, you should notify the instructor and provide an explanation.**

The best strategy for achieving success in this course is to plan to earn the highest point value on all assignments. Students are responsible for monitoring the gradebook. Students are responsible for reporting an error in the gradebook within a week of its posting date. **The instructor is dedicated to your success in the course, but as a student, you must accept your responsibilities in making that happen.**

Standard grading criteria are in effect: 90-100 = A, 80 - 89 = B, etc. **Grades are not negotiable.**

This information gives the general structure of the course. The Instructor reserves the right to adjust this structure and the criteria for grades as the course develops. It is understood that all students are professionals seeking to advance their knowledge. For that reason, you should concentrate on mastery of all aspects of this course, rather than counting points for the various components of this course.

I do not award an incomplete as a means of extending a deadline. I have only awarded an incomplete when a documented medical or other emergency has occurred. Interference from a job or from other courses will have no impact on this policy because you are expected to plan your program of studies to complete all work within the time frame of a semester.

## IS 147: Notes About the Course

Feel free to contact the instructor about any question that you may have. The instructor is dedicated to your success in this course, but you must accept your responsibility in making that happen.

**Your participation in this course indicates your acceptance of these policies without contention. READ THIS AGAIN!**