CSCI 12000 §16 Spring 2017

Introduction to Computers

Piotr Kapela

January 2017

Time & Location:

Jan/30/2017 – May/31/2017
T, TH – 5:35pm to 6:50pm
West Building, Room 413

Text:

- Evans, Martin & Poatsy; *Technology in Action*, Complete Thirteenth Edition; Pearson; ISBN 10: 0-13-428910-2; ISBN 13: 978-0-13-428910-6.

Prerequisites:

This course is open to anyone with any type of background, technical or not; though, it is intended for non-Computer Science majors. In addition, it is assumed that students are comfortable with the usage of a computer. They know how to move around the operating system, how to start and close programs and simple concepts like difference between a file and directory. Also, students should be familiar with general web browsing and email exchange.

Brief Description:

Introduction to Computers is a general, expository course in Computer Science with the aim to bring the fundamental concepts of computing to the student. It is open to anyone who is interested in learning the inner works of computers both on the hardware and software side. The list of topics covered during the course tries to build a practical set of skills which will serve as a solid base in the computer literacy. The class will tackle a couple of themes in greater or lesser extent. The first one is the digital paradigm. Any data which goes through the computer is encoded, controlled and processed by the usage of only two symbols: 0 and 1. Students will learn how is it possible and most importantly why such a system is favored. Secondly, we will explore the idea of convergence. Computers represent a focal point of many independent technologies which enables to create a universal device that can be turned into any tool we want with the help of appropriate software. It can be a typewriter, radio receiver or communication device; imagination is the limit. By studying internal and external components as well as methods of communication between computers we will develop a more holistic view that will help us better understand the device. Lastly, we will take a closer look at the network of networks which is simply the internet. We will try to understand the underneath technology as well as the social implications. This open ended description encourages students to participate in the classroom and share their insights into the topics. Hopefully, by the end of the class, students should be better prepared and feel confident dealing with computers in their further careers and personal life.

Contact Information:

The fastest and most convenient way to contact me is by email provided below. I will respond to emails within 48 hours. If the student requests a meeting, it can be done right after the class or by appointment. Unfortunately, I do not have fixed office hours. Please use the official Hunter College student email for any communication. It is both for the security reasons and authentication purpose.

Email: pkapela@hunter.cuny.edu

Grades:

There are few components which will constitute for the final grade:

- The course will include three exams, two of them will be worth 20% each whereas the final exam 30% of the grade. Students will receive detail information and exact date at least one week and a half before the exam. In general, the first exam should be expected at the beginning of March; the midterm exam at the beginning of April (before the withdraw deadline) and the final exam during the examination period in May.
- Periodically students will be assigned homework which purpose is to reinforce the material covered during the classes. All combined homework assignments will be worth no more than 10% of the grade. There will be a penalty for late submission. Homework submitted after one week will not be accepted.
- In addition, the class includes an essay assignment which will be given in the middle of March. In general, the topics will be revolving around the ethical problems with the computers and the society. The essay will be worth 20% of the grade. The form of the essay and other details will be discussed during the classroom as well as provided on the handout.

Policy on Academic Integrity:

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The college is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

ADA Compliance:

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room El124 to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance please call (212-772-4857)/TTY (212-650-3230).