CS116 – Introduction to Computer Science **Fall 2023**

Who is my instructor?

I am Professor Jill Zimmerman. You can call me Jill, but if you want to be more formal you can call me Professor Zimmerman or Doctor Zimmerman. (Please don't call me Mrs. or Ms. Zimmerman – that is just a pet peeve of mine).

How do I get in contact?

I tend to answer emails promptly so use jill.zimmerman AT goucher.edu to get in touch. Please contact me if you need any assistance but be aware that I will only be responding during regular business hours.

You can also come see me in my office in Julia Rogers 127. I will always be there on
Monday from 10:30 to 11:30,
Tuesday from 8:30 to 9:30,
and Thursday from 12:30 to 1:30.
You don't need an appointment, so just drop by.

If you can't make it at those times, I have an open door policy. This means that if you see my door open then you are welcome to come in and talk. Don't worry if it looks like I am working because I am willing to stop what I am doing to talk to you.

What will I get out of this course?

After completion of this course you will be able to solve problems that require multiple step algorithmic solutions, using a computer language. You will design, implement, test and debug programs that incorporates loops, conditionals, and lists. You will also be able to generalize your programming methods using parameters so that they may be used in different situations.

What resources do I need for this course?

You will be given an account on our program server. You will be able to connect to that account by downloading and installing software NoMachine. Instructions for installation may be found https://phoenix.goucher.edu/~kelliher/nomachine.shtml

Other information for the course may be found at http://phoenix.goucher.edu/~jillz/cs116

Throughout the course I will be providing you with online readings and videos rather than using a textbook.

What will I need to do in class so that I can do well?

In order to learn how to solve problems using a programming language you have to spend a lot of time actively working at solving problems. You will find that **you can't just memorize material to be successful** in this course. Problem solving skills have to get honed by practice, practice, practice. That is why this is a hands-on class with class time spent on problem solving activities. Assignments have been designed to help with understanding through exploration. Be an active participant and never be afraid to make mistakes and ask questions. To help you be active in your learning, I will expect you to work in small groups on ungraded activities. Get to know your classmates because they can be partners in your learning.

What do I need to do outside of class to do well?

Before class, read and watch the online materials. After class, work on the assignments and practice problems. The material builds in this course so it is very important to stay on top of all the work. Don't forget that I am here to help you so if you are confused about anything come and ask me about it. Don't wait since the sooner you have questions resolved, the better you will be prepared for what comes next in the course.

How is my overall grade determined?

I try to give you a lot of feedback so that you always know how you are doing.

We will have short 10 to 15 minute quizzes throughout the semester which will count 10% of your total grade and you get to drop the lowest quiz score. I don't give makeup quizzes if you happen to miss one.

We will have three exams each of which count 15% of your grade.

All the lab assignments will count 30% of your grade.

A final exam which will cover all the material in the semester will count 15% of your grade.

All your scores will be posted in Canvas so you will always know how you are doing in the course.

How will I know when assignments are due?

You will be submitting all the assignments through Canvas and you can see all the due dates and the entire schedule there. If you need help in how to submit assignments, please ask. All assignments need to be turned in on time unless there are unavoidable circumstances. Contact me right away if the unavoidable occurs so that we can discuss how to get you back on track.

What is considered cheating and what is allowable?

You can always ask questions and get assistance from me and your fellow students both inside and outside of class. What you can't do is simply copy an answer from someone else or from an online source. A good rule of thumb is that you can talk about the problems but you should not share or copy written work. You definitely can't copy work from an online source.

Turning in work that was produced by someone else is cheating and is considered an Honor code violation. The main reason for why it is important that you don't cheat is that you would be harming your own learning, since you would not be taking the time to master the material. You would also be reducing your own enjoyment of accomplishment through your own genuine effort. It would also break my trust in you and limit the ability for students to work together. Finally, you would be harming your reputation and possibly face serious consequences.

What else do I need to know?

I want every student to succeed and have a good class. If you have any difficulties throughout the semester, please contact me. Working with students rocks my world!