CPSC 320-3 Programming Languages

Preliminary Course Outline

Contents

This course is a general introduction to programming languages. It covers the fundamental concepts, evolution, design principles, and techniques for specifying syntax and semantics, data types, memory models, control structures, name binding, abstraction mechanisms, parameter passing, programming paradigms, and pragmatic evaluation of programming languages. Specific languages are addressed mainly through student presentations and laboratory work.

Literature

- **Recommended:** R. W. Sebesta *Programming Languages*, ed. 10 or 11, Pearson.

- Lecture slides posted on the website.

- Reading list posted on the website.

- Self-directed Web and Library search for literature on specific languages.

Examinations and grade structure

Homework & quizzes	20%	
Language presentation	20%	
Class participation	10%	
Exam 1	25%	**Monday, 24 Oct 2016** (in class)
Exam 2	25%	**Wednesday, 23 Nov 2016** (in class)

Scheduled laboratory time

An 80-min weekly laboratory time slot will be scheduled in consultation with the class, mainly for hands-on presentations of specific languages and problem-solving practice.

NOTE: The grade structure assumes that adequate grading assistance is available. Otherwise some redistribution of points may be necessary.

Language presentations

Each student team (normally 2-3 people) selects a different programming language approved by the course instructor and organizes a hands-on tutorial session in the lab. The presentation should include enough tutorial material for the class to actively participate. It must highlight the important characterisitcs of the chosen language.

Electronic communication:

The course web site and e-mail list are used in official communication in the course.

The *web site* **web.unbc.ca/mathcs/courses/cpsc320/f16** is used to post the course documents, assignments, solutions, and web links. The site is password protected.

The *e-mail list* of students' UNBC addresses is used for class announcements.

Special academic accommodations:

If there are students in this course who, because of a disability, may have a need for special academic accommodations, please come and discuss this with me, or contact staff at the Access Resource Centre (arc@unbc.ca) located in the Teaching and Learning Centre, Room 10-1048 on the main campus. Students can also call the ARC at (250) 960-5682. Regional students can call the Centre toll-free at 1(888) 960-5682.