The University of Texas at El Paso
Department of Computer Science
CS 1101 – Intro to Computer Science Lab
Spring 2025 Syllabus

1. General Information

Instructor:
Daniel Mejía, Ph.D.
Email: dmmejia2@utep.edu
Office Hours: MTWR 2:30pm – 3:30pm, or by appointment
Office: CCSB 3.1018

Instructional Team			
CRN	23422		January 21 - May 8, 2025
Time	**MW 12:00 - 1:20pm**		CCSB 1.0704
TA	Rogelio	Valles Martinez	rvallesmar@miners.utep.edu
IA	Logan	Armendariz	ljarmendariz1@miners.utep.edu
IA	Laura	Villa	lvilla6@miners.utep.edu

Instructional Team			
CRN	24027		January 21 - May 8, 2025
Time	**MW 1:30 - 2:50pm**		CCSB 1.0704
TA	Airam	Flores	aflores91@miners.utep.edu
IA	Alejandra	Mariscal	amariscala@miners.utep.edu
IA	Sofia	Martinez	smartinez77@miners.utep.edu

Instructional Team			
CRN	22662		January 21 - May 8, 2025
Time	**MW 3:00 - 4:20pm**		CCSB 1.0704
TA	Nicholas	Jara	najara1@miners.utep.edu
IA	Daniel	Camacho	dcamacho5@miners.utep.edu
IA	Caitlin	Gregory	cngregory@miners.utep.edu

Instructional Team			
CRN	22695		January 21 - May 8, 2025
Time	**TR 1:30 - 2:50pm**		CCSB 1.0704
TA	Chelsea	Moreno	cjmoreno3@miners.utep.edu
IA	Herbert	Lawson	hrlawson@miners.utep.edu
IA	Daniel	Reyes	dreyes33@miners.utep.edu
IA	Katia	Villalva	kavillalva2@miners.utep.edu

Important Dates:

- First Day of Class – January 21, 2025
- Census Day – February 5, 2025
- Spring Break – March 10-14, 2025
- Cesar Chavez (No Classes) – March 28, 2025
- Drop Deadline (Automatic W) – April 4, 2025
- Spring Study Day – April 18, 2025
- Last Day of Classes – May 8, 2025
- Dead Day – May 9, 2025

Please communicate with the instructor, TA, or IA anytime you have questions, concerns, or wish to discuss anything. Reach out as often and frequently as necessary so that you succeed.

NOTE: When emailing the instructor, TA or IA, please use [CS 1101 FA24] in the subject.

You should be enrolled in **one lab section**. Do not visit a lab or lecture section other than yours, without prior approval from the instructor.

Prerequisites:
MATH 1508 or MATH 1411 with a grade of C or better

2. Objectives & Outcomes

Lab Objectives: Students will learn the foundations of algorithmic thinking and algorithm development and learn how to implement them in a variety of languages. They will also learn to be active learners. They will develop problem-solving skills and build team skills, critical-thinking skills, and professionalism.

Knowledge and Abilities Required Before Entering the Course: Students entering the course are not required to have a background in Computer Science or programming. They should be familiar with topics from Pre-calculus, including algebraic functions, proofs, and base representations of numbers.

Software: Software used in this course will be available on the Windows computers in the main computer lab and in the two instructional labs on the first floor of the CCSB building. For those who wish to use the course software on your home computer, instructions will be given in the labs and will be available in Blackboard.

Learning Outcomes
Level 2: Application and Analysis. Level 2 outcomes are those in which the student can apply the material in familiar situations, e.g., can work a problem of familiar structure with minor changes in the details. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze problems, design and implement solution algorithms, including correct use of:
    a. Simple I/O operations (reading from and printing to the terminal)
    b. User-defined types and their implementation as classes
    c. Basic string manipulation techniques using language functions, including:
        i. Traversing strings,
        ii. Accessing characters,

        iii. Comparing strings,
        iv. Concatenating strings
2. Algorithm-tracing techniques to ensure solution correctness including method calls
3. Use testing and debugging strategies to identify software faults by creating test suites that include:
    a. Black-box test cases
    b. Basic white-box test cases
4. Use general software engineering principles, including abstraction and problem decomposition in problem and solution analysis
5. Use informal pseudocode to describe algorithms
6. Use 2D arrays
7. Use recursion for solving simple problems
8. Instead of IDEs, use a command line interface (terminal) to compile and execute programs.
9. Use teamwork roles and strategies in the classroom

Level 3: Synthesis and Evaluation. Level 3 outcomes are those in which the student can apply the material in new situations. This is the highest level of mastery. On successful completion of this course, students will be able to use the syntax and semantics of a high-level language to express solutions to programming problems, including the pseudocode correct use of:

1. Basic variable types including Booleans, integers, real numbers, characters, strings,
2. 1-D arrays
3. Assignment and arithmetic
4. Logical propositions to define conditional and loop statements
5. For-loops
6. While-loops
7. Methods/functions, parameter passing, return values
8. Algorithmic building blocks including:
    a. Min
    b. Max
    c. Average
    d. Summation
    e. Linear search
9. Coding and documentation standards

3. Policies & Other Information

Grading:

Category	Weight (%)
Comprehensive Lab 1	20%
Comprehensive Lab 2	20%
Comprehensive Lab 3	20%
Homework/Assignments	35%
Lab Participation/Attendance	5%

The nominal percentage-score-to-letter-grade conversion is as follows:

Percentage Range	Letter Grade
90% or higher	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60%	F

Note: You **must earn a C or better** in each of these two courses, CS1301 and CS1101, to continue to the next course in this sequence, which is CS2401.

The instructor reserves the right to adjust these criteria downward, e.g., so that 88% or higher represents an A, based on overall class performance. The criteria will not be adjusted upward, however.

Lab Assignments
Lab assignments are designed to help you practice and master the skills and concepts central to the course. These assignments consist of two types: problem-solving exercises, which focus on algorithm design without the use of a computer, and programming tasks that require you to apply course topics through coding. Deadlines for each assignment will be specified, and late submissions are allowed up to 72 hours past the deadline. However, a 10% penalty will be applied for each 24-hour period of lateness.

During lab evaluations, TAs will spend 10–15 minutes with each student, asking questions about the lab topics, regardless of assignment completion. This interactive process allows you to demonstrate understanding and earn partial credit even if you did not fully complete the assignment.

Comprehensive Labs
Typically, there are three comprehensive lab assignments, which require more time and effort to complete. These assignments have longer deadlines than regular labs to account for their complexity and depth.

Lab Participation
Attendance and active participation in lab sessions are mandatory and play a crucial role in your success. You are expected to arrive on time, stay for the entire session, and participate fully in the activities. Attendance will be recorded at every session and will contribute to your class participation grade, while programming activities assigned by the TA during lab sessions will count toward your homework grade.

If you must miss a session, inform your TA in advance whenever possible, or as soon as possible afterward. You are allowed up to two unexcused absences per semester. Any additional unexcused absences will result in a 5-point deduction from your final grade for each occurrence. It is your responsibility to catch up on any missed content from lab sessions. Participation points may also include completing post-lab online quizzes, which serve to monitor your progress and identify areas where you may need additional support.

Attendance:
Attendance and participation are essential for success in this course. Students must attend all scheduled sessions on time and remain for the entire duration. Attendance will primarily be recorded through iClicker but may also be tracked via Blackboard, sign-in sheets, roll call, or other methods at the instructor's discretion. "Checking in and leaving" or checking in for another student is considered academic dishonesty and will be reported to the Office of Community Standards. Students may also be required to check in at the end of class.

Students must notify the instructor and TA in advance of absences whenever possible or immediately after if prior notice is not feasible. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on missed content. Participation includes completing post-lecture and post-lab quizzes (when applicable). Assignments due on the day of an absence will be marked late unless an exception is granted. Points lost for unexcused absences cannot be made up; points lost for excused absences must be coordinated with the instructor.
Attendance issues (e.g., iClicker or Blackboard discrepancies) must be reported to the TA via email (cc the instructor) within 48 hours of the attendance posting. Changes will not be made after this period.

Students arriving up to 10 minutes late will be marked tardy, with two tardies equaling one absence. Arrival after 10 minutes will be marked as an absence.

Drop Policy:
Students with only 50% attendance (including excessive tardiness) by the 4-week checkpoint will be dropped from the course and assigned a grade of "F." Additionally, students with 30% unexcused absences (including excessive tardiness) at the 8-, 10-, or 12-week checkpoints will also be dropped and assigned an "F." This grade is final and will not be changed to a "W."

Incomplete Policy:
Incomplete grades may be granted only in exceptional circumstances after completing at least half the course requirements. If you believe an incomplete is warranted, contact the instructor immediately to establish a contract outlining the work to be completed and deadlines.

Office Hours:

Students are encouraged to attend office hours with the instructor or TA/IA team as scheduled.

Review Sessions:
Review sessions will be offered periodically to help prepare for exams and provide additional practice on course topics. These sessions, primarily led by the TA/IA team, will typically be conducted in English. In some cases, additional sessions may be offered in Spanish, though all exams, assignments, and other course materials will be in English, and students are expected to submit their work in English.

Technology:
Course content will be delivered through Blackboard, with additional resources provided via Microsoft Teams and GitHub Classroom. Ensure your UTEP MINERS account is active and that you have reliable internet access. Supported web browsers include Edge, Chrome, Firefox, and Safari; if you encounter issues, try switching browsers.

You will need a computer or laptop with a webcam and microphone, as well as access to a tablet or smartphone for tasks such as scanning and submitting homework as PDFs. Certain assignments may require video submissions, which can be recorded using a phone, webcam, or other video-capable devices. Verify that your hardware and software are up-to-date and capable of accessing all course materials. For technical issues, contact the UTEP Help Desk.

Only UTEP-licensed platforms—Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Office (via your MINERS account), and Blackboard—may be used for course-related communication and collaboration. Unauthorized platforms such as Discord, Twitch, WhatsApp, or GroupMe are strictly prohibited. Laptops and tablets may be used for notetaking or coursework, but must not be used for unrelated activities such as browsing the internet or running non-course-related applications during class.

Cell Phone Policy:
The use of cell phones during class is strictly prohibited unless explicitly permitted for educational purposes. Phones must be silenced and put away to maintain focus and avoid distractions. Violations of this policy may result in being asked to leave the class.

Accommodations Policy:
UTEP is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS); please contact the office at (915) 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu. Students are required to discuss their accommodations with the instructor for a proper plan to be made.

4. Standards of Conduct, Academic Dishonesty, and Other Information

COVID-19/Illness Precautions:
Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let the instructor know as soon as possible, so that appropriate accommodations can be made. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

In general, if you are ill, please stay home.

Copyright Statement for Course Materials:
All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. It is not permitted to share, reproduce, or alter any assignment for any purpose. Students are not permitted from sharing code, uploading assignments online in any form, or viewing/receiving/modifying code written from anyone else. Assignments are part of an academic course at The University of Texas at El Paso and a grade will be assigned for the work produced individually by the student.

Class Recordings:
Course lectures may be recorded by the instructor/department. Students are not permitted to record the course (i.e., video, audio, etc.) without expressed permission from the instructor.

The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. **You may not share recordings outside of this course.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

Support Services:
Technology Resources

- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources.

Standards of Conduct:

You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional and courteous manner, as prescribed by the UTEP Standards of Conduct.

Generative AI:

Generative AI is widely being used throughout the world, however, in an effort to ensure that you fully understand the topics, ChatGPT/Gemini or other GenAI tools and services are generally prohibited. Certain assignments may note that Generative AI tools are allowed, only in these cases, where explicitly written will Generative AI be permitted. Use of GenAI on submissions that do not explicitly state that it is allowed is considered cheating and will be reported to OSCCR.

Etiquette:
Respect and courtesy must be always provided to classmates and to the instructor/TA/IA. Absolutely no harassment or any inappropriate behavior will be tolerated. This course is a space for learning and should be treated as such. When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s). Disciplinary action will be taken against any inappropriate behavior in this course.

A fundamental principle for any educational institution, academic integrity is highly valued and seriously regarded at The University of Texas at El Paso. More specifically, students are expected to maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work undertaken at the University. At a minimum, you should complete any assignments, exams, and other scholastic endeavors with the utmost honesty, which requires you to:

- Acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts.
- Complete your assignments independently unless expressly authorized to seek or obtain assistance in preparing them.
- Follow instructions for assignments and exams, and observe the standards of your academic discipline; and
- Avoid engaging in any form of academic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student.

Graded work, e.g., homework and tests, is to be completed independently and should be unmistakably your own work (or, in the case of group work, your team's work), although you may discuss your project with other students in a general way. You may not represent as your own work material that is transcribed or copied from another person, book, or any other source, e.g., a web page.

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable to another person. The below information is not necessarily an exhaustive list of cheating, plagiarism, nor collusion.

- **Cheating**
  - Copying from the test paper of another student
  - Communicating with another student during a test
  - Giving or seeking aid from another student during a test
  - Possession and/or use of unauthorized materials during tests without authorization (i.e., Crib notes, class notes, books, etc.)

    - Substituting for another person to take a test
    - Falsifying research data, reports, academic work offered for credit
- **Plagiarism**
    - Using someone's work in your assignments without the proper citations
    - Submitting the same paper or assignment from a different course, without direct permission of instructors
- **Collusion**
    - Unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments

Collaboration:
The following are **not allowed**:

- Posting any assignment (or any of its parts) online in any form
- Sharing assignments outside of the course (i.e., to other students)
- Copy/pasting any code from anywhere other than from Instructor/TA/IA
    - This includes copy/pasting code snippets (or entire assignments) from online resources such as, but not limited to:
        - stackoverflow.com
        - Chegg
        - Course Hero
        - ChatGPT/Bard
- Sharing your code with other students (unless otherwise specified).
- Reading code from other students (unless otherwise specified).
- Look at another student's code
- Debug another student's code

The following are **allowed**:

- Communicating with the instructor/TA/IA regarding homework, assignments, and labs
- Searching for basic syntax online
- Copy/pasting examples from any reference material (slides, practice problems, etc.) distributed by your instructor/TA/IA
- Use any small code snippets that instructor/TA/IA share with students.
- Using simple predefined libraries (ask the instructor/TA if you are not sure if it is allowed)

When in doubt, *ask*. It is better to ask if something is permitted, rather than doing something that is not permitted and causing issues later.

Plagiarism Detection:
All coursework and assignments are subject to be submitted to cheating and plagiarism detection software including, but not limited to SafeAssign and MOSS.

A full description of the University Standards of Conduct and Academic Dishonesty can be found in the Handbook of Operating Procedures. Professors are required to -- and will -- report academic dishonesty and any other violation of the Standards of Conduct to the Dean of Students and OSCCR.

Subject to change:
This syllabus is subject to change.