

## The Instructor

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## Introduction

- The class meets MWF in Bagby 120 at 8:30 - 9:20 and in Bagby 120 at 1:30 - 4:00 on Thursdays. We will use the Thursday period for labs.
- The text for the course is Starting Out With C++, Early Objects, 9th ed., by Tony Gaddis, Judy Walters, and Godfrey Muganda.
- The web page for this course is at

<http://people.hsc.edu/faculty-staff/robbk/Coms261>

- The laboratory files are at

<http://hams-cs/coms 261/Koether/Lab Source/>

## Grading

There will be 13 graded labs, five computer programs, three tests, and a final exam. In the final average, these will have the following weights:

Category	Weight
Labs	20%
Computer programs	40%
Test average	25%
Final exam	15%

All project and lab work is due by midnight of the due date. No late work will be accepted.

## Laboratories

Each week we will conduct a computer lab during the Thursday period in B 120. Each lab contains a series of exercises for you to do on the computer. At the end of each lab, there is an Application part (except Lab 0). You will write a short computer program modeled after the examples seen in the lab. Normally, you should be able to finish most of the lab during the lab session, leaving the Application part as homework. Lab work is due by midnight of the following Tuesday. No late work will be accepted. The first lab will be on Thursday, Aug 29.

## Computer Projects

A computer project is a computer program that represents a more substantial effort than a lab application. Each project is expected to take a week to complete. It takes time to go through the stages of software development: design, coding, debugging, and testing. It cannot be done in one day. The serious CS student begins his work on the project the day it is assigned.

When you turn in a project, it will be tested using various sets of test data. Then I will read your program carefully to see exactly how you solved the problem. I will assign a grade to your project using the following criteria.

- Execution – Did your program compile, execute, and produce the correct output for all inputs?
- Implementation – Are your program statements correct?
- Style – Did you follow the guidelines of programming style?

These three criteria will be weighted as follows.

Criterion	Weight
Execution	40%
Implementation	50%
Style	10%

The computer projects are pledged. You may get help from me and the lab assistants on duty, but you are not permitted to get help from anyone else. *You should never look at another student's code.* Once you look at another student's code, you have seen how he solved the problem. You cannot then pretend that you did not see the solution.

The projects will focus on the following topics.

Project	Topic
#1	Basic programming
#2	Decisions and loops
#3	Functions
#4	Classes
#5	Arrays

## Plagiarism

“Plagiarism - an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author’s work as one’s own, as by not crediting the original author.”

To avoid plagiarizing another student’s work, you are not permitted to view any other student’s code, because once you have seen it, you cannot “unsee” it. After an initial warning, cases of plagiarism will be referred to the Honor Court.

## The Tests

The test schedule is as follows:

Test	Date
#1	Fri, Sep 20
#2	Fri, Oct 18
#3	Fri, Nov 15

You should make every conceivable effort to be present and prepared for an hour test. If you do not feel that you are prepared, you must take the test anyway. The only valid excuses for missing a test are serious illnesses and unavoidable emergencies which can be verified. If you foresee that you must miss a test, then you should make arrangements, before the absence, to take the test. If you miss a test for a reason that is less than compelling, you will not be allowed to take the test later. If you miss a test, it is essential that you contact me and make arrangements at the *earliest possible moment*. Failure to follow this policy will invalidate any excuse.

## The Final Exam

The final exam will be given on Friday, December 13 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in Bagby 120. Everyone must take the final exam; it will not be rescheduled.

## Attendance Policy

Read the Class Attendance policy in the Academic Catalogue. Attendance will be checked at the beginning of each class. If you arrive late, you will be counted absent. If that happens and you would like to be marked present, see me after class and I will mark you “late,” not “absent.” Otherwise, late arrivals and absences will all count as absences. Each late arrival counts as half an absence. When assigning final grades, attendance (including late arrivals) will be taken into account.

The only valid excuses for missing class are

- An illness which includes confirmation from the Health Center or a doctor
- An approved college activity
- A true emergency

- Any absence excused by the Dean of Students

At the end of the semester, I will take into account your attendance record.

Absences	Action
0 - 2	Grade bonus (1 "part" of a grade)
3 - 5	Neutral (no change in grade)
6 - 8	Grade penalty (1 "part" of a grade)
> 8	Withdrawal

A warning letter will be sent out after the 8th absence.

The last day to drop a course without a grade of WF is Oct 25.