CIS 4301 — Information and Database Systems I
Course Syllabus — Spring 2014

Instructor: Christian Grant

Last updated: Monday 6th January, 2014 00:09

1 General Info

This description is in the UF course catalog.
Credits: 3
Prereq: COP 3504, or COP 3503 and COT 3100
Meeting Times: M W F, 9:35a to 10:25a
Room: MCCA G186
Exam: 1C

The first part of a two-course sequence that studies the essential concepts, principles and techniques of modern database systems. Topics include modeling and querying of data using conceptual data models as well as the development of a database application. (MR)

2 Course Objectives and Outcome

This course is the first in a two-course sequence that serves as an introduction to modern database systems. This first course provides an in-depth view of databases from a sophisticated user’s perspective. After taking the course you will be able to confidently design and implement software that uses a database as a back end to store and manage data. We will look into the theoretical underpinnings of database applications and go beyond typical knowledge. We will not cover database internals or how to tweak them in order to get them to run fast; that is the topic of the next course in the sequence.

Even though we are only looking at database technology from a user’s perspective, there are still a lot of topics to cover:

- The ER model
• Conceptual database design and modeling
• The relational model
• Relational query languages (relational algebra, relational calculus, and SQL)
• Logical database design (functional dependencies and normal forms)
• Many others.

3 Getting Help

The course can be deceptively tricky for almost all students. Concepts can be understandable and at the same time difficult to implement in a quiz or exam type environment. We encourage students to practice many problems and seek help from TAs early.

3.1 Emailing Course Staff

When emailing course staff please be courteous and be sure the email clearly identifies who you are. All email correspondence should contain CIS4301 in the subject line. Never send attachments containing .doc, .docx, or and large files through email. A private link to code can be sent using pastebin.com, gist.github.com or a similar service.

3.2 Class Message Board

We will be using piazza as the class mailing list. Please sign up for the mailing list here http://piazza.com/ufl/spring2014/cis4301

3.3 Instructor Office Hours

When contacting the instructor always include ‘CIS4301’ in the subject.
Christian Grant
Room: CSE E457 or E309
Email: cgrant@cise.ufl.edu
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 4th Period or by appointment.

3.4 TA Office Hours

TBA

4 Class Attendance

Attending class is highly recommended. There is no required text book so all content discussed in class is fair game for exams. Class attendance may be taken at any time, but it may only be used as bonus points.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; 540</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; 522</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; 504</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>&gt; 480</td>
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<td>&gt; 462</td>
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<td>&gt; 444</td>
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<td>&gt; 420</td>
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<td>&gt; 384</td>
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<td>&gt; 360</td>
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Table 1: The grading scale. Note, each break point is greater than or less than or equal to. This means a score of 444 will result in a C grade, not a C+.

5 Evaluation

The course will be made up of three closed-notes, closed-book quizzes and five assignments. Beware the assignments build on each other; missing an assignment will make it increasingly difficult complete subsequent assignments. Additionally, one or more extra credit assignments may be announced in class. Homework will be suggested but not collected.

Your performance will be graded by the accumulation of points.

Each quiz of the three quizzes will be worth 100 points (300 points total). The class may have several unannounced in-class pop quizzes. The points from these pop quizzes will count towards your next quiz grade. For example, if there are 2 pop quizzes, each worth 5 points before the first quiz, the next large in-class quiz will be worth a total of 90 points.

Assignments 1 - 5 will be worth 25, 50, 50, 75, 100 points respectively (300 points total). Assignment points may come from more than one task. Every point is precious. The amount of points required to obtain each letter grades is described in Table 1.

There is no curve in this class. I will aim for more students to earn B’s than C’s and more students to obtain A’s compared to students with D’s. Students who do not put in effort and do not complete assignments will not pass the class. Mastering the concepts discussed in the course and performing well on assignments will result in an A.

A C- will not be a qualifying grade for critical tracking courses. In order to graduate, students must have an overall GPA and an upper-division GPA of 2.0 or better (C or better). Note: a C- average is equivalent to a GPA of 1.67, and therefore, it does not satisfy this graduation requirement. For more information on grades and grading policies, please visit: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)
6 Policy on Regrade Requests

Much of the grading in the class is subjective. As such, no grade is viewed as final when you first receive it. It is your responsibility to look over every paper that is returned and to carefully check to make sure that it was graded correctly. You are free to discuss grading orally with me or one of the TAs. However, any request for an actual regrade must be made in writing within one week of the time that the paper is returned, with no exceptions. All regrade requests must be prepared using a word processing program; a hard copy should then be submitted to me, along with the original graded work. On your regrade request, carefully describe why you feel that you were scored unfairly and/or incorrectly. Even if you discussed the grading issue orally with someone, the written discussion must be self-contained and be able to evaluated based only on what is written on the paper.

7 Policy on Missed Quizzes and Late Assignments

I am extremely sympathetic if you have some conflict that will make it difficult for you to attend a quiz or get an assignment completed on time. However, I don’t like people to take advantage of my sympathy. So I have a very strict and explicit set of rules governing missed quizzes and late assignments. To be fair to everyone in the class, these rules are always followed to the letter and without exception, so don’t even ask!

1. If you have some conflict and feel like you may need an extra day on the assignment or need to take the quiz a day or two later, it must be cleared with me no fewer than one week (seven days) before the assignment is due or the quiz will be held. I am generally sympathetic to the standard excuses, if you sound credible ("I have three exams that day", "My brother’s bar mitzvah is the day before the assignment is due", are the usual type of excuses that I hear). However, if you do not clear it a week in advance, you will receive a zero, with only a two exceptions, given below.

2. If you are ill at the time of a quiz or right before an assignment is due and so you miss the one week window, or if there is a death in your immediate family, I will allow a late assignment or a make-up provided (a) you can give me proof of the circumstances, and (b) you let me know before the quiz is held or the assignment is due.

3. If you simply don’t turn in the assignment or don’t show up for the quiz, the only valid excuse is a note from a doctor given as proof that you were injured or ill at the due date to such an extent that it would be unreasonable for you to send me an email or leave a message letting me know of your illness or injury. In any other case, the result is a zero on the assignment.
8 Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.”

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Note that failure to comply with this commitment will result in disciplinary action compliant with the UF Student Honor Code Procedures. See http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/procedures/honorcode.php

9 Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students Requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. That office will provide the student with documentation that he/she must provide to the course instructor when requesting accommodation.

10 UF Counseling Services

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. The resources include:

- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career and job search services.
- University Police Department 392-1111

11 Software Use

All faculty, staff and student of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.
12 Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results.

13 Disclaimer

This document is subject to change. The latest version will always be posted. The last update was on Monday 6\textsuperscript{th} January, 2014 at 00:09.