

Course Syllabus

Course Information

CS 1325.002, Introduction to Programming (Programming in C)
Spring 2026
Tue / Thur 11:30-12:45
ECSS 2.415

Professor Contact Information

Dr. Mark C. Paulk
Office: ECSS 3.610
E-mail: Mark.Paulk@utdallas.edu
Office hours: Tue / Thur 2:30-3:30 or by appointment

Course Prerequisites, Corequisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Prerequisite or Corequisite: MATH 2413 or MATH 2417

May not be used to satisfy degree requirements for majors in Computer Engineering, Computer Science, and Software Engineering.

Course Description

Computer programming in a high-level, block structured language.
Basic data types and variables, memory usage, control structures, functions/procedures and parameter passing, recursion, input/output.
Programming assignments related to engineering applications, numerical methods.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- 1) Ability to use fundamental programming constructs: assignment, loops, conditions
 - 2) Ability to process data in arrays
 - 3) Ability to develop programs in a functional form
 - 4) Ability to perform sequential file input and output
 - 5) Ability to express algorithms that solve elementary engineering and scientific problems
-

Required Textbooks and Materials

- P. Deitel and H. Deitel, C: How to Program, 9th Edition, 2021 (or 8th Edition)

Suggested Course Materials

- D.M. Etter, Engineering Problem Solving with C, 4th Edition, 2012
 - H.H. Cheng, C for Engineers and Scientists, 2009
 - V. A Spraul, How to Think Like a Programmer, 2012
-

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Tue, Jan 20, Classes begin

Administrative Information

Chapter 1. Introduction to Computers, the Internet and the Web

Chapter 2. Introduction to C Programming

Chapter 3. Structured Program Development in C

Chapter 9. C Formatted Input/Output

Chapter 4. C Program Control

Thur/Fri, Feb 26-27, Exam #1

Chapter 5. C Functions

Chapter 6. Arrays

March 16-20, Spring Break

Thur/Fri, April 9-10, Exam #2

Chapter 7. C Pointers

Chapter 8. C Characters and Strings

Chapter 10. C Structures, *Unions, Bit Manipulation and Enumerations*

Chapter 11. C File Processing

Chapter 12. C Data Structures

Chapter 13. C Preprocessor

Chapter 14. Other C Topics

Thur, May 7, Last day of class

Mon/Tue, May 11-12 Exam #3

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend class, but you are not required to do so.

I plan to make lectures available on Microsoft Teams – both at the time of the lecture and as a recording. Note that the Teams technology does fail on occasion; that does not mean students are not responsible for learning the material.

Excused absences, which may help if you miss an exam, include

- dealing with serious medical issues (doctor's excuse)
- attending a conference (registration)
- participating in a UTD-sponsored event (coach or sponsor letter)
- at the teacher's discretion ...

Send an email with a reason and justification, e.g., doctor's excuse or sponsor's letter, to obtain an excused absence. Include all days for which an excuse is requested. Students are still responsible for keeping up with the work.

C Compiler – IDE

You may use any Integrated Development Environment, so long as it supports C11/C18 (C18 is a minor revision of C11). The current version of the standard is C23, formally ISO/IEC 9899:2024.

Popular IDEs include Eclipse, Visual Studio, XCode, and CodeBlocks.

I will be using Visual Studio, but many at UTD use Eclipse. Other IDEs are less popular but still widely used.

Grading Policy

Average of

- Exam #1
- Exam #2
- Exam #3

Grading Curve

97-100	A+
93-97	A
90-93	A-
87-90	B+
83-87	B
80-83	B-
77-80	C+
73-77	C
70-73	C-
67-70	D+
63-67	D
60-63	D-
under 60	F

Note that while there are homework assignments, they will not be graded and will not affect your final grade.

- Many of you will use AI to write your programs anyway... even if badly.
- We will discuss homework assignments in class, and doing them will help you understand the material.

There will be no extra credit work.

Exams

There will be three exams.

Exams will be administered online in the eLearning / Testing Folder.

Exams will be held in the Testing Center. The Testing Center is usually open between 8:30am and 8:45pm (check for specific hours). You must register with the Testing Center at least two days before the exam. If you wait until the last minute, you are unlikely to be able to reserve a seat – be prepared to take the makeup exam in that case.

Questions will be true/false and multiple choice. There will usually be 20-25 questions on an exam.

You may have one page of notes (front and back, handwritten or typed). You may use a calculator. You may use scratch paper and a pen/pencil.

Exams will last 60 minutes from the time started (and then will be automatically submitted). Exam results will be available in eLearning after the due date/time.

If a student misses an exam for an approved reason (acceptable in the judgment of Dr. Paulk), a makeup exam may be scheduled. Makeup exams are hardcopy with essay answers and problems.

Exams are not comprehensive.

There will be no class on the day of an exam.

Connectivity Problems

Since quizzes and exams are online, it is possible that a network problem could result in a connection failure.

If you drop out of a quiz or exam, the timer will continue to count down. If you log back in quickly, you may be able to resume without penalty.

If you continue to have connectivity issues, contact Testing Center staff or the instructor for assistance.

Homework Assignments

You will usually have a week to do a homework assignment.

Assignments will usually be due at the scheduled beginning of class.

Use of Generative AI, Large Language Models, etc.

You are encouraged to use generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT and Microsoft Copilot, as an aid in doing classwork.

- Note that AIs can generate wrong answers...

If you use a generative AI tool, you should cite it as you would any other resource.

Prompt engineering

- Some AIs, e.g., ChatGPT, are not very good at refining their answers as part of a dialogue

Building guardrails

- Frequently done by your employer, who may invest significantly in AI tools

Validating the answer

- AIs are prone to hallucinations – they make up answers they don't know
 - AIs tend to be sycophantic – there are stupid questions!
-

Student AccessAbility

It is the policy and practice of The University of Texas at Dallas to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. However, written notification from the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA) is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please discuss it with me and allow one-week advance notice. Students who have questions about receiving accommodations, or those who have, or think they may have, a disability (mobility, sensory, health, psychological, learning, etc.) are invited to contact the Office of Student AccessAbility for a confidential discussion. OSA is located in the Administration Building, suite 2.224. They can be reached by phone at 972- 883-2098, or by email at studentaccess@utdallas.edu.

Additional Course & Instructor Policies

- 1) If you send email to the teacher or the Grader, include which class you are discussing in the email (including the section number). eLearning's "UTDallas email" can be used to send email to the teacher or Grader and includes the class info.
 - 2) You are expected to silence mobile phones and not talk during class except as part of class discussions.
 - 3) You are expected to cite the work of others when appropriate using an acceptable citation style. You are expected to do your own work!
 - 4) You are expected to work with your team actively and professionally. Discussions with your teammates about the homework can be an important part of learning.
-

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.