

COSC 235A: Programming and Problem Solving
Wofford College, Spring 2009

Instructor: Dr. Joseph D. Sloan, 216D Olin Building

Email: My email address is sloanjd@wofford.edu. I check this repeatedly throughout the day and as well as from home. Apart from coming by my office, this is the best way to contact me.

Office Phone: 597-4529 Be warned, I rarely check my voice mail.

Office hours: You are welcome to just drop by. I come in early and I'm generally here until early-afternoon. But I will make a particular effort to be here:

8:00-9:20 & 10:30-11:20 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays,
9:30-11:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and,
By appointment.

My Class Schedule: These are times I am scheduled to be in class, so I will not be available:

CS 350:	9:30-10:20 Monday, Wednesday and Friday	Olin 213
* CS 235:	11:30-12:20 Monday, Wednesday and Friday	Olin 213
CS 482:	8:00-9:20 Tuesday and Thursday	Olin 218

I'll also be sitting in on a course so I will also not be available at these times:

BIOL 481:	1:00-1:50 Monday, Wednesday and Friday	RMSC 325
BIOL 481L:	2:30-5:40 Thursday	Olin 212

Final Examination: None

COSC 235: Programming and Problem Solving. Students learn to develop programs using an object-oriented language. Students are introduced to problem solving and algorithm development with emphasis on good programming style. Completion of this course with a C or higher is a prerequisite for all 300- and 400-level courses in Computer Science. (3/0/3) A. SHIFLET, SLOAN, SYKES—*Wofford College 2007-2009 Catalogue*.

Course Goals and Objectives: In general, you will:

- Gain a greater understanding of how computers work and how to use them
- Learn basic problem solving skills
- Learn the basics of good program style and design
- Learn about top-down and object-oriented program design
- Learn how to learn a new programming language
- Learn the basics of the Python programming language

The instructional format is lecture-discussion. Testing and programming assignments will be used to insure the class goals are met.

Text and Supplies: *Python Programming: An Introduction to Computer Science*. John Zelle, ISBN: 1-887902-99-6, Franklin, Beedle & Associates, 2003. There will be additional handouts. Although you are unlikely to need one, a calculator may be used during testing subject to the following constraints—1. the memory of the calculator must be cleared at the start of the test, 2. no sharing of calculators is allowed, and, 3. manuals or directions for your calculator are not allowed. In practice, you will find relatively few uses for calculators in this course and can probably get by without one. Computers or PDAs may not be used during testing in this class. Nor are you permitted to use a cell phone during a test.

Course Web Site: There are two websites you may be interested in visiting. The course website <http://webs.wofford.edu/sloanjd/spring09/cosc235/index.htm>. This will be developed and updated as the semester progresses. You should check this regularly for schedule information, etc. The Computer Science Department's website also has links to files you may find helpful: http://dept.wofford.edu/computer_science/.

Grading: There will be three quizzes scheduled during the semester that will collectively count 60% of your grade. The remaining 40% of your grade will come from routine homework (20%) and programming assignments (20%). Some assignments may count more than others but this will be announced in advance.

Any points awarded toward an incorrect answer as partial credit are totally at my discretion. Returning the Preliminary Student Survey is a requirement of the course.

Grade scale: At a minimum, grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

Final Course Average	Letter Grade
93–100	A
90–92	A ⁻
87–89	B ⁺
83–86	B
80–82	B ⁻
77–79	C ⁺
73–76	C
70–72	C ⁻
60–69	D
0–59	F

Tentative Course Schedule: Tests for the course are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, Friday, March 27, and Friday, May 1. As the course progresses, a detailed course schedule will be developed and posted on the course web site. This will be updated on a regular basis throughout the semester. At the start of the semester, the schedule posted on the web site

shows what was done the last time the course was taught. Expect this schedule and many of the assignment to change as the course progresses.

Late Work: Work not submitted by the due date will receive a grade of zero. If you have a legitimate reason for not submitting an assignment (e.g., illness) you may submit the assignment within one week of the due date (negotiable) along with a written explanation of why the work was late. If, in my judgment you have a valid reason for the late submission, I will either grade the work, grade the work with penalty, or exempt you from that assignment. If in doubt, contact me.

General Policies: Please read the Student Handbook!

Wofford's attendance policy is described in the Student Handbook. This course will enforce those policies. In particular, daily attendance will be taken! Arriving for class after the role has been taken or leaving class early will normally be considered an absence. While I tend to be fairly forgiving for excused absences, it is your responsibility to justify absence upon returning to class if you want me to consider excusing the absence. Ultimately, I reserve the right to decide which absences are excused. In particular, over sleeping is not an excusable absence. No unexcused absences are permitted for this class. Typically, the second unexcused absence will result in a formal warning and a third unexcused may result in a failing grade for the course.

Lectures in this class will expand and augment the material in the text. You will be responsible for all material covered in class including material that is not in the text or assigned readings! *If you have not read the assigned reading prior to class, you forfeit the privilege to ask any questions during that class!*

Work will only be returned to you; no one may pick up graded work for someone else. If you fail a test, you should come by to see me as soon as possible. Use of a recording device such as a tape recorder requires prior approval. Please *turn-off* and *put-away* all pagers and cell phones before the start of class. You may not use your cell phone in any way in during a test. Prohibited uses include using your phone as a calculator or watch.

It is an expectation of the class (and the College) that you will check your Wofford email account on a daily basis. I will occasionally use this to warn you of schedule changes or to provide additional advice on programs or homework assignments.

If you haven't already done so, please read Wofford's honor code. It can be downloaded from <http://www.wofford.edu/uploadedFiles/studentlife/0708honorCode.pdf>. Keep in mind that some of your CS assignments may be collaborative. A general document describing the Honor Code implications for such collaboration can be found at the CS Department's web site, http://dept.wofford.edu/computer_science/Honor%20Code%20%20CS.pdf. If in doubt about what is appropriate for a particular assignment, be sure to contact me for clarification. Also, please keep in mind, anyone assisting someone in a dishonest act (such as allowing your work to be copied) will also be considered culpable.

Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities will be made. However, requests must be come through Dean Beth Wallace, Hugh R. Black Infirmary (597-4371). If you need accommodations or have questions, please during the first week of classes.

If you are in doubt about any of the above, please see me immediately. Please note, syllabi are subject to change upon notice.