University of California at Santa Cruz
Department of Computer Engineering

Personal Computer Concepts
General Information and Syllabus

CMPE-003
Fall 2004
TTh 10:00-11:45am
Media Theater 110

Instructor: Scott Cooper
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Office: Baskin Engineering 189A
Office hours: TTh 1-3pm

TAs: TBA
TAs will be responsible for lab sections, which are held in Ming Ong 108 (Merrill college).
Lab sections: Monday 5-7pm
Tuesday 1-3pm
Wednesday 10am-12pm

Exams
Midterm exam: Fifth week
Final exam: Wednesday, December 8th, 12pm-3pm

You must bring your own Scantron form (pink, form F-1712, available at Bay Tree) and pencils on exam days. You must take the midterm on or before the scheduled date. Alternate times are at my discretion; the more notice, the better! Do not ask for a makeup if you miss the midterm without prior notice. The final exam must be taken at the scheduled time.

Required textbook
Computer Confluence, Comprehensive 6th edition, by George Beekman, available at the Bay Tree bookstore or directly from Prentice Hall online. You may find the interactive CD-ROM helpful, but it is not required for this course.

Online course components
We will be using the WebCT online course management system to communicate, distribute course materials, submit assignments, and take quizzes. You should check the WebCT system daily for announcements. The WebCT system is accessible online at http://www.ic.ucsc.edu/webct and uses the same username and password as the campus Cruzmail system.

You must have a computer account from UCSC’s Communications & Technology Service, CATS, in order to access WebCT. Computer accounts are variously referred to as CATS accounts, email accounts, Athena accounts and network IDs. If you have a CATS account, but are having difficulty with WebCT, visit the help page at http://ic.ucsc.edu/docs/webct/students.shtml and click on the link that says “Create your WebCT account.”

Course Outline
This course is concerned with the fundamental concepts and terminology of computer hardware and software. Our approach will be to discuss the underlying concepts in class, and then to prepare assignments
using office applications and web publishing tools for some hands-on experience. This course will not teach you to use these applications in any detail, although the TAs will be available during lab times to give pointers and assistance as needed.

The material I will cover in lecture is roughly divided into four sections:

1. Literacy
2. Hardware
3. Networking
4. Programming

This term, we’ll be emphasizing the Hardware component; that’s what makes it computer engineering. In the latter part of the course, we’ll learn a bit about electricity, electronics, and digital logic. No physics or math is required. If you are curious about the CE/EE major but do not have a strong background, you may also be interested in the new two-credit lab course, CMPE 001, “Hands-on Computer Engineering.”

The assignments will be designed to reinforce the concepts explained in the lectures. The lectures may cover material from the book, but generally you will be expected to keep up on the reading independently. We’ll read from Beekman’s excellent book on such subjects as:

1. Basic literacy
2. Perspectives
3. Hardware basics
4. Peripherals
5. Software
6. Office applications
7. Databases
8. Multimedia
9. Networking
10. The Internet
11. Security
12. E-Commerce
13. Programming

There will be quizzes on readings throughout the quarter, and the exams will be focus on the text as well.

NOTE:
1. You are not allowed to repeat this class for credit. You may be able to take it if you have already taken CMPS 002. Check with your advisor.
2. If you have more than a little experience with computers, this basic literacy class is probably not right for you. Consult the CS and CE course offerings for a class that is appropriate for your level and interests.
3. Econ majors: CMPE 003 no longer satisfies one of your computer literacy requirements.

Do I need my own computer?

You are not required to own your own computer. All assignments can be completed using Windows or Macintosh computers at any campus lab. If you use lab computers, you will need at least one floppy disk, or a USB memory key, to save your files. Even if you have your own computer, you may want a disk or memory key to transfer files between your personal computer and lab computers when attending sections.

Evaluation

Your course grade will be based on assignments (40%), quizzes (20%) exams (30%) and attendance (10%).
ASSIGNMENTS will be submitted online through WebCT and will not be accepted after the due date, unless prior arrangement has been made with the instructor well before the assignment due date. No other submission method is acceptable, and technical difficulties are not an excuse in this class. You should allow plenty of time, and have a backup plan, such as taking your assignment to a campus lab on a disk, in case your home network connection or computer is acting up.

QUIZZES based on the readings and lectures will be administered weekly via WebCT. You will have at least a week to take them, and you may take as long as you like, including stopping the quiz and coming back to it later, so long as you complete it by the due date.

EXAMS must be taken on the scheduled date, unless prior permission is obtained from the instructor, in which case you may take a make-up exam before the scheduled date. Exam questions may be drawn from the book, lectures and the homework.

ATTENDANCE will be taken in class at least once a week. 10% may seem like a lot, but in the past, attendance has been low, so the idea is to discourage you from taking the class unless you plan on attending. If this class is too elementary to hold your interest, find another course to take! There will be no excused absences except in extraordinary cases.

Academic Honesty

In recent years, there has been an increased number of cheating incidents in many UC campuses, and unfortunately, UCSC is no exception. The School of Engineering has a zero tolerance policy for any incident of academic dishonesty. If cheating occurs, there may be consequences within the context of the course, and in addition, every case of academic dishonesty is referred to the students' college Provost, who then sets the disciplinary process in motion. Cheating in any part of the course may lead to failing the course and suspension or dismissal from the university.

What is cheating? In short, it is presenting someone else's work as your own. Although you may discuss problems with fellow students, your collaboration must be at the level of ideas only. Legitimate collaboration ends when you "lend", "borrow", or "trade" written or electronic solutions to problems, or in any way share in the act of writing or transmitting your answers. If you do collaborate (legitimately) or receive help from anyone, you must credit them by placing their name(s) at the top of your paper or assignment.

Other violations of academic integrity include assisting another student in the act of cheating, changing your answers and resubmitting a paper for additional points, or taking an exam for another student.

The following is from the Fall 1999 Schedule of classes under General Information:

**Academic Integrity**

All members of the UCSC academic community have an explicit responsibility to present as their original work only that which is truly their own. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are contrary to the ideals and purposes of a university and will not be tolerated. Note that plagiarism includes the deliberate misrepresentation of someone else’s words and ideas as your own, as well as paraphrasing without footnoting the source. Students and faculty are jointly responsible for assuring that the integrity of scholarship is valued and preserved.

To view the full text of the policy on academic dishonesty, see oasas2.ucsc.edu/avcue/integrity.

**Due Process**

Students charged with academic dishonesty have the right to due process through established policies and regulations concerning student conduct and discipline. Copies of these policies and regulations can be found in the UCSC Student Policies and Regulations Handbook (www2.ucsc.edu/judicial/).