CSCI 340 - Course Syllabus

I. Internet Programming
This course concerns the art and science of programming for WWW Internet applications from a client-side perspective. Basic and advanced HTML will be covered, along with CGI scripting and a short introduction to Java. Some experience with Internet and UNIX usage is desirable. Prerequisite: CSCI 305.

II. Instructor: Dr. Troy Kammerdiener
Office: Hanna 225
Office Phone: 342-1856
Email Address: tkammerd@cs.ulm.edu
World Wide Web: http://www.cs.ulm.edu/~tkammerd/
Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Monday through Thursday, 2:30 p.m – 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and by appointment. I’ll also be holding office hours during a “Hacking Session” Thursday nights from 9:00 p.m. – 12:00 midnight in the major’s lab (Hanna 229). You are also welcome to just drop by during the day. If I’m here and I’m not on a deadline, I’d be happy to take some time with you.

III. Goals and Objectives:
A. To learn to create web pages using HTML, including some advanced concepts such as tables, frames, clickable image maps, forms, server-side includes, and cascading style sheets (time permitting).
B. To be able to use the Common Gateway Interface (CGI) to run programs residing on a WWW server.
C. To be able to use and adapt pre-made Perl scripts for the CGI.
D. To learn the basics of the Perl programming language, and to use it to create C/C++ programs for use as CGI scripts in a UNIX environment.
E. To learn to use Java to create applets for WWW pages.
F. Time permitting, to understand how Java servlets can be used for server-side processing.
G. Time permitting, to learn the basics of the Java AWT (Abstract Window Toolkit).

IV. Course Requirements:
A. Texts and other required materials:
   Required Texts: HTML 4 Unleashed by Darnell, et. al.
   The Complete Idiot's Guide to Java 2 by M. Morrison
   Optional Texts: Java 2: The Complete Reference by P. Naughton and H. Schildt
   Learning Perl by R. Schwartz & T. Christiansen
   CGI Programming with Perl by Guelich, Gundavaram, and Birznieks
   Disk: Sufficient disk space to back up your work. This may be done (for example) with 3.5" floppy diskettes, or on a home computer’s hard disk.
   Internet Access: We will provide you with a Unix login account for this class, but it requires telnet access. You can run telnet from most of the computer laboratories at ULM (or ULM residential computers connected to the campus network), or from a PPP or SLIP session provided by an Internet Service Provider (such an account is available free of charge to ULM students by application). Most assignments in this class will require a computer with Internet access, capable of using a Java capable browser such as Netscape version 2.0 or higher.
B. Class Schedule and Place: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm in Hanna 212. We will occasionally use the CS Dept. Lab (Hanna 238B), but will meet in Hanna 212.
   Final Exam Friday, December 8, 2000, 3:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.
Note: These are only estimated test dates. The actual dates will be dictated by convenient closure of topics, and should be very close to those listed, but this cannot be guaranteed. Any deviation from this schedule however, will be announced at least one week prior to the actual test date.
D. **Assignments:** There will be approximately 9 homework assignments (depending upon what is needed, maybe a couple less, maybe a couple more), each reinforcing a major area of study. They will generally come at 1 week intervals, and each assignment will be due one week after it is assigned. Exceptions to this will be clearly indicated. In calculating your total assignment grade, I will drop your worst assignment score, and the remainder of the assignments will contribute equally toward your assignment grade. I might make an especially difficult assignment count double. Assignments will be graded by the students in the class, using criteria provided by the instructor.

E. **Attendance Policy:** Attendance will be taken each day, as required by the University Regulations. This policy may be found in the Undergraduate Catalog, and you should make yourself familiar with it. In particular, note that excessive unexcused absences are considered 10% of the total classes, which for this semester and class is two (3) classes. According to the University Regulations, this can result in a failing grade. Every student is responsible for anything covered in class, even if it is not in the text. This includes announcements of assignments or test dates, so if forced to miss class, be sure to contact the instructor to be informed of that day's content.

F. **Cancellations:** If you suspect a class cancellation due to weather or any other reason, call my office number at 342-1856. If there is a cancellation, my voice mail will reflect that fact within 2 hours of class time (sooner if possible). If no message, assume that class will be held. I will also try to put a notice on the class web page. I will normally be in class on time. If I am not, you should wait at least 15 minutes before leaving, and someone should check my office to make sure I am not there. If I am unavoidably detained, I will normally call and have the class instructed to either wait, or go home.

G. **Changes in Requirements:** Due date changes, test postponements, etc. will be announced in class. In case of emergencies, I may attempt to contact you by phone, so please make sure that I have your phone number, and let me know if it changes. Notices may also be given by email, or on the class World Wide Web page. This syllabus will be posted on the class World Wide Web page, and that copy will always be the official copy, not the paper one received at the beginning of the semester.

V. **Course Outline:** Provided separately.

VI. **Course Methodology:**
- This course will consist primarily of interactive lectures with assignments to reinforce major points of discussion. Assignments may be done in our lab, or alternatively in another campus lab or on your home computer (if adequately configured). Be aware that our computing facilities are limited, and if you wait until the last minute to do your assignments, you may be unable to get adequate resources. For Java programs, you may use any development platform that you like on your own computer, but your final submission must compile without error and run on shaman.cs.nlu.edu using the most recent version of the JDK installed there. Grading assignments by students in the class provides an opportunity for quick feedback, as well as improved cohort support and class discussions.
- The Internet is used extensively as a communications tool in this class. Announcements, copies of assignments, a copy of this syllabus, and various examples and data files will be available on the class page on the World Wide Web. Announcements of a time critical nature may be emailed to class members. Class discussions and questions may be pursued on the class web-based discussion forum.
- Reading assignments will be provided separately. Note that some reading assignments may come from web-based resources, not just the required texts. Students should be aware that they will be tested over the contents of their reading and class handouts, as well as lecture topics. Some things will be in the text but not in the lecture, others will be in the lecture but not in the book. Both parts are necessary for success in this class.
- There will be 2 tests to assess individual understanding of the material presented. These tests will be spaced in a relatively even fashion throughout the semester, a midterm and a final exam. Both tests will have equal weight, and the final exam is not cumulative (although any test may require understanding of previous concepts, simply because of the dependence of one topic upon another). Tests will normally be returned within one week of the test date during the semester.
VII. Evaluation Procedure
A. Make-up Tests: You are expected to arrange your schedule around the dates indicated in this syllabus as much as is possible. Make-up tests arranged at least one full week prior to the test date can be obtained:
- to avoid direct conflict with participation in an unavoidable official school-sponsored activity, such as playing in an intercollegiate sporting event (documentation from the sponsor is required)
- in the event that a test occurs on a day other than those given in this syllabus, for an unavoidable personal conflict (this is at my discretion, but I try to be reasonable)
Make-up tests will be arranged after the test date only:
- in the event of an unexpected and professionally documented medical condition which prevented attendance. If you are experiencing a long term illness, please keep me informed each week of your status.
- in the event of a personal tragedy (I may need for you to provide some documentation)
B. Late Assignments: Unless specified otherwise, assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date due. Late penalties are 10% for one school day late, 30% for two school days late, and 50% for 3 or more school days late. Assignments turned in more than 5 school days late will not be graded. Late assignments must be given directly to me, or to the CS Department front desk worker or secretary for timestamping. Do not just slip them under or in the door, and do not put them directly in my department mailbox. Please note that since assignments are graded in class as part of the learning experience, late assignments are very disruptive.
C. Your grade will calculated according to the following point distribution:

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<tr>
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<th>50% Tests (25% each)</th>
<th>50% Programming Assignments</th>
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</table>

Letter grades will probably be assigned by the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some grades might be improved above that given in the chart if I feel that an anomalous statistical grouping requires it, but your letter grade will never be worse than that indicated by the chart.

VII. Academic Honesty:
Learning is a social experience, and I wouldn't dream of trying to change that. Studying with friends, and talking among yourselves about how to attack a problem is important to success in this class. But if you don't do your own thinking -- if you only take from these discussions, and never give -- then you won't perform well enough to perform on tests. That's enough to trash your grade in this class. Make sure that your work is your own, because you might have to pass a quiz over the content of your assignment to receive credit. If a project is supposed to be done by a group, it will be specifically announced that way. And if you need further help, please come see me. I try to be as accessible as I know how. If you can't make my office hours, drop by anyway -- if I'm not covered up with something, I'll be glad to work with you. And if we need to, we can make a special appointment. And remember that you can always leave me a phone message or use email.

This statement is intended to conform to policy level C of the Computer Science Departmental Policy for Dealing with Academic Dishonesty. You should familiarize yourself with this policy, and conform to it unless specifically instructed otherwise (in writing) by the instructor. A copy should be attached to this syllabus for your convenience.