

**Texas A&M University Central Texas**  
**Data Communications**  
**CISK 330.110**  
**2:30 pm - 3:45 pm MW**

**Location: FH 207**

**Instructor: Dr. Randy Brown**

**Office: FH – 323J**

**Phone: (254) 519- 5462**

**Preferred Classroom Communication Method: BlackBoard Messages**

**Email: [rwbrown@tamuct.edu](mailto:rwbrown@tamuct.edu)**

**Office Hours:**

Location	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
FH 323J	16:00-18:00, and by appointment	By appointment	10:00-12:00, and by appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment
Virtual	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment

**Mode of instruction and course access:**

TAMUCT Blackboard Learn System (<http://tamuct.blackboard.com>) will be our primary resource for the class information. You will use the Blackboard username and password communicated to you separately to logon to this system. The course syllabus, schedule, supplemental readings, class announcements, power point slides, learning modules, homework assignments, exams and other course related documents will be posted on blackboard. Each student is responsible for the posted material, and should check the blackboard at least weekly for updates. The course outline in this syllabus shows the basic schedule for the semester.

**Student-instructor interaction:**

Please send all course related email correspondence to my Blackboard email. Please use TAMUCT email only when Blackboard is not available. I check email several times a day during the week and at least once during the weekends. I will respond within 24 hours and within 48 hours on Saturday through Sunday. Please do not hesitate to stop by my office during the scheduled office hours or contact me via phone / blackboard email or TAMUCT email, if there are any personal problems or challenges that are hindering your regular progress in the course.

**UNILERT**

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas

UNILERT is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email and text message. By enrolling in UNILERT, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related

information, regardless of your location. Please enroll today at [TAMUCT.org/UNILERT](http://TAMUCT.org/UNILERT)

## Course Information

### 1.0 Course Overview and description:

A study of voice and data communications technologies, concepts, and applications, including communications terminology, hardware, software, protocols, and managerial issues in data and voice communications. Topics will include alternatives available in hardware, software, and transmission facilities, design integration, selection, and implementation of communications solutions. In addition, students will explore the current and future impact and directions of these technologies.

Prerequisite: CIS 103 or 300 or approval of the department head.

### 2.0 Course Objectives:

#### 2.1 Student Learning Outcomes

- 2.1.1. Understand and master syntax and features of the C++ Programming Language:
  - 2.1.1.1. Variables and constants – declaration, initialization, and assignment;
  - 2.1.1.2. Expressions; math, relational and logic operators;
  - 2.1.1.3. Interactive input;
  - 2.1.1.4. Simple text file operations;
  - 2.1.1.5. C++ syntax for program structures – sequence, decision, loop;
  - 2.1.1.6. Using standard library functions;
  - 2.1.1.7. Creating programmer-defined functions
  - 2.1.1.8. Arrays, Pointers, Strings, Control Structures, Pre-defined Classes.
- 2.1.2. Apply principles of program design and logic:
  - 2.1.2.1. Structured programming use sequence, decision, and loops;
  - 2.1.2.2. Functional abstraction;
  - 2.1.2.3. Modular design using functions.
- 2.1.3. Apply principles of program logic to isolate errors:
  - 2.1.3.1. Debuggers included with the Integrated Development Environment
  - 2.1.3.2. Setting breakpoints and watch variables
  - 2.1.3.3. Using output to report program progress
  - 2.1.3.4. Using “stubs” and “drivers” to test small, manageable components.

### 3.0 Required Reading and Textbook(s):

Required Text: *Starting out with C++ Early Objects*

Tony Gaddis, Judy Walters, & Godfrey Mugunda

ISBN: 9780133360929 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Pearson

Note: A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from

a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**3.1 Supplementary Material:** The course textbook may be supplemented with other materials including handouts, oral presentations, industry articles, videos, research paper readings, case studies, power point presentations etc.

**3.2 On-Line References TBA**

**3.3** Students preferring to use their own computers are required to have products, data encodings, file names, system structure, and products equal to those provided in the computer lab and the server used in class.

**3.4 Current publications:** The campus library contains numerous books and periodicals relating to Computer Science. The student should take advantage of this resource by visiting the library.

#### **4.0 Course Requirements:**

**4.1 Reading Assignments:** All assigned chapters will be used as basis for class and/or blackboard discussions. Study the assigned readings before each class.

**4.2 Attendance/Participation Policy:** Class attendance is required. The policy as officially stated by the University will be enforced. Students are expected to make arrangements with the instructor before missing a series of classes due to job requirements. Students are responsible for any material missed during an absence. In all cases, the responsibility remains with the students to meet/obtain all course requirements/changes. If you are not present the class period your presentation is scheduled, the presentation grade is zero. Regular course progress is expected. It is each student's responsibility to review the blackboard and syllabus for the latest information, assignments and examinations. Attendance will be taken each class period. Attendance will count as 15% (150 Points) of your total grade. NOTE: Blackboard Discussion questions will count toward participation.

**4.3 Examinations:** There will be two exams, a mid-term and a final exam, each worth 200 points. Makeup exams will be given ONLY when arrangements have been made PRIOR to the class meeting.

**4.4 Homework:** Chapter review questions will be assigned after each chapter. They are comprised of short answers, multiple choices, true/false, algorithm workbench, find the error, and predict the outcome. Each of the chapter reviews is worth 30 points (only the top 5 will count), but will be graded on a 100 point scale and the average of all chapter review questions make up 15% of your final grade.

**4.5 Chapter Programming Challenges:** The chapter programming challenges are listed in the calendar below. All programming challenges must be able to compile and run successfully to receive full credit. Extra points can be earned if the programs are done in a manner that is above and beyond the contents of the chapter. All challenges for a specific chapter will count as a single assignment. Each of the challenge assignments is worth 30 points (only the top 10 will count), but will be graded on a 100 point scale and the average of all chapter review questions make up 30% of your final grade.

- Program Header: All programming challenges **MUST** begin with the following header comments:

```
/*
Author           : Name
Programming Challenge : Chapter # Challenge #
Description       : Description of the programming challenge
*/
```

- Failure to add this header will result in a loss of 5 points on the programming challenge.
- Inline Comments: All programs must contain two or more inline comments to illustrate understanding of code. Failure to have two or more inline comments will result in a loss of 5 points on the programming challenge.
- All programming challenges must have a final executable statement of: `system("pause");` This allows your program to pause so that I may view the results of your coding.

**4.6 Late Submissions:** Assignments will be considered late if submitted after the due date/time. A late penalty of 5% per day (Mon-Thurs) will be applied. That means that **NO** submissions will be accepted after 5 weeks late (100% deduction!). Any submissions **AFTER** 5 weeks late will be considered lack of participation and will result in a lower participation score. In addition, discussions **MUST** be completed within the week during which the discussion is assigned (i.e. **late discussions will NOT be allowed**). **Late tests will NOT be accepted!**

NOTE: NO work will be accepted after 5/13/2015.

**4.7 Other Notes about assignments:**

- 4.7.1 All assignments will be zipped prior to submission to BlackBoard – any unzipped assignments will **not be accepted**.
- 4.7.2 If there are multiple parts, submit all parts in a **SINGLE** zip file. I would suggest you create a folder for each assignment, then you can zip that entire folder at once...

- 4.7.3 Make sure all programs are labelled in a logical manner that makes it easy for me to figure out which program is which.
- 4.7.4 All assignments will be posted in BB with a value of 100 points, regardless of how many “points” they actually count toward your final grade.

## 5.0 Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Assignment	Points	Percent	My Grade
Mid-Term Exam	200	20%	
Final	200	20%	
Challenges	300	30%	
Homework	150	15%	
Participation	150	15%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Percentage	Points	Grade
90.0-100%	900-1000	A
80.0-89.9%	800-899	B
70.0-79.9%	700-799	C
60.0-69.9%	600-699	D
0-59.9%	0-599	F

## 6.0 Posting of Grades:

All student grades will be posted on the Blackboard Grade book and students should monitor their grading status through this tool. Grades for weekly assignments, discussions, quizzes and exams *should* be posted (no guarantees) within 7 days following the due date.

## 7.0 Technology Requirements and Support

### 7.7 Technology Requirements

This course will use the TAMU-CT Blackboard learning management system for class communications, content distribution, and assessments. Logon to <http://tamuct.blackboard.com> to access the course.

For this course, you will need reliable and frequent access to a computer and to the Internet. You will also need a headset with a microphone or speakers and a microphone to be able to listen to online resources and conduct other activities in the course. If you do not have frequent and reliable access to a computer with Internet connection, please consider dropping this course or contact me at [rwbrown@ct.tamus.edu](mailto:rwbrown@ct.tamus.edu) to discuss your situation.

Blackboard supports the most common operating systems:

PC: Windows 7, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 2000,

Mac: Mac OS 10.6 “Snow Leopard®”, Mac OS 10.5 “Leopard®”, Mac OS 10.4 “Tiger®”

Check browser and computer compatibility by following the “Browser Check” link on the TAMUCT Blackboard logon page. (<http://tamuct.blackboard.com>) This is a

CRITICAL step as these settings are important for when you take an exam or submit an assignment.

Upon logging on to Blackboard Learn, you will see a link to Blackboard Student Orientation under My Courses tab. Click on that link and study the materials in this orientation course. The new Blackboard is a brand-new interface and you will have to come up to speed with it really quickly. This orientation course will help you get there. There is also a link to Blackboard Help from inside the course on the left-hand menu bar. The first week of the course includes activities and assignments that will help you get up to speed with navigation, sending and receiving messages and discussion posts, and submitting an assignment. Your ability to function within the Blackboard system will facilitate your success in this course.

*Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.*

## **7.8 Technology Support**

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your professor.

For technological or computer issues, students should contact the TAMU-CT Blackboard Support Services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Support Portal: <http://www.ct.tamus.edu/bbsupport>

Online chat (through the support portal at: <http://www.ct.tamus.edu/bbsupport>)

Phone: (855)-661-7965

## 8.0 Complete Course Calendar (Subject to Change based on needs of class)

Class	Date	Chapter(s)	Assignment(s) Due!
1	21-Jan	Syllabus/Introductions	
2	26-Jan	Chapter 1	Introduction Discussion
4	28-Jan	Chapter 2	
5	2-Feb		Chapter 1 Odd End of Chapter Review Questions
6	4-Feb	Chapter 3	<b>Last Day to Drop w/ no record</b>
7	9-Feb		Chapter 2 Review Questions
8	11-Feb	Chapter 4	Chapter 2 Programming Challenges
9	16-Feb		Chapter 3 Review Questions
10	18-Feb		Chapter 3 Programming Challenges
11	23-Feb	Chapter 5	
12	25-Feb		Chapter 4 Review Questions
13	2-Mar		Chapter 4 Programming Challenges
14	4-Mar	Catch-up Days	Chapter 5 Review Questions
13	9-Mar		Chapter 5 Programming Challenges
14	11-Mar	Mid-Term Exam	
	16-Mar	Spring Break	
15	23-Mar	Chapter 6	
16	25-Mar		
17	30-Mar		
18	1-Apr	Chapter 7	
	<b>3-Apr</b>		<b>Last day to drop w/ "Q" or withdraw w/ "W"</b>
19	6-Apr		Chapter 6 Review Questions
20	8-Apr		Chapter 6 Programming Challenges
21	13-Apr	Chapter 8	
22	15-Apr		Chapter 7 Review Questions
23	20-Apr		Chapter 7 Programming Challenges
24	22-Apr	Chapter 9	
25	27-Apr		Chapter 8 Review Questions
26	29-Apr		Chapter 8 Programming Challenges
27	4-May	Catch-up Days	Chapter 9 Review Questions
28	6-May		Chapter 9 Programming Challenges
29	11-May	Final Exam	

## 9.0 Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must go to the Records Office and ask for the necessary paperwork. Professors **cannot** drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The record's office will provide a deadline for which the form must be returned, completed and signed. Once you return the signed form to the records office and wait 24 hours, you must go into Duck Trax and confirm that you are no

longer enrolled. Should you still be enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the records office immediately? You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course.

**10.0 Academic Integrity**

Texas A&M University - Central Texas expects all students to maintain high standards of personal and scholarly conduct. Students found responsible of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. The faculty member is responsible for initiating action for each case of academic dishonesty and report the incident to the Director of Student Affairs. More information can be found at [www.ct.tamus.edu/StudentConduct](http://www.ct.tamus.edu/StudentConduct).

**11.0 Disability Support and Access Services**

At Texas A&M University – Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to an education that is barrier-free. The Office of Disability Support and Access is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability enjoy equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. Some aspects of this course or the way the course is taught may present barriers to learning due to a disability. If you have or believe you have a disability and wish to self-identify, you can do so by providing documentation to the Disability Support Coordinator at (254) 501-5831 in Warrior Hall, Suite 212. For more information, please visit their webpage at [www.tamuct/disabilitysupport](http://www.tamuct/disabilitysupport). Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. NOTE: Such documentation must be presented to the instructor by the end of the first week of class or ASAP after identifying a difficulty. Any documentation submitted “after the fact” will not be accepted.

## 12.0 Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all TAMUCT students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored include Accounting, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Writing (APA and MLA). Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Founder's Hall, Room 204, and also in the Library in the North Building. Visit [www.ct.tamus.edu/AcademicSupport](http://www.ct.tamus.edu/AcademicSupport) and click "Tutoring Support" for tutor schedules and contact info. If you have questions or if you're interested in becoming a tutor, contact Ryan Thompson at 254-519-5796 or by emailing [rthomp8@ct.tamus.edu](mailto:rthomp8@ct.tamus.edu).

Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables TAMU-CT students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in Mathematics, Writing, Career Writing, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Spanish, Calculus, and Statistics. Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for any subject on your computer. To access Tutor.com, click on [www.tutor.com/tamuct](http://www.tutor.com/tamuct). If you have trouble logging in, contact Ryan Thompson at 254-519-5796 or [rthomp8@ct.tamus.edu](mailto:rthomp8@ct.tamus.edu).

## 13.0 Library Services

INFORMATION LITERACY focuses on research skills which prepare individuals to live and work in an information-centered society. Librarians will work with students in the development of critical reasoning, ethical use of information, and the appropriate use of secondary research techniques. Help may include, yet is not limited to: exploration of information resources such as library collections and services, identification of subject databases and scholarly journals, and execution of effective search strategies. Library Resources are outlined and accessed at.

<http://www.tarleton.edu/centraltexas/departments/library/>

## 14.0 Instructor's Personal Statement:

1. Instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus during the course of the semester for the benefit of the students.
2. Instructor reserves the right to supplement the material presented in the text with additional material that may benefit the students by either providing additional information or a different point of view.
3. Instructor expects that the students will act in a curious and professional manner in all interactions with other students and the instructor.
4. Instructor reserves the right to modify grading rubrics. Changes to grading rubrics are only made to current and/or future assignments.
5. Any changes made will be announced in class and posted on BlackBoard.