CS601 Capstone I – Fall 2018
Course Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR:
John Bonomo
163 Hoyt
Phone: 7287
Class Time: TBA

TEXT: none

POINT VALUES:
- Project Proposal 33%
- Work/Presentation on Project 33%
- Class Participation/Other projects 33%
- Good Grooming 1%

GOALS:
- Completion of a project proposal
- Significant progress in completion of proposal
- Formal presentation of progress

DEADLINES: (tentative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/17</td>
<td>Project topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/8</td>
<td>Project Proposal (1st draft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/22</td>
<td>Project Proposal (final draft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/3</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How To Do Research – We will be discussing this throughout the semester. I have several links on the course website to resources on the web on this topic which should help you answer this question.

Project Topics – Project topics must be decided upon and approved by the instructor by week of Sept. 17. These topics may be taken from a list found at

http://www.cs.westminster.edu/CS601+Wiki/Suggested+capstone+project+topics

or may be a topic chosen by the student. Be warned that faculty members are much better equipped to offer guidance on their own projects than on student-based ones.
**Project Proposals** – One of the main goals of this course is for the student to create a proposal for a computer science project. These proposals can be one of two types:

1. Research Project: this is an individual project in which the student proposes to investigate, implement and analyze some original work in a computer science area of their choosing.

2. Group Project: this proposal presents a large, complex programming project which requires the efforts of two or more students in order to be implemented. Ideally, this project will be based on material covered in a previous upper level course which the students have taken.

The proposal should be divided up into (at least) the following sections: Introduction; Previous Results (summary of a library search on the past results of your topic); Proposal; and Resource Estimates (timeline, software or hardware needed, etc.). The written report will be graded on content and organization as well as stylistic concerns such as grammar, spelling, etc.

**Project Presentations** – Significant work is expected on all projects. By the end of the semester you should be able to report on the work you have accomplished and what needs to be done. Each student will make such a report to the class, using Powerpoint (or the equivalent) and any other visual aids necessary. These presentations will occur during the last two class meetings.

**Class meetings** – Class time will be spent in discussion of each person/group’s project and the progress they have made over the past week. While I expect that some weeks will be more fruitful than others, I do expect that you accomplish SOMETHING every week. All students are expected to offer comments and suggestions to the presenters.
INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION AND POLICIES

INSTRUCTOR:
John Bonomo Phone: 7287 Office: 163 Hoyt
Email: bonomojp@westminster.edu Website: www.westminster.edu/staff/bonomojp

OFFICE HOURS (Fall 18):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MW</th>
<th>1:00-2:30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TTh</td>
<td>10:00-11:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feel free to stop by my office at times other than my office hours; if I am free, I will be more than happy to answer any questions; if not, we can arrange for a time to meet. REMEMBER: My door is ALWAYS “open”, even if it happens to be closed.

Here are some reasons to come to my office:

1. You’re confused about or need clarification on what was discussed in class.
2. To discuss the grading of an assignment.
3. You’re lost as to how to start an assignment (after having thought about it for awhile)
4. You need help debugging a program.
5. After working on a homework problem, you’re not sure how to solve it.
6. You’re looking for additional projects/work to supplement what is covered in the course.

ATTENDANCE:

I do not take attendance in this class. Students are responsible for any material missed due to an absence. Quizzes given during a student’s absence may not be taken later.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT:

Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact Faith Craig, Director of Disability Resources, located in 209 Thompson-Clark Hall. phone: 724-946-7192 e-mail: craigfa@westminster.edu

WRITTEN HOMEWORK:

All written homework must be done neatly, which means (among other things) the following:

1. It should be handed in on standard 8 1/2 by 11 paper (not ripped out of a notebook) and stapled.
2. Your solutions should appear in the order that the problems are listed on the homework.
3. There should be ample room on the page for each problem (ideally, one problem per page) and nothing should be crossed out.

Failure to meet these standards may result in points taken off the homework. The ideal way to meet these requirements is to solve all the problems on scratch paper and then rewrite them on appropriate paper.
EXTRA CREDIT: I do not assign any extra credit assignments in my classes.

GRADE CUTOFFS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>RANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>etc</td>
<td></td>
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ASSIGNMENT AND GRADING POLICIES:

1. All programs which are to be sent to me electronically are due 30 MINUTES before class time on the due date. You should expect me to copy all files from the public, common directory to my private directories before class starts.

   All other assignments are to be handed in at the BEGINNING of class on the day that they are due.

2. Lateness penalties:

   – 10% off per day, first 2 days (Sun and Mon count as separate days for any assignment that can be e-mailed or electronically copied; otherwise they count as one day)
   – 100% off after that

   **IMPORTANT EXCEPTION:** All due dates which fall on the class day before an exam are absolute – there will be no late assignments accepted for them.

3. I will take up to 5% off any assignment which is sloppy enough that it makes it difficult to read.

4. Program Grading Criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ERROR TYPE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>POINTS OFF</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obvious</td>
<td>Errors which the simplest of tests would detect</td>
<td>3–5 pts</td>
<td>Max for any one error is 10% of assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtle</td>
<td>Errors which only extensive testing would detect</td>
<td>2–3 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>Problem or sub-problem solved in a grossly inefficient way</td>
<td>2–5 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cosmetic</td>
<td>Bad output format, prompts, documentation, indentation, etc</td>
<td>1–2 pts</td>
<td>Max for all errors of this type is 10% of assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compile Time</td>
<td>Program does not compile</td>
<td>25% off</td>
<td>Program will also be graded with respect to other criteria.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Just because a program works correctly does NOT guarantee that it will receive a perfect score – other factors such as readability, documentation, user-friendliness and efficiency are also important.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

From the Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog:

Central to the purpose and pursuit of any academic community is academic integrity. All members of the Westminster Community, including students, faculty, staff and administrators, are expected to maintain the highest standard of honesty and integrity, in keeping with the philosophy and mission of the College.

All students are expected to adhere to these guidelines, and to have read and understand the list of violations found (among other places) in the course catalog – this list covers the areas of Cheating, Misconduct, Plagiarism and Providing False Information. The following guidelines may help in determine what is considered acceptable in this class.

**Individual Assignments**: Unless explicitly stated, students are encouraged to group together to discuss assignments. We expect all students involved in the group to contribute to the discussions. However, all work handed in must be written in the individual student's own words. Clearly, copying a solution from another text or another student verbatim or with small changes is not “writing in your own words.” Not nearly as obvious a problem is the following: if you find that the only way you can type in a program or write a homework solution or lab report or proof is to have someone sitting next to you doing the same work, you are probably not “writing in your own words.” You should be able, after discussing an assignment with others, to go off and produce the solution on your own.

**Group Assignments**: All of the participants should do their full share of the work. You should discuss problems together and reach conclusions together. It is a form of dishonesty for a student who has not attended class, read the assignment, or thought about the problem on their own to try to use the ideas developed by the group or claim credit for work to which one has not contributed. It is also a form of dishonesty to encourage or allow such practices on the part of others. Each group should work on their own, not discussing their work with other groups.

**Using Tutors or help from someone not enrolled in the course**: We acknowledge that often tutors are used to help students with assignments. For your long term benefit, we strongly encourage you not to leave the tutor with a completed assignment. We suggest that you seek help when necessary and produce (or reproduce) the assignment on your own.

**Written Assignments**: All written assignments for this course will be submitted to turnitin.com, an on-line plagiarism detection system. In the case of suspected academic dishonesty, all originality reports generated by turnitin.com will be presented and discussed with students prior to any actions taken.

**PENALTIES FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Dean in accordance with the Westminster’s Academic Integrity Policy. In addition, the following actions will occur:

- **First Offense**: a zero will be given on the assignment, quiz or exam in which the dishonesty took place
- **Second Offense**: the student will receive an F for the course.