

CSC5-155 The Beauty and Joy of Computing

January 2015

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Professor Tony deLaubenfels

Office: Law 222

Office Hours: 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. M-F

Office Phone: Extension 4295 **Home & Cell Phone:** (319) 895-8336

E-mail address: tdelaubenfels (tdelaubenfels@cornellcollege.edu from off campus)

Required Text: Abelson, Hal, et al. *Blown to Bits: Your Life, Liberty, and Happiness After the Digital Explosion*. Cambridge: Addison-Wesley, 2008. (ISBN 978-0137135592)

In addition there will be a substantial list of required reading and videos provided on our course Moodle site.

Class meetings: We will have Lecture/ Discussion each morning from 9:30 a.m. until around 11 a.m. in our Law 121 classroom (first day class will meet from 9 to 10) . Computer Lab sessions, including Writing Workshops and App Development instruction will be held at 1:15 p.m. afternoons Monday through Thursday in the Laboratory for Computer Science (LCS) in Law Hall 113. Our one examination will be computer-based and will be held in the LCS. On Friday, I will have individual appointments with each member of the class where we will discuss your current writing project

Course description: Computing has changed the world in profound ways. It has opened up wonderful new ways for people to connect, design, research, play, create, and express themselves. This course will focus on some of the “Big Ideas” of computing that have changed the world and consider where it will go in the future. We will discuss the challenges and implications of computer technology, including the responsibilities of those who design and use computer systems. Students will learn a bit about computer programming and a lot about writing at the college level. The lab portion of this course will introduce students to computer programming using MIT AppInventor friendliest programming environment ever invented and you will be able to show off the fruits of your labour on your Android phone or tablet. Because this is a writing course, significant course time will be spent on the writing process, with a focus on revision. *Not open to students who have previously completed a writing course.*

Course objectives: Welcome to *The Beauty and Joy of Computing*. In this course, I expect you will:

- improve as a writer through writing instruction and lots of practice writing in a variety of styles; become familiar with the staff and services of Cornell’s Writing Studio
- develop an awareness of the potentials and limitations of computing technology, including privacy, free speech, and intellectual property issues debate and form opinions about the social impact of the computing/information revolution
- develop Android apps using the App Developer software development platform

This course supports the Educational Priorities and Outcomes of Cornell College with emphases on knowledge, inquiry, reasoning, communication, and ethical behavior.

Evaluations: Your grade will be based on your performance on papers, homework, projects, and one exam according to the following schedule

Writing Assignment 1	10%
Writing Assignment 2	15%
Writing Assignment 3	20%
Daily Writing	10%
Classroom and Lab Attendance	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final App and Presentation	15%

Exam schedule: Our one midterm exam will be Thursday afternoon, January 22.

Assignments: We will discuss material from the reading and/or viewing assigned on the day scheduled in Moodle. I expect you to read the assignments prior to the class discussing the material. As part of your homework on most class days, you will be asked to produce an informal, exploratory response to a question I provide. To receive credit for a journal entry, it must be submitted by 12 midnight on the evening before class. These guided journal entries will be assigned a weekly grade based on their quality. To receive a high mark on a journal entry, it must address the assigned question or otherwise fit the specifications to show that you have done the required reading; reveal interesting, engaged thinking; and be at least 200 words long.

Policies:

Attendance. Class attendance is required, both classroom and lab. Contact me before class for excused absences.

Distractions. No electronic devices (laptop computers, cell phones, pdas, mp3 players) may be used in our classroom or lab (unless these are used in an accommodation for a disability) except as needed to complete our classroom or lab work.

Late work. Late work will generally not be accepted. Pay attention to deadlines. Work is almost always due by midnight on the due date. If an item is incomplete at the deadline, you should go ahead and submit what you have in order to receive partial credit.

Drop. I follow the college's policy on 15th day drops. ; i.e. in order to be eligible for a third Friday drop, you must attend class and complete all course work.

Academic Integrity. Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgment of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College's requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in *The Compass*, our student handbook, under the heading "Academic Policies – Honesty in Academic Work."

Accommodation. Students who need accommodations for learning disabilities must provide documentation from a professional qualified to diagnose learning disabilities. For more information see cornellcollege.edu/disabilities/documentation/index.shtml. Students requesting services may schedule a meeting with the disabilities services coordinator as early as possible to discuss their needs and develop an individualized accommodation plan. Ideally, this meeting would take place well before the start of classes. At the beginning of each course, the student must notify the instructor within the first three days of the term of any accommodations needed for the duration of the course.