

Prerequisite: None

Required materials:

- **Text:** A Balanced Introduction to Computer Science, David Reed (Pearson Prentice Hall). ISBN: 0-13-046709-X
- An NMU Laptop with TextPad text editor software installed (or other laptop with editor including iBook).
Bring your laptop to each class.

Attendance:

Attendance is required and will be checked daily. In case of an illness or other emergency that results in class absence, you are responsible for keeping up with assignments. Do not assume that I know you are ill. **Documentation will be required for excused absences.** Use e-mail to let me know.

Assignments:

Homework will be assigned daily and should be completed daily if you expect to make a reasonable grade in the course. Study your text with a highlighter and pencil handy to mark important ideas and note passages about which you have a question. For best results, keep your class notes and homework in a loose-leaf notebook, not written in the text.

Quizzes:

Quizzes may be given (up to 10), normally at the **start** of every class period. If you are late, you receive a zero! Each quiz is worth 10 points and will usually consist of writing a short HTML program, a cascading style sheet, or a segment of Java Script. These quizzes will be a simple application of material assigned from the book, covered in class, or assigned as homework.

If you have an excused absence on the day of a quiz, the quiz will not count towards your grade in either direction. Your grade will be based on a total number of points that does not include the quiz.

If you cannot work the homework, come see me before class. I will be available from 10:30am to 2pm. Alternately, work in groups. In any case, be sure your notebook has written solutions to all assigned homework.

Exams:

There will be four (4) 100-point exams after each major section of material. Tests will cover reading, homework, and concepts discussed in class. No test scores will be dropped. You must take tests and quizzes at their scheduled times. No make-up is possible for any exam unless you notify me before test time. A documented excuse is necessary in order to take a make-up test. Grades on quizzes and tests are not "curved." The exams will cover material in the sequence shown below. The schedule below is approximate.

Exam 1 (5/22):	Chapters 1, 3, 6
Exam 2 (6/04):	Chapter 2 and Cascading Style Sheets
Exam 3 (6/16):	Chapters 4, 5, 7,
Exam 3 (6/24):	Chapters 9, 11, 13, 15
Final (6/26):	Comprehensive – all above material

Final Exam:

Only students who have taken all major exams will be admitted to the final exam. This comprehensive final exam will be worth 200 points.

Class participation:

As noted above, if you want to succeed in this class, you need to do the work, attend class, and participate in class discussions. I will know those that are really trying and those that are not and it can affect your grade. If you are having trouble, I want you to ask for help and ask questions in class. The only stupid question is the one you failed to ask and then missed a problem on a quiz or test! If you are uncomfortable asking questions in class, send me an email.

How to get a good grade:

Be willing to make the effort to do all assignments! You are paying a substantial sum of money to take this class so you might as well get the most out of it. Any job worth doing is worth doing well. If you do your best and ask for help when you are in trouble, I will guarantee that you will pass the class. Specifically, if you are trying and doing the work, I will commit to providing you whatever extra help is needed but you have to ask.

Also, really trying hard counts in your favor as noted below in the grading system (attitude). Truly, the more work you put in, the better grade you will make and the better prepared you will be for the final.

How to study:

Once you have done the required assignments, look them over carefully. If you had trouble with any of them, work other problems like them until you can solve them easily. If you do not understand any material, then ask for help from me or another student. Do NOT arrive at a major test knowing that there is something you cannot do that has been assigned. Ask for help!

Once you understand the basic methodology for solving the assignments, place yourself into a simulated exam environment to verify and cement your learning. Copy a sampling of projects of each type that will be on an exam to a blank piece of paper, close all your notes and books and previous work (nothing but a calculator) and work the projects. Alternately, write complex web pages and scripts; get outside the box and experiment. The more you write, the easier the exams and the final.

Approximate Grading System (there may be more or less quizzes):

5 quizzes (10 points each)	50 points
4 Major Exams (100 points each)	400 points
Final Exam	200 points
Instructor Evaluation (mostly attendance but some attitude/effort)	<u>50 points</u>
Approximate Total:	700 points

To pass the course you must take all tests and the final exam!

Contact Information:

Email: kculp@nmu.edu
 Phone: 227-1841

Extra Help:

Office Hours (NSF 1005): MTWR: 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Tape recording of class sessions is permitted; study groups are strongly recommended. Also, you may call me to arrange extra time. Generally, the math department staffs a free tutoring lab. Check at the math department (NSF 1000) for a schedule.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Disability Services Office by: coming into the office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock; calling 227-1700; or e-mailing disserv@nmu.edu. Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines.

Final Commitment:

You and I are a team in this class with the same objective – for you to learn the material and to receive a passing grade in the class. However we must work together as a team. Your job on our team effort is to give all assignments your very best effort AND ask for help when needed. My job is to insure that you learn the material. Do your part as noted above and I commit that you will pass.

However, don't take my commitment as meaning you can pass with minimum effort; it won't happen. You are responsible for you and no one else. If you do not succeed, you can blame no one but yourself. Therefore, make a commitment to yourself at this very moment that this class is worth passing and that you will give it your best effort! Together, as a team, you can expect an A!