

**SYLLABUS**

**Spring, 2015**

**CSC 260 Data Structures and Algorithms**  
**Prerequisites: CSC 200A and CSC 202J**

**4 cr.**

**Instructor:** Beifang Yi  
**email:** byi@salemstate.edu

**Office:** MH 211A  
**Hours:** TWR (11:30pm-1:30pm)

**Phone:** (978) 542-7246  
**Web Site:** <http://cs.salemstate.edu/~byi/>

Section	Time	Room	Final Exam
<b>01</b>	T & R 1:40-2:55pm	MH 206	<b>Tuesday, 5/5, 2:00pm-4:00pm</b> <b>MH 206</b>
<b>L21</b>	T & R 3:05-4:20pm	MH 210	

**Catalog description:**

Basic data structures such as stacks, queues, linked lists, and trees are studied and applied to problems in data storage and manipulation. Applications include basic searching and sorting algorithms. Design, analysis and implementation techniques are discussed. Three lecture hours and three hours of scheduled laboratory per week, plus extensive programming work outside of class.  
**Prerequisites:** CSC 200A and CSC 202J.

**Goals:**

The purpose of this course is to develop students' knowledge and appreciation of organization and retrieval techniques and to familiarize students with the basic concepts of order-of-magnitude analysis. The goals of this course are:

- CG01: to develop an appreciation for the process of data abstraction and its usefulness in software development;
- CG02: to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to perform basic analysis of algorithms;
- CG03: to present a selection of the most common data structures and their standard implementations and uses;
- CG04: to present a selection of the most common algorithms for searching and sorting.

**Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of the course, student will have:

- CO01: applied data abstraction techniques;
- CO02: implemented several classic data structures "from scratch";
- CO03: demonstrated knowledge and use of ADTs available in one or more language libraries;
- CO04: recognized the factors required to perform analysis of algorithms and performed order-of-magnitude analysis;
- CO05: chosen, with justification, an appropriate structure to match the requirements of a given problem, implemented the structure if necessary, and used it in an appropriate way to solve the problem;
- CO06: utilized standard techniques for program validation;
- CO07: demonstrated the ability to use the UML modeling language;
- CO08: produced documentation for at least one major completed project, including formal class diagrams and rigorous test set specification and results.
- CO09: participated in at least one group project involving problem analysis and design specification and selection
- CO10: demonstrated recognition of the need for future professional development through research into future trends in the areas of analysis of algorithms and application development and profiling.

**Course Topics:**

A detailed topics list and a general course bibliography can be found on the Computer Science Department website at <http://cs.salemstate.edu/dept/index.php?page=184>. Select CSC 260 to access a PDF document.

**Text:**

**(Required) Java Software Structures: Designing and Using Data Structures**, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Lewis and Chase. Pearson, 2014 (ISBN: 978-0-13-325012-1).

**Required Material:**

**(Required)** Thumb (flash) drive, 4 GB minimum or online storage (for saving your projects)

**Additional references:**

- Course website: <http://cs.salemstate.edu/~byi/CSC260/>.
- <http://www.pearsonhighered.com/cs-resources/products/series.html#series,series=Lewis>
- **Data Structures and Algorithms in Java**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by Robert Lafore. SAMS, 2003
- **Data Structures and the Java Collections Framework**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, by William J. Collins. Wiley, 2011

**Software:**

**(Required)** JDK 8 (Java SE development Kit 8) and NetBeans 8.0 (this is the only IDE that will be covered in class). Free copies of the software that have been customized for the course can be downloaded in the Department labs - instructions will be given in class.

**Cell phones:**

Turn the ringer off, or, better yet, *turn the phone off*.

**Lecture Attendance:**

Class policy is that of the Registrar's office - see the University catalog for details. Lecture will start promptly at the scheduled time, so please make a serious effort to not be late; if you *have* to be late, please be discrete when entering the classroom. While class attendance does not *directly* affect your final grade, some of the material covered in class is not found (in the same form) in the text, so class attendance and notes are very important. Note that you are at all times responsible for materials and assignments discussed in class: if you miss a class, try to get lecture notes from a classmate and review them *before* the next lecture. We will use SSU's online course management system, Canvas (<https://salemstate.instructure.com/login>) to post assignments, quiz grades, and announcements regarding the course topics and progress. You will need to visit Canvas (with your SSU Navigator use-name and password) for the course activities. Canvas uses your *SSU-stored email* box for the communication between you and the instructor and thus you *must use this email* address. Each student is responsible for completing all course requirements and for keeping up with all that goes on in the course (whether or not the student is present).

Quizzes will be held in class *lecture and lab* hours.

**Scheduled Lab Attendance:**

Attendance during lab time is **STRONGLY recommended**. Labs will be used to review or present software tools, to discuss and investigate Java implementation details that time may not permit to be fully explored during the scheduled lecture period, for design and implementation drills, for occasional short lab (programming) exercises, to assist with design and debugging problems that arise in longer lab / project exercises, and to check/examine/grade the exercises and homework.

**Final Grade:**

Final grade will be determined using the following grading weights:

	Grade-A	Grade-B
assignments (labs/projects/short-answer exercises)	35%	35%
quizzes	25%	0%
midterm examination	13%	13%
final examination	27%	52%
semester overall final grade	Max( <i>Grade-A</i> , <i>Grade-B</i> )	

Two different grading formulae are used to calculate your semester overall final grade: Grade-A and Grade-B and your final grade will be the larger of them. Note it is ***much more difficult*** to get the same grade through ***Grade-B*** than through ***Grade-A***; it is relatively-easy to get high grade from Grade-A scheme.

Attendance is not used to calculate the final grade: however, note that you are at all times responsible for assignments and

materials presented in class.

The following table shows how the course work is assessed against the course objectives:

	Quizzes/Exams	Assignments (labs, programming projects, and other exercises)
CO01	✓	✓
CO02	✓	✓
CO03	✓	✓
CO04	✓	✓
CO05	✓	✓
CO06		✓
CO07	✓	✓
CO08	✓	✓
CO09		✓
CO10		✓

#### Student-Instructor Communication:

Learning how to develop software is very much a **hands-on, experiential process** - the only way to be sure that you understand the material is to apply it by designing and writing programs. The nature of programming is such that it is relatively easy to "get stuck" on minor technical topics that can be difficult to recognize, particularly at early stages of this course - this can lead to a significant amount of what feels like wasted time. While the single most effective way to deal with these problems is to talk to the course instructor, that approach can be problematic if the class meets only once or twice a week and/or if the instructor's office hours conflict with students' obligations.

If you have any questions regarding course material, and *in particular if you are having problems with a programming project*, the most effective way to get assistance is to *discuss with the instructor (either in the class or outside the classroom)*.

#### Assignments (Lab Exercises/Programming Projects/Short-Answer Exercises):

10-15 exercises (including short-answer exercises, programming projects) will be assigned during the semester. *Most will have pre-lab activities to be completed prior to the implementation of the assigned tasks while a few will be in the form of short answer.* Exercises will definitely require **significant programming time outside of scheduled lab**. Submission requirements and mechanics will be stated on each exercise. In general, each exercise will have an assigned due date and time: the required material(s) are to be submitted no later than midnight of that date. Please refer to Final Grade above for the grading weight of the assignments.

*There will be **Challenging Programming Projects**, which will be graded separately. No late submission of these projects will be accepted. Grades earned from these Challenging Projects will be directly added to the final grade. For example, if student C has completed 5 point Challenging Projects, these 5 points will be added to his/her final grade calculated from the table illustrated in Final Grade above.*

Readings will be assigned from the text on a regular basis: for the maximum benefit from reading, do the readings before the material is covered in class. Supplementary material will be distributed on a regular basis, and will be the primary focus of class discussions. In particular, at least one complete, functioning example Java application project will be distributed per week or biweekly: these projects include extensive student-oriented documentation/comments that are designed to guide students through the process of learning how to design and implement software. Occasional worksheets and problems will be assigned.

#### Exams/Quizzes:

There will be two exams, a midterm (usually in week 8) examination and a *comprehensive* final examination. Check the above for examination grading weights and times.

Quizzes will be held in class/lecture, lab, and outside-class/lab (i.e., take-home) hours. There will be about 8 to 12 quizzes to be held in the semester (one or two quizzes with the lowest grades will not be used to calculate the final grading/scoring). There are different forms of quizzes: *short-answer questions* (paper-based or online, including coding practice questions) and complete *Java Programming Quizzes*.

Please refer to Final Grade above for the grading weights of the exams and quizzes.

#### Missed Tests:

Tests (exams and quizzes) may not be made up except for *documented emergency* situations. If a test must be made up, arrangements must be made with the instructor to take the test before it is discussed in class (usually within a week of the test being administered).

#### Due Dates/Time:

- **There will be a 3% penalty for each day (including weekends and holidays) an assignment (lab/project/short-answer exercise) is late;** penalties accrue at the due time of the assigned due date.
- **No assignments will be accepted after the final examination.**
- Should there be an emergency that prevents you from completing your assignments/projects on time, you will need to send an *email request* for the extension on the coursework submission. The instructor will reply to this request email with a specific number of days for the extension period and you will need to keep *this email as a record of the extension approval*. Only a request email does **not** guarantee the extension approval.

#### Study Groups:

While I strongly encourage study groups, I require that each student hand in his/her answers in her/his own words - if two answers are highly similar to each other, neither will receive credit.

When working on your programming projects, you may discuss with others the project topics, the algorithms and methodologies related to the project; but when you work on writing the code, this coding work should be 100% of your own work. **If two answers/written code segments come out exactly the same or highly similar, neither will receive credit and/or further actions will be taken** (such as reporting to the department and/or university). Given the nature of most of the projects, homework questions and writing assignments, it will be almost impossible for two people to come up with highly similar answers UNLESS they copy.

#### Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity Policy and Regulations can be found in the University Catalog and on the University's website ([http://catalog.salemstate.edu/content.php?catoid=13&navoid=1295#Academic\\_Integrity](http://catalog.salemstate.edu/content.php?catoid=13&navoid=1295#Academic_Integrity)). The formal regulations are extensive and detailed - familiarize yourself with them if you have not previously done so. A concise summary of and direct quote from the regulations: "Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts". *Submission of other's work as one's own without proper attribution is in direct violation of the University's Policy* and will be dealt with according to the University's formal Procedures.

---

"Salem State University is committed to providing equal access to the educational experience for all students in compliance with Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act and The Americans with Disabilities Act and to providing all reasonable academic accommodations, aids and adjustments. Any student who has a documented disability requiring an accommodation, aid or adjustment should speak with the instructor immediately. Students with Disabilities who have not previously done so should provide documentation to and schedule an appointment with the Office for Students with Disabilities and obtain appropriate services."

In the event of a University declared critical emergency, Salem State University reserves the right to alter this course plan. Students should refer to <http://www.salemstate.edu> for further information and updates. The course attendance policy stays in effect until there is a university declared critical emergency. In the event of an emergency, please refer to the alternative educational plans for this course via the course link at Canvas (<https://salemstate.instructure.com/>).

Please remember that if, for any reason, you decide to drop this course, you **MUST** do so officially through the Registrar's office. The last day to withdraw from a course this semester is **April 17<sup>th</sup>**.

<p><b>Note:</b> This syllabus represents the intended structure of the course for the semester. If changes are necessary, students will be notified in writing and via all regular class communication mechanisms (class discussion, emails, and/or the course link at Canvas <a href="https://salemstate.instructure.com/">https://salemstate.instructure.com/</a>).</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------