CMPS 101 – Introduction to Computer Science  
Fall 2007

Instructor: Dr. Ming-Hsing Chiu

Office: Fayard Hall, Room327A

Communication: via Blackboard e-mail and Discussion board. All Blackboard accounts are created using only SELU email addresses. If you wish to use a different email address other than your SELU address, send a request to or go in person to the Help Desk (ext 5555)

E-mail: mchiu@selu.edu

Prerequisite: Registration in or prior credit for Mathematics 160 or 161


Course Description: Learning to program with Alice by creating virtual world on your computer. It’s innovative and, best of all, you don’t have to worry about the ‘syntax’ that is often the greatest obstacle when learning to program conventional programming languages for a beginner. The Alice system is 3D graphics and memory intensive. The Alice development team has a set of minimum and recommended requirements for running Alice. Please note that many older laptops do not meet these requirements. It is extremely important to try Alice on the specific machines you will be using, just to be sure.

Minimum hardware requirements: Pentium running at 500 MHz or better, VGA graphics card capable of high (16 bit) color, 128 MB of RAM, Video resolution of 1024 x 768, sound card.

Operating System: IBM/IBM compatible PC running Windows 2000/ME/XP

Software requirements: Alice, which comes with the text.

Internet Connection: Required

Required Knowledge: Know how to upload/download, zip/unzip files and use email

Grading: You will be given sufficient amount of time to work on each assignment. You must turn in your assignment on or before due date. Late submission will not be accepted. Exam will be announced at least one week ahead of time. You will be given a time frame (usually more than 24 hours), within which you can pick anytime that suit you the best to take the test. Each test lasts around one hour. There will be no make up exam.
1. GRADING PERCENTAGES:

EXAM 1 & EXAM 2 30%
FINAL EXAM 30%
ASSIGNMENTS 40%

2. GRADE ASSIGNMENT:

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = LESS THAN 60

Do Your Own Assignment: Assignments are individual assignments, which imply you must do your own work. It is cheating to copy -- should you be caught, you can expect to fail.

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you are a qualified student with a disability seeking accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to self-identify with the Office of Student Life, Room 202, Student Union.

Check in Assignment: You will be asked to carry out the CheckIn Assignment at the beginning of the class which is mandatory.

Discussion Board: The rule-of-thumb is that if you are stumped on the assignments for a long time, then you probably should ask for help by posting a request for information. Most likely someone else has encountered the same problem, and will respond (This is how I find out who my class leaders are.). I check the Discussion Board every day, and post an answer (after a day or two) when no one else will reply.

Final Note: If this is your first "Virtual Classroom" course, then I must tell you that the delivery of this course will be different from any other course you have taken. I will tell you, 'right off the bat', that the key to success will be your own self-discipline and motivation. You MUST allocate sufficient time several days a week for our course, and log on Blackboard several times a week for important information. The assigned materials in the textbook MUST read thoroughly. There might also be some downloadable material and on-line material which you will be responsible for. You must not fall behind. The better your discipline and motivation, the more you will derive from the course.