

PIC 10A SECTION 1, SEPT-DEC, 2015



INSTRUCTOR: Michael Lindstrom (Mike)
OFFICE HOUR (MS 5622): Official: M 9:00 – 9:30, W 9:30 – 10:20, or by appointment
Unofficial: Just drop by! I'll do my best to help *whenever I have time*.
CONTACT INFO: e: M I K E L [at] math [dot] ucla [dot] edu, p: 310-825-3049

LECTURE TIME/LOCATION: M/W/F 8:00-8:50 in Kinsey 1220 B
SECTION WEBSITE: www.math.ucla.edu/~mikel/teaching/pic10a
- Includes homeworks, weekly lecture notes, general info, etc.

CLE: <https://ccle.ucla.edu/>
- For homework submission, class discussion forums

UPDATES: Check your email! Also see section site and/or Twitter: [@pic10a_ucla](https://twitter.com/pic10a_ucla)

TEXTBOOK: Big C++, Horstmann & Budd, 2nd Edition
PREREQUISITES: None – but hopefully an interest in programming and science!

TUTORIALS: T/R 8:00-8:50 (MS 5148 and 5118) or 9:00-9:50 (MS 6201)
TAS: William Schlieper, e: W A S 3 [at] math [dot] ucla [dot] edu
Alex Dobner, e: A D O B N E R [at] math [dot] ucla [dot] edu

TA OFFICE HOURS (MS 2000): T 10-10:50 (Will)
R 14:00 – 14:50 (Alex) and 15:00 – 16:50 (Will)

SUPPORT: You are highly encouraged to form study groups, share notes, collaborate, etc. And don't forget about CCLE discussion forums and office hours (TAs/official/unofficial)!

GRADING SCHEME:

Grading is performance based and not based on a curve. In particular, there is no limit to the number of A's that can be assigned! Regardless of your programming background, if you demonstrate mastery of the material, you can get an A!

Grades are computed first as a percentage and then mapped to letter grades. If your grade as a percentage is X then your actual final grade will be at least as good as yielded by the following mappings:

$98 < X \leq 100 \rightarrow \mathbf{A+}$	$95 < X \leq 98 \rightarrow \mathbf{A}$	$92 < X \leq 95 \rightarrow \mathbf{A-}$	
$89 < X \leq 92 \rightarrow \mathbf{B+}$	$86 < X \leq 89 \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$	$83 < X \leq 86 \rightarrow \mathbf{B-}$	
$80 < X \leq 83 \rightarrow \mathbf{C+}$	$77 < X \leq 80 \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$	$74 < X \leq 77 \rightarrow \mathbf{C-}$	
$71 < X \leq 74 \rightarrow \mathbf{D+}$	$68 < X \leq 71 \rightarrow \mathbf{D}$	$65 < X \leq 68 \rightarrow \mathbf{D-}$	$0 \leq X \leq 65 \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$

~UCLA describes letter grades and their interpretation in the following ways: A is "superior"; B is "good"; C is "fair"; and D is "poor." The precise cutoffs will be determined at the end of the term but they will be no higher than prescribed above. For example, with a percentage of 92.01%, you are guaranteed an A- or better no matter what, but it's possible that in the end an 86.80% would earn an A-, just as a hypothetical example.

Your percentage is computed based on the best of three schemes. Scheme I is more participatory; scheme II is very test-heavy; and scheme III is for “emergency” situations only. Scheme I is highly recommended.

I: “Clicker” Work – 10%	II: “Clicker” Work – 0%	III#: “Clicker” Work - 0%
Homework* – 25%	Homework* – 15%	Homework* - 0%
Quizzes* – 30%	Quizzes* – 0%	Quizzes* - 0%
Midterm – 10%	Midterm – 25%	Midterm - 0%
Final Exam – 25%	Final Exam – 60%	Final Exam (Minus 15%) - 100%

* three lowest scores dropped

only applies if homework score or “clicker” score exceed 50%

“Clicker” Work: Using any internet-enabled device you have, you will submit responses to problems that will be asked during class via a simple web form.. If having access to such a device is a problem, you must notify the instructor by September 28!

Scoring: you earn 4 points for any response and 1 extra point for correctness. Full marks are earned for earning 72% of all points, i.e., if you respond to every single question given but you are somehow wrong on all of them (unlikely!) then you will still earn ~ 80/72 → 100% here. This is really about participation and thinking in-class, and not a serious form of assessment!

Homework: There will be weekly homework assignments to submit on CCLE. The assignments will be posted on the course webpage. Most of your learning will take place in doing the assignments. Homeworks will be scored out of 5 points.

Scoring: if your code compiles, produces the correct output, and is logically organized with comments this is 5 points; if your code compiles, produces the correct output, but is poorly organized this is 4 points; if your code compiles yet fails to produce the correct output, but has organization this is 3 points; if your code compiles but has poor organization and fails to produce the correct output, this is 2 points; if your code fails to compile but there is organization this is 2 points as well; if your code is a real disaster, provided some effort was clearly done you will earn 1 point; all other cases including failure to submit the work is 0 points.

Quizzes: Each week in class, you will be given a 5-minute quiz. Quizzes will primarily cover material from the previous week and the preceding tutorials! Each quiz will be 5 points.

Scoring: there will be two one-liners (1 point each) and one short-answer problem (3 points).

Midterm: There will be one two-stage midterm held in-class on Friday, October 30. You will work individually for 25 minutes and submit your work. After, you will optionally, re-do the midterm in teams of up to four in 15 minutes.

Scoring: if you score better individually, that will be 100% of your midterm grade. If your team score is better than your individual score, your midterm grade will be 90% individual score and 10% team score.

Final Examination: There will be a final exam covering all the material from the course on December 11 at 8 am. The policies are TBD.

FORMAL POLICIES:

Missing Work: If the midterm is missed for a valid reason, the final exam grade will be counted in its stead. If the final exam is missed for a valid reason, you will be given an oral final exam.

University policy states that you cannot pass the course unless you write the final exam.

Valid reasons include one of the following: (a) prior notice of a valid, documented absence (e.g. out-of-town varsity athletic commitment), (b) notification to the instructor within one week due to a medical condition or (c) an emergency. All reasons require written documentation, for example a doctor's note stating the student was medically unfit to be in school, a copy of a death certificate, or a letter from a coach. A score of zero will otherwise be assigned.

Because the three lowest quizzes and homeworks are dropped, none of these grades will be excused even for a valid, documented absence. Every score will count, but the dropped scores might be zeros.

Collaboration Policy: You must identify all collaborators on your assignments and you must do your own work and typing!

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability, please contact the Office of Student Disabilities and have them consult with your instructor to ensure you are accommodated.

Regrading: To have a piece of work regraded, you must: (i) wait at least 24 hours from the time you receive the work; (ii) provide a formally written note, on a separate piece of paper than your work, explicitly requesting a regrading and providing the reason (do not write corrections or extra notes on your work!); (iii) include a printout of the solutions; (iv) submit this request within 5 business days of the return date of the work to the instructor. Work will not be regraded if items (i)-(iv) are not all satisfied.

With a regrading, your work in its entirety will be regraded by the instructor, not just the single question(s) you are asking about: your mark could go up, down, or stay the same.

Cheating: If a student is suspected of cheating (on a midterm, quiz, assignment, etc.), the department will be notified immediately and severe academic disciplinary action may follow. This could include expulsion from the university!

Copying the work of another student or allowing another student to copy from you is cheating. A random selection of midterms and quizzes will be photocopied before being returned. Adjusting answers after a test and asking for a re-grading is cheating. Not attending class but getting a classmate to respond to "clicker" problems or activities on their behalf is also cheating.

Emails and Course Forums: Homework-specific or conceptual questions should be posted on the online discussions at CCLE instead of an individual email to the instructor or TAs. This way, everyone can benefit from the discussion. In general, the only emails that will receive responses are emails pertaining to individual, personal performance in the course or emails to set up appointments.

Instructor Discretion: The final course marks may be shifted and scaled, and the instructor reserves the right to revise any mark. This syllabus is also subject to change.

GENERAL:

Lateness and Talking: If you do arrive late, please enter with your notebook/laptop, pen, etc. ready and be as quiet as possible to avoid interrupting others.

Conversations are best had outside of the classroom... It's disruptive if you chat during a lecture.

Electronic Devices and Distractions: Please turn off the noise on any cell phones, etc.

If you may be tempted to use your laptop for non-class activities, be considerate of your classmates and sit towards the back to avoid distracting others.

Participation: You are encouraged to get involved in the material, to answer questions in class and on the forums, and to ask questions when you're unclear of what's going on. Don't be afraid to ask questions! To better engage with classroom discussion, please try to sit next to at least one classmate to discuss in-class problems.

Surveys: Throughout the term you will be given online surveys to fill out. They will be anonymous and will give you the opportunity to express how things are going in the course and to address any concerns you may have.

Review: There will be at least one review session prior to the midterm and the final exam, possibly more.

Succeeding: There is no rule that anyone has to fail! There is absolutely no reason you cannot excel in this course if you work for it!