PIC 10A SECTION 1, JAN-MAR, 2015

INSTRUCTOR:	Michael Lindstrom (Mike)
OFFICE HOUR (MS 5622):	Official: W 10:30 – 11:30, F 9:30 – 10:30
	Unofficial: 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 1240 B
SECTION WEBSITE:	www.math.ucla.edu/~mikel/teaching/pic10a
	- Includes homeworks, weekly lecture notes, general info, etc.
CCLE:	https://ccle.ucla.edu/
	- For homework submission, class discussion forums
UPDATES:	Check your email! Also see section site and/or Twitter: @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 (C–MS 5148 & B-Geology 4645) or 9:00-9:50 (A-MS 5148)
TAS:	Michael Puthawala, *e:* M P U T H A W A L A [at] ucla [dot] edu
	Danny Nguyen, *e:* L D N G U Y E N [at] math [dot] ucla [dot] edu
	Eric Kim, *e:* E R I C K I M 5 5 5 [at] gmail [dot] com
TA OFFICE HOURS (MS 2000):	Danny: T 10:30-12:30, R 10:00 – 11:00
	Eric: M 15:00-17:00, T 15:30 – 16:30
TA OFFICE HOURS (MS 2330):	Michael: M 10:30-11:30

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)!

The purpose of office hours and CCLE discussions are primarily to discuss/clarify course concepts and for homework-related hints on how to approach a problem.

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:

$98 < X \leq 100$ → **A+**	$95 < X \leq 98$ → **A**	$92 < X \leq 95$ → **A-**	
$89 < X \leq 92$ → **B+**	$86 < X \leq 89$ → **B**	$83 < X \leq 86$ → **B-**	
$80 < X \leq 83$ → **C+**	$77 < X \leq 80$ → **C**	$74 < X \leq 77$ → **C-**	
$71 < X \leq 74$ → **D+**	$68 < X \leq 71$ → **D**	$65 < X \leq 68$ → **D-**	$0 \leq X \leq 65$ → **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: Class Participation – 15%	**II:** Class Participation – 0%	**III#:** Class Participation - 0%
Homework* – 30%	Homework* – 30%	Homework - 0%
Quizzes** – 20%	Quizzes** – 0%	Quizzes - 0%
Midterm – 10%	Midterm – 15%	Midterm - 0%
Final Exam – 25%	Final Exam – 55%	Final Exam (Minus 10%) - 100%

* three lowest scores dropped (out of 9 homeworks)
** two lowest scores dropped (out of 5 quizzes)
# only applies if homework score or participation score exceed 50%

Class Participation: Using any internet-enabled device you have, you will submit responses to problems that will be asked during class via a simple web form at www.math.ucla.edu/~mikel/teaching/pic10a/php/InputPage.html

If having access to such a device is a problem, you must notify the instructor by January 6!

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. On the other hand, if you score less than 72% of all points, your mark here will be the fraction of 72% of points you earned so earning 36% of all points (fraction 0.5 of 72) would amount to 50% for a participation mark. This is really about participation and thinking in-class, and not a serious form of assessment!

Quizzes: You will be given a total of five 10-minute quizzes. Quizzes will focus on material since the previous quiz. Each quiz will be 11 points.

Scoring: there will be two one-liners (2 points each) and one short-answer problem (7 points).

Homework: There will be roughly 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.

Visual Studio 2013, available for download here as Visual Studio 2013 Express (https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=44914) and provided in the PIC Lab, is the course standard for homework submissions.

Homeworks will be graded according to this software alone. If your code does not compile or operate correctly on Visual Studio 2013, marks will be deducted as though it does not compile or operate correctly, regardless of whether it works on other software!

Homeworks will be scored out of 6 points as below:

Scoring:

Compiles	Output	Code organization, logic, commenting and programming practice displayed	Score
Yes	Correct	Spectacular	6
Yes	Correct	Reasonable	5
Yes	Correct	Poor	4
Yes	Incorrect	Spectacular	4
Yes	Incorrect	Reasonable	3
Yes	Incorrect	Poor	2
No	N/A	Spectacular	2
No	N/A	Reasonable	1
No	N/A	Poor	0

Midterm: There will be a midterm exam. The midterm will be two-staged. You will have 30 minutes to complete the exam individually and then 15 minutes to complete the exam in teams of four.

Scoring: If your team score is higher than your individual score, your mark will be 85% individual and 15% group. If your individual score is the highest of the two, your mark will be 100% individual.

Final Examination: There will be a final exam covering all the material from the course on Friday, March 18 at 11:30 am. The policies are TBD.

FORMAL POLICIES:

Missing Work: If you miss the midterm for a valid reason, your final exam grade will count 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 take 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 or counselor's note stating the student was medically/psychologically 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 two lowest quizzes and three lowest homeworks are dropped, none of these grades will be excused no matter what, 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. It is your responsibility to do this in a timely manner. Special exam accommodations will not be provided by the instructor or TAs.

Regrading: All tests will be returned at the discussion sections. You will then have until the end of that discussion section to request a regrading. To request a regrading:

- **(i)** you must write a note on a separate piece of paper from your exam, outlining why you are requesting a regrading;
- **(ii)** you may not write anything extra on your exam;
- **(iii)** and you must submit your regrading request to your TA by the end of the discussion section in which the test is returned. Once you leave the discussion room with your exam, the grade is final.

Work will not be regraded if items (i)-(iii) are not all satisfied.

If you miss the discussion section, you must collect your test from the instructor's office hours within 5 business days of the original return date and then the same policies apply: once you leave the office with your test, the grade is final.

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 stay the same, go up, or (in rare cases) go down.

If you catch an addition error, you still must return your work in the times listed above, but none of your test will be regraded – the total will simply be checked and corrected if necessary.

For homework, similar policies apply: you must request a regrading via email within 5 business days of the homework grade release date.

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. Homeworks will be screened for instances of plagiarism/copying. 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 participation 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:

Discussion sections: The discussions are extremely important! The lectures serve to introduce topics, ideas, and build motivation; in the discussions, you will get vital practice and review.

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!

SUCCESS TIPS:

- Attend class. Hearing information live, doing problems, and being able to ask your own questions is important and correlates strongly with exam performance.
- Do the practice problems: ideally, most of your study time should be spent doing problems rather than reading information.
- Attend your discussion sections. Lecture time is very limited: there is reason why there is almost an equal number of hours scheduled for this course outside of lectures.
- Do not get behind: like mathematics, once there is a topic you are weak with, it could very well prevent your understanding subsequent topics. The material does build.
- Beware the "familiarity fallacy": just because you've seen a topic before, doesn't mean that you have mastered it.
- Make use of office hours and discussion forums.
- Don't be afraid to speak with your instructor: you are not just a number!