

PIC 40A SECTION 1, MAR-JUN, 2016

INSTRUCTOR:	Michael Lindstrom (Mike)
OFFICE HOUR (MS 5622):	M 15:00-15:50, T 13:00-13:50, R 11:00-11:50, F 15:00-15:50
CONTACT INFO:	e: M I K E L [at] math [dot] ucla [dot] edu, p: 310-825-3049
LECTURE TIME/LOCATION:	M/W/F 12:00-12:50 in MS 2000 (PIC Lab)
SECTION WEBSITE:	http://www.math.ucla.edu/~mikel/teaching/pic40a - Includes homeworks, weekly lecture slides, 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:	Programming for the World Wide Web, Robert Sebesta, 7 th Edition
PREREQUISITES:	PIC 10A (Introductory C++)
TUTORIALS:	T/R 12:00-12:50 (MS 6627)
TAS:	Will Oakley, e: W G O A K L E Y [at] ucla [dot] edu
TA OFFICE HOURS:	(MS 2000 PIC Lab) W 10:30 – 12:00

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:

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

~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 two schemes. Scheme I is more participatory; scheme II is very test-heavy.

I: Class Participation – 15%

Homework* – 25%

Unit Tests – 35%

Final Project – 25%

II: Class Participation – 0%

Homework* – 25%

Unit Tests – 50%

Final Project – 25%

* two lowest scores dropped (out of 6 homeworks)

Class Participation: Each class, you will be given question(s) to respond to and/or an activity to complete and submit on CCLE or other platforms. The score per task will be 5 points: 4 points are earned for any submission and one additional point is earned for correctness.

Scoring: Marks will be awarded for the fraction of 72% of all points earned, with a maximum score of 100%.

Unit Tests: You will be given a total of three unit tests in the PIC Lab! These tests will primarily focus on material since the previous test. You will be given 50-minutes on each of them to program a simple website/design/application.

Homework: There will be 6 homework assignments. The assignments will be posted on the course webpage. Most of your learning will take place in doing the assignments!

Final Project: You will be required to complete a final project.

It should encompass as many elements and topics in the course as possible, applied to an application of your choice.

In the end, you must submit a brief writeup (minimum 2, maximum 3 pages) summarizing the technical details of your work, develop a public site that demonstrates your work, and give a 3-4 minute oral presentation at the exam time.

FORMAL POLICIES:

Missing Work: If you miss a unit test for a valid reason, the average grade of the other unit tests will replace its score.

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 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 test/homework grades will be posted online with comments. You will then have 5 business days to request a regrading.

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.

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

Examples of cheating include: starting a test before the designated time, continuing to answer a test when time is up, intentionally looking at another student's exam work and copying, intentionally exposing your own exam to a student, copying another student's homework code verbatim (even if you just change the variable names/comments, that's plagiarising!), adjusting your answers to an exam after it has been graded and requesting a regrade, or not attending class and getting a classmate to respond to the participation problems on your behalf.

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.

It is best to speak in person about personal course concerns or to post on CCLE for questions.

Emails about anything that is answered in the syllabus, in class, or in course announcements will not receive any reply.

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.

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.
- 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!