COMP 353/453: Database Programming (Section 001)  
Spring 2006 Course Information & Syllabus

Instructor:  R. I. Greenberg  
Computer Science Department  
Loyola University  
820 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois  60611-2147

Phone:  (312)915-7981  Email:  rig@cs.luc.edu  Home page:  http://www.cs.luc.edu/~rig

Lectures:  Monday and Wednesday 4:15–5:30pm in LT-410.  
Sometimes lecture notes or a summary may be available on the web.  Other than that, if you have to miss a class, get notes from another student; mine are typically pieced together from more than one place with a lot of metacommets, which makes it hard for anybody but me to follow them.  Also get copies of any missed handouts (available on the web site).  The handouts are numbered sequentially, starting with handout 0.  On handout 0, you need to fill in some information and return it to me promptly so you can be on the email list and get access to the web site for the course.

Office Hours:  In LT-512E:  Mon./Wed./Thurs. 2:30–3:30pm.  
These are the guaranteed times to find me except as announced in advance.  You should also feel free to look for me at other times or make appointments.

Course Objectives:  This course introduces design of databases (emphasizing the relational model, but also including object-oriented approaches), database programming using SQL in various contexts, and additional database topics, such as data mining, data warehousing, and database administration.

Prerequisites:  COMP 271.  (Note errors in registrar’s course bulletin.  Correct on CS dept. web page.)

Other material will also be introduced into the course; a particularly helpful reference is:  

Course Requirements:  There will be several homework assignments, a midterm exam, and a final exam.  The weightings within the semester grade will be:  Homework 40%, Midterm exam 25%, and Final exam 35%.

Homework:  Only homework turned in by the due date is guaranteed to be graded.  Any special circumstances that cause difficulty in meeting the deadlines should be brought to the attention of the instructor in advance.  Homework must be handed in at the beginning of class, since solutions may be discussed in the same class on occasion.  Homework turned in to my mailbox will generally not be graded, since I do not check the box continually and cannot generally verify that homework was turned in before solutions were discussed in class.  If you cannot turn in homework in person, you should put it under the door of my office.

Exams:  The midterm exam is tentatively scheduled for week 7 and is 75 minutes long.  The final exam is scheduled for 4:15–6:15pm on Monday, May 8.

Collaboration:  No collaboration is permitted on exams.  Collaboration on homework is acceptable, but copying is not!  (Safeguard your files and printouts.)  You may discuss solution techniques with other students, but you must write up your solutions independently.  If you obtain a solution through research, e.g., in the library, credit your source and write up the solution in your own words.
Tentative Course Outline and Approximate Schedule:

Recommended readings from the text are shown on a weekly basis. (When selected sections or subsections are listed, it is assumed that you will include the introduction of the corresponding chapter or section.)

In the earlier part of the course, we will be using much supplementation from Elmasri-Navathe; later we'll focus on Sunderraman.

1. (1/18) Administrivia. Introduction to databases.
4. (2/6) Relational algebra. Sunderraman Section 1.5.
8. (3/13) PL/SQL continued. Sunderraman Sections 3.7–11.
14. (4/24) Data Mining and Data Warehousing
15. (5/1) Overflow, review, and/or supplementation.