

COMP 353/453: Database Programming (Section 001)
Spring 2010 Course Information & Syllabus

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TA tutoring schedule: See <http://www.cs.luc.edu/academics/services/tutoring>.

Lectures: Monday 4:15–6:45pm 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 metacommments, 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: 11:30–1:00 on Monday and Wednesday (also 3:00–4:00 Monday in LT-512E). 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) and various methods of using databases interactively and in programs. Use of SQL will be pervasive; we will also look at ways to embed SQL in standard languages such as Java and ways to integrate with web programming. We will use Oracle database software, giving students practical experience with a leading database product.

Prerequisites: COMP 271.

Textbook: Rajshekhar Sunderraman. *Oracle10g Programming: A Primer*. Addison-Wesley, 2008.

Other material will also be introduced into the course; a particularly helpful reference is:
Elmasri and Navathe. *Fundamentals of Database Systems*. Addison-Wesley, 5th edition, 2007.

Course Requirements: There will be several homework assignments, a midterm exam, and a final exam. The weightings within the semester grade will be: Homework 35%, “Midterm” exam 30%, and Final project 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 ??, is 120 minutes long, and will function almost like a final exam. Final projects will be presented at the last class session; if we need more time, we’ll spill over into the final exam slot: 4:15–6:15pm on Monday, May 3.

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.