

Information to help you **BE SUCCESSFUL**
in your Computer Science Classes

*It is no disgrace to fail; it is a disgrace to do less than your best
to keep from failing. – Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.*

I am so glad that you are in my class this semester and I want to help you get as much as you can out of this class. Here are some pointers that I have developed along the way to help you to do your best in **CSCI-2020**.

– Mrs. Price



The following are a list of things that **I expect you to DO** both in and out of the classroom.

Do...

- ✓ Spend time working on this class outside of our normal class time. If you don't, you will not learn what you need to be successful in this course and beyond. Learning to program is like learning to play a musical instrument. The key is PRACTICE...PRACTICE...PRACTICE!
- ✓ Do your reading assignments! Some of the reading assignments will come from your textbook and some from notes that will be posted to the course website. Reading the assignments ahead of time will help you to understand the material better when it is presented in class.
- ✓ Ask questions when you don't understand something. Do not be afraid to ask a question!
- ✓ Ask for help when you need it. That is what we're here for!
- ✓ Come to office hours if you need help outside of class. I will gladly arrange a time to help you if you can't find office hours that match your schedule. You can also get help from Jordan Hall who will be leading the Lab Classes (he has office hours as well) and from the CSCI Student Help Desk (hours will be posted as soon as they have been set).
- ✓ Turn your work in on time. I will not accept it if it is late.
- ✓ Treat others with respect.
 - If you miss class, be sure to arrange with someone else in class to get notes and ask questions on your own time about what you might have missed so that the class can move forward. We don't have time to repeat an entire class because some people were absent the class period before.
 - It is understandable that sometimes you have to come in to class late. If that is the case, please try to cause as little disruption as possible. To walk up to the instructor while she is lecturing to explain why you are late or to ask questions of a personal nature is not being considerate of the rest of the class.
- ✓ Do your best! This is very important ☺
- ✓ Participate. You won't believe what a difference it makes in the classroom when students participate!
- ✓ Enjoy the class!



The following are a list of things that **I expect you to NOT DO** in the classroom. Most of them are distracting to both you and others and also disrespectful. If your attention is elsewhere, you aren't going to be able to learn. Remember, you are in college and **you are here to learn...**not just get a grade.

Don't...

- ✗ Use ipod's and other such electronics in the classroom.
- ✗ Use cellphones for conversations, texting, checking email, Facebook, Twitter or web surfing in the classroom – lab or lecture.
- ✗ Use laptops in the lecture room. Studies have shown that students who use a laptop in the classroom have significantly lower grades throughout the course than those students who are not using a laptop.
- ✗ Use any software or visit any websites during the lab sessions that are not being used for class purposes. I.e., no email, Facebook (or other social websites), chatting or web surfing in general.
- ✗ Do not put off completing homework assignments until lab time. The time that we have in the lab will be completely taken up by assigned lab exercises. More often than not, there will be no time left over for you to complete something that should have been completed ahead of time.
- ✗ Ask for extensions or exceptions in class. Often this comes across to the other students as whining. If you have extenuating circumstances, talk to me in advance so that we can handle it on an individual basis.
- ✗ Rely so much on outside help, such as tutoring or the student help desk, to get you through the homework assignments that you don't end up learning the concepts for yourself. Not only does the work need to be your own, but what you learn will help you on the lab exercises, homework assignments, tests, and your future computer science classes.