

CGS 2100 Valencia College

Instructor: Dimas Sanchez

Phone: 407-582-1012

Office: Room 7-128

Email: Use Blackboard for all email

Prerequisite: None

No Text required

Course Description: A hands-on introduction to analyzing, designing, coding, and testing computer programs. Students will develop algorithms for problem solving with an emphasis on good programming practices. Students will use programming techniques including control structures, arrays, and subprograms to design and code basic programs using a modern computer language. Other topics include working with data, number systems, and an introduction to object-oriented and event-driven programming. This course prepares students for software development courses in programming and web development.

Major Topics/ Concepts/ Skills/ Issues:

- * Number systems and internal representation of data
- * Variables, data types, and expressions
- * Sequence statements
- * Selection statements
- * Repetition statements
- * Arrays
- * Modularization

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Tests and Assignments:

- **There will be 1 or 2 tests during the term.** The dates for these tests will be announced at least one week in advance. **There will be no make-up tests.**
- There will be 4-5 quizzes throughout the semester. **There will be no make-up quizzes,** but the lowest grade of these will be dropped.
- There will be several assignments covering the programming concepts described.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes (you are responsible for any material, assignment or test covered in class). Refer to the Valencia Community College Catalog, section “Academic Policies and Procedures.” If it is an online class, participation is still required. It is expected that you log in to Blackboard at least 5 times per week. The instructor will be logged in several times a day during the week and often on weekends and many of your classmates will be logged in daily, so in order to keep up with their questions and any announcements, you will want to try to do the same. I expect all students to participate on the course discussions and the requirements for this are discussed below. ALL students are expected to read ALL bulletin board posts regularly. This is not optional.

Withdrawal Policy: You must withdraw from class on or before **the date specified in the Valencia calendar** in order to receive a grade of

W.(http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/importantdates_withdraw.cfm).

You will not be permitted to withdraw after that date. Withdrawal is your responsibility--**you will not be automatically withdrawn from this class.** See the college catalog for further details on the withdrawal policy.

Student Conduct: Valencia Community College dedicates not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia Community College, a student assumes the responsibility of becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty member to leave the class. Violation of any classroom or Valencia Community College’s rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook. **Note: Please no cellular phones in the classroom.**

Academic Honesty and Conduct

Each student is expected to behave appropriately in class. Any student caught cheating on an exam will receive a grade of zero on that exam. In addition, a course grade of “F” may be assigned at the instructor’s discretion.

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Please note that the following activities will not be permitted during class:

Playing computer games, chatting online, reading email, visiting web sites, and in general any activity that is not related to the class activity. You are free to take your notes on the computer but not to use the computer for recreational activities.

Final Exam: The final exam will cover all the material assigned or covered in class. The final exam will be graded on a percentage basis; no exemptions will be given.

Evaluation:	Assignments	20%
	Quizzes	30%
	Test	30%
	Final Exam	20%

The sum of these will determine a letter grade as follows:

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
0 – 60	F



Valencia's Core Competencies

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Valencia's Student Core Competencies are complex abilities that are essential to lifelong success. These general competencies can be applied in many contexts and must be developed over a lifetime. We will apply the core competencies in this course in the following ways:

CLAST Objectives

This course will reinforce the CLAST objectives. You will be expected to demonstrate competency in reading skills, mathematics skills, algebra skills, statistics skills, and logical reasoning skills.

Learning Community

The learning community consists of 4 elements: *Professor*, *Student*, *Course Content* and the *Physical Environment*. As your *professor* I serve to introduce you to the material, give examples and explanations, and serve as a helpful resource in my office hours. It is my job to empower you to become a successful learner. As the *student* you must explore all resources available that are needed to help you be successful. You must realize that the learning is ultimately **your** responsibility through attending class lectures, reading the book, attempting homework and using any other tools you feel might individually help you. Whether or not you feel the *course content* is exciting or boring should not govern the amount of time and energy that you put into learning the content. Keeping a positive attitude always helps, and thinking negatively will affect you mentally by making you less motivated. The *physical environment* refers to the classroom in which the content is presented. If you are respectful of your fellow students and keep the classroom as a proper learning environment (without any unnecessary interruptions) then the maximum amount of learning will take place in the environment.

Communication

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I will communicate to you mainly during our contact in class. However, I will use your Blackboard email account as a means of contacting you regularly. It is your responsibility to check and read your Blackboard email frequently. I will assume that you check your Blackboard email just as you check your mailbox at home, and claiming "Blackboard was down" will not be considered a legitimate excuse when ample time (at least 24 hours) is given to check your mail. If there is a problem with your Atlas account, it is your responsibility to contact Atlas support and get the problem fixed.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities (West Campus SSB 102, ext. 1523). The needs of students with appropriate documentation will always be supported in class.

DISCLAIMER: Changes to this syllabus may be made at any time by announcement of the professor via email.

Tips from Valencia Faculty (excerpted from the Student Handbook)

Let's face it – faculty members were successful students – that's how they were able to complete college and graduate school! Here are some tips from Valencia faculty who know what it takes to make it:

1. **Read and understand the course syllabus.** It will tell you what the professor expects, what her/his priorities are for your learning, and what/when assignments are due.
2. **Build a master calendar** with all your work and school obligations, including time for studying and homework. This will help you see in advance and plan for two assignments due in one day, for example. It will help you be proactive rather than reactive in approaching your academic assignments.

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3. **Don't skip class EVER** (unless you are very sick or have a real emergency). Attendance does count, even if the professor *doesn't* take roll. Look at it this way – when you buy a car, you'd be upset if it came with a tire or a radio missing. You have paid for your college education. Don't rob yourself by missing classes.

4. **Do all assignments on schedule.** Falling behind is self-perpetuating, and coming to class unprepared makes you feel less able to understand new material and ask meaningful questions.

5. **Talk to your professor.** Use office hours to touch base for guidance with assignments, discuss any difficulties you are having, or talk about your career and educational goals. If we don't know about it, we can't help you!

6. **Investigate student support services.** Tutoring, computer labs, writing and language labs, advising and counseling services, library resources, a career center – all are available free of charge. Use them early and often to strengthen your work and hence, your grades!

7. **Don't drop a course without first talking to your professor and/or an advisor.** There may be solutions to your difficulties that you do not see on your own, or consequences to dropping a course that you do not know.

8. **Set reasonable academic and personal goals each semester.** A major difference between students who do well and who don't is that students who succeed have clearly defined, reasonable goals.

9. **Accept personal responsibility for your academic progress.** Successful students tend to be realistic and recognize that their success or failure is primarily determined by their own efforts. Students who are not successful often blame outside forces (professors, work, and family) for their lack of progress.

Success is a choice, **your** choice.