

Welcome to ...

CSc 372: Comparative Programming Languages

Fall 2026

Course Information Overview

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Announcements

(Expect a slide or two of announcements at the start of each class.)

- Handout:
 - Syllabus Summary – a fraction of the full version!
- Important detail: The title of the class is “Comparative Programming Languages,” not “Popular” or “Modern”
 - This class covers programming language concepts and compares ideas from different language types
 - That said, you will have a chance to dig into a new-to-you language of your choice in the final project!

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Catalog Info

Class: CSc 372, Comparative Programming Languages

Credits: 3

Meets: 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays

Room: ILC 140

Prereqs: CSc 210 and Computer Science Advanced Standing

Desc: “Introduction to several major high–level programming languages and their characteristics. Programming projects are required in at least three languages.”

Final: Friday, December 11, 2026, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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Instructor and TAs

Instructor: Lester I. McCann, Ph.D., Professor of Practice^{*}

Grad TA: Muhammad Bilal^{*}

UGrad TAs: Hansen Pranata^{*}

Claire Srodawa^{*}

^{*} This is the 5th time I’ve taught CSc 372

^{*} Ph.D. student, TAed CSc 460 with me last spring

^{*} Took CSc 372 with me last spring

Information Resources

Looking for class information and materials?

- **Class Brightspace (D2L) Site** (textbook, web page links):
 - <https://d2l.arizona.edu/d2l/home/1780726>
- **Class Web Page** (guided & completed slides, handouts):
 - cs.arizona.edu/classes/cs372/fall126
- **Piazza** (Q&A):
 - piazza.com/class/mrjua467wgp73p/

We'll have office hours (OHs) for in-person help, and Piazza for asynchronous Q&A.

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Noteworthy Dates

Exams:

- Midterm Exam #1: Monday, October 12
- Midterm Exam #2: Monday, November 9
- **Final Exam:** Friday, December 11, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

No Class Meetings On:

- Labor Day (Monday, September 7)
- Veteran's Day (Wednesday, November 11)

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Grades and Grading (1 / 7)

Grade Breakdown:

3 Homeworks	=	15%	(total; 3%, 6%, & 6% each)
3 Programs	=	15%	(total; 5% each)
1 Project	=	10%	
5 Quizzes	=	8%	(total; best four of five)
2 Midterm Exams	=	32%	(total; 16% each)
1 Final Exam	=	20%	(comprehensive!)
TOTAL		=	100%

We do not grade on attendance or class participation, but you'll still want to attend regularly

See the full version of the syllabus for all of the details!

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Grades and Grading (2 / 7)

Homeworks

- Due at the start of class **usually one week** after being assigned
 - You may turn in homeworks at most one day late
 - Turning in a homework late will cost you 10% of its points.
- Question types vary depending on the homework
 - #1 is mostly 'how to use the languages'
 - #2 and #3 cover programming language concepts
- Answers will be submitted to Gradescope
- Graded by the TAs within 1–2 weeks
- Regrade requests accepted for one week thereafter

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Grades and Grading (3 / 7)

Programs

- Due at the start of class **two weeks** after being assigned
 - Programs may be turned in as many as four days late.
 - n -day(s)-late deductions: 1%, 4%, 16%, 64%
- Each programming assignment focuses on a single language
- All programs will be submitted via `turnin` on lectura
 - So, test your code on lectura before you submit it!
- Graded by the TAs within two weeks
- Regrade requests accepted for one week thereafter

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Grades and Grading (4 / 7)

Project

- Purpose: Allow you to applied what you know about languages to the study of a language you'd like to learn
- Initially assigned during Week 9 (yes, mid-semester!)
- Will have three due dates:
 - First: Choose your Teammates and Language
 - Second: Language Study and Common Program
 - Third: Creative Program
- Overlaps with Programs 2 & 3, Homework 3, and Exam 2
 - Which is why the project is assigned so early!
- Due at the start of Week 16
 - If practical, third part will be graded via demoing to TAs

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Grades and Grading (5 / 7)

Quizzes

- Purposes:
 - Helps you stay current on the material
 - Gives lower-stakes practice on exam-like questions
 - Reduces the weight of the midterm and final exams
- Dates are pre-scheduled:
 - 9/16, 9/30, 10/28, 11/18, and 12/2
 - Quiz #0 (next Wednesday, September 2) is for practice.
- Your best four of five will count toward your grade
- Graded by the TAs within one week
- Regrade requests accepted for one week thereafter

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Grades and Grading (6 / 7)

Midterm Exams

- Will cover the material since the last midterm
- Short-answer, problem-solving, and code-writing questions
- Electronics **may not** be used on exams
- **I do not give make-up exams!**
*(Why not? Because I'll replace your lowest midterm's score with a copy of your final exam's score if **66.7%** of you do your class evaluations!)*
- Graded by the TAs and me within two class meetings
- Regrade requests accepted for one week via email to me

See the full version of the syllabus for the details!

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Grades and Grading (7 / 7)

Final Exam

- Is comprehensive (covers all topics of the semester)
 - Will have an emphasis on post–second–midterm material
- Short–answer, problem–solving, and code–writing questions
- I review finals of students near the next–higher letter grade
 - Thus, regrade request emails are not be needed
- I may replace your lowest midterm with your final exam score
 - “May?” See the previous slide!
 - Allows you to miss a midterm, or have an off–day

See the full version of the syllabus for the details!

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“Why Should I Read the Full Version of the Syllabus?”

Because:

- There are many more details within it, such as:
 - A complete topic outline, when to expect replies to questions, grading details, applying for disability accommodations, etc.
- It has links to Department, University, and ABoR policies that you should know about, including:
 - Attendance, codes of conduct, FERPA, incompletes, etc.
- Ignorance of the syllabus will not excuse you from its content
- And, importantly, it covers . . .

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Academic Dishonesty (a.k.a., Cheating)

Four words cover it: **Do Your Own Work!**

- All assignments (except perhaps the project) are **individual** assignments, meant to help you learn the class material and to prepare for exams (which are also individual activities!)
 - If you can't do assignments, how will you handle exams?
- If we catch you cheating, the *minimum* sanction is a zero on the assignment and completion of an expensive academic integrity workshop.
- Stuck? The TAs and I are here to help you get unstuck!
 - We have office hours and Piazza
- Not sure that an action is acceptable? **Ask us first!**

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Schedule for Weeks 1 – 3

- This week (Week 1):
 - Today: Basic Class Info (just covered!), Start Topic 1
 - Wednesday: Finish Topic 1
- Next week (Week 2):
 - Monday: Topic 2
 - Wednesday: Start Topic 3, **Assign Homework #1**, **Quiz #0**
- Next next week (Week 3):
 - Monday: No Class (Labor Day)
 - Wednesday: Continue Topic 3