

MIS 304: Intro to Problem Solving and Business Programming Fall 2010 – Unique Numbers: 03935 and 03940

Instructor	Katie Gray – katie.gray@mcombs.utexas.edu Information, Risk and Operations Management (IROM) Department
Class Times	TTh 8:00-9:30AM and TTh 9:30-11:00AM
Class Location	CBA 4.330 / MOD Lab (CBA 5.304) – See schedule
Office	CBA 3.408 (near the south side of wide escalators on 3 rd floor by the Hall of Honors)
Mailbox	IROM Department, CBA 5.202
Phone	(512) 232-8190
Fax	(512) 471-0587
Office Hours	MW 10:00-11:00AM and by appointment (email Katie 2-3 days ahead to make an appointment if you work or have class during office hours)
Teaching Assistant	TBA
TA Office Hours	TBA in Katie's office (CBA 3.408)

Course Objectives

1. Learn to solve business problems using VB.Net.
2. Gain an understanding of the complexity of systems development environments and know when to apply specific programming techniques.

Text and Notes

1. **Required Text:** *Programming in Visual Basic 2010: The Very Beginners Guide*, by Jim McKeown. ISBN 978-0521721110
2. **Class Slides:** Available through Blackboard (<http://courses.utexas.edu>) NOTE: I have combined both sections of this course into one Blackboard site. Login and select **10F INTRO PROB SOLV & PROGRAMMING (03935)**
3. **Visual Studio 2008:** Can be downloaded from <https://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/services/cbacc/coe> or <http://www.microsoft.com/express/downloads/#2008-Visual-Basic>
4. Please note that we are NOT using Visual Studio 2005 or Visual Studio 2010, and you do so at your own risk. The graders will grade assignments in the McCombs labs or on their home machines using **VS 2008**. If you submit a version using VS 2005 or 2010 and we cannot open it, you will receive a ZERO, so double-check your zip file in the McCombs labs.

Required Materials

1. USB Flash drive for saving your files (assignments) in the lab. You do not need an exceptionally large flash drive – 2 GB will be more than sufficient.
2. Internet access for the class website (if working from home)
3. Access to email – make sure that the email listed in Blackboard is one you actually check. I will periodically use Blackboard to send you announcements.
4. WinZip program for submitting assignments. WinZip is installed on the McCombs lab computers. It can be downloaded from <https://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/services/cbacc/coe>
5. CBA account number when we meet in the computer lab.

Visual Basic Consultants

Visual Basic.NET consultants are available in the Millennium Lab (CBA 5.322). Their hours are roughly 11:00AM until 10:00PM. Their job is to help you with VB.NET problems. They are NOT supposed to write your code for you, but help you debug it.

Grades

Assignment	Weight
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Final Project	10%
Individual Homework Projects	30%*
Team Homework Projects	15%
Total	100%

* Your lowest **individual** homework grade will be automatically dropped.

Final Average	Final Letter Grade
93.34 – 100.00	A
89.50 – 93.33	A-
86.67 – 89.49	B+
83.34 – 86.66	B
79.50 – 83.33	B-
76.67 – 79.49	C+
73.34 – 76.66	C
69.50 – 73.33	C-
66.67 – 69.49	D+
63.34 – 66.66	D
59.50 – 63.33	D
0.00 – 59.49	F

Exam Policy

Overview

All exams are scheduled well in advance. You must take your exam with the section in which you are registered, unless you receive specific approval from your instructor. No exam grades will be dropped.

Missing Exams

If you miss an exam, you will be given a zero, period! There are no makeup exams.

Illness

If you are ill, or have another legitimate, non-academic reason for missing an exam, you must contact the instructor by email or phone BEFORE the time the exams start. **If you contact the instructor AFTER the exam, it is considered missing the exam.**

Individual and Team Homework Grading Policy

Overview

Homework will be graded on a 100 point scale. You must follow the class form and programming standards on every homework assignment. It is possible to have a project that works, but does not make an A. You will lose points if you fail to follow instructions carefully. **Small details matter in programming, and, therefore, matter in your homework.** If you do not turn in your homework, you will receive a zero. See Program Grading Criteria below.

Turning in Work

Turn in your VB.NET homework through Blackboard's Assignments page. Assignments are due on Blackboard at the start of the class period. After that, **no homework will be accepted!** See the Course Documents section on Blackboard for detailed instructions.

Please note that in the past, many students have "thought" they turned in their homework, but didn't actually submit, or they turned in the wrong version. Please be CAREFUL when submitting your homework on Blackboard. **Any errors in submission will cause you to get a ZERO!** Please do not ask me to make an exception for you. If I make one for you, I have to make it for everyone. This makes it impossible for students to get their grades back in a timely manner. In the "real world," consequences for not turning work in correctly are much more severe than a ding to your grade. I've heard from many professionals that if they failed to turn in a bid and lost business for the company, they would be fired. I realize that mistakes happen, but you need to act like a professional and accept the consequences. This policy is not flexible. ALWAYS double-check your submissions.

Regrades

I strongly believe that following up after your exams and assignments have been graded reinforces learning and helps you to understand both your strengths and weakness with course material. Therefore, I encourage you meet with me to discuss your grade. However, you **MUST** do so within ONE WEEK of the day the grades are returned or posted on Blackboard. ***Once the one-week window has passed, your grade for that assignment is permanent.***

Team Homework

Teams will consist of two class members. If you fail to keep up with your teammate, you will be removed from the team and will be given a zero for the homework.

Program Grading Criteria

All submitted programs must meet the following requirements. Consult the MIS 304 Software Standards document for more detail.

1. Program must work correctly
 - a. It should complete all functions described in the individual programs description
 - b. Option Strict must be turned **ON**
 - c. Student's name must show on the VB form (in a label)
2. Program must contain header
 - a. Programmer(s)
 - b. Assignment Number & Name
 - c. Due Date
 - d. Program Description
3. Program must contain comments and documentation
 - a. Stated in "English," rather than VB.NET code
 - b. Variable names should be descriptive
 - c. Applied to blocks of code
4. Programs must be turned in on time – at the beginning of class on the day they are due.
5. Programs must be named correctly – The entire folder with your VB project in it **MUST** be named LastName_FirstName_HWX, where X represents the homework number. You will then zip the entire folder, the zip file **MUST** be named LastName_FirstName_HWX.zip. You will lose 5 points on every assignment that is named incorrectly.
6. Programs **MUST** be zipped with a **.zip** extension. The graders will **NOT** be able to open files with a .zipx or .rar extension. If we can't open it, we can't grade it. If we can't grade it, you get a zero. Period.

Classroom Participation

You are expected to participate in the classroom discussion by answering questions, asking questions, raising issues, and making observations.

Collaboration and Dishonesty

Students are encouraged to discuss the assignments with one another and to seek help from the instructors and lab proctors. However, each student must complete his or her own individual homework assignments independently. Copying another person's program (with or without their permission), or collaboration with other students to the extent that the result is in fact multiple submissions of one program rather than independent work is subject to the University scholastic dishonesty policy. By teaching this course, I have agreed to observe all of the faculty responsibilities described in that document. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe the entire student responsibilities described in that document. You should refer to the Student Judicial Services website at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

Disabilities

If you require special accommodations, you must obtain a letter that documents your disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to me at the beginning of the semester so we can discuss the accommodations you need. No later than five business days before an exam, you should remind me of any testing accommodations you will need. For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>.

Privacy Regarding the Use of Blackboard

A password-protected class site on Blackboard is available for this course. Syllabi, handouts, assignments and other resources are types of information that may be available within this site. Site activities may include exchanging e-mail, engaging in class discussions and chats, and exchanging files. In addition, class e-mail rosters will be a component of the sites. Students who do not want their names included in these electronic class rosters must restrict their directory information in the Office of the Registrar, Main Building, Room 1. For information on restricting directory information see: <http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi03-04/app/appc09.html>.

University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Use of Email for Official Correspondence to Students

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your email for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your email address. You should check your email regularly and frequently to stay current with course communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating your email address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

Religious Holidays

By UT Austin Policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of other class instructors.
- Do not re-enter the building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department or the Fire Prevention Services office

MIS 304 Course Schedule

Wk	Cl	Day/Date	Location	Class	Readings	Deliverables
1	1	Th Aug 26	CBA 4.330	Introduction to MIS 304	Chapter 1	Buy Textbook and Flash Drive
2	2	Tu Aug 31	MOD Lab	Introduction to Visual Studio		
	3	Th Sep 2	CBA 4.330	Variables and Constants	Chapter 2	Homework 1: Lemonade Stand
3	4	Tu Sep 7	MOD Lab	Homework 2 Example		
	5	Th Sep 9	CBA 4.330	Type Conversion, Errors and New Logic	Chapters 3 and 4	Homework 2: MPG (Page 60)
4	6	Tu Sep 14	MOD Lab	Homework 3 Example		
	7	Th Sep 16	CBA 4.330	Ifs and Select Case	Chapter 5	Homework 3: Test Scores(Page 136)
5	8	Tu Sep 21	MOD Lab	Homework 4 Example		
	9	Th Sep 23	CBA 4.330	Exam 1		Homework 4: TBD
6	10	Tu Sep 28	MOD Lab	Homework 5 Example		
	11	Th Sep 30	CBA 4.330	Loops, Listboxes and Scroll Bars	Chapter 6	Homework 5: TBD
7	12	Tu Oct 5	MOD Lab	Homework 6 Example		
	13	Th Oct 7	CBA 4.330	Listboxes and Databases	Chapter 8	Homework 6: TBD
8	14	Tu Oct 12	MOD Lab	Homework 7 Example		
	15	Th Oct 14	CBA 4.330	Subs & Functions and Debugging	Chapter 7	Homework 7: VB Autos Database
9	16	Tu Oct 19	MOD Lab	Homework 8 Example		
	17	Th Oct 21	CBA 4.330	File Input and Output	Chapter 9	Homework 8: TBD
10	18	Tu Oct 26	MOD Lab	Homework 9 Example		
	19	Th Oct 28	CBA 4.330	Exam 2		Homework 9: TBD
11	20	Tu Nov 2	MOD Lab	Homework 10 Example		
	21	Th Nov 4	CBA 4.330	Arrays and Structures	Chapter 10	Homework 10: TBD
12	22	Tu Nov 9	MOD Lab	Homework 11 Example		
	23	Th Nov 11	CBA 4.330	Object Oriented Programming (OOP)	Chapter 12	Homework 11: TBD
13	24	Tu Nov 16	MOD Lab	Homework 12 Example		
	25	Th Nov 18	CBA 4.330	Multi-form Projects	Chapter 11	Homework 12: TBD
14	26	Tu Nov 23	MOD Lab	Exam 3		
		Th Nov 25		No Class - Thanksgiving		
15	27	Tu Nov 30	MOD Lab	Project Review		
	28	Th Dec 2	CBA 4.330	Project Review & Course Wrap-Up		
16		M Dec 6				Team Project Due by NOON!