

**FS 101**  
**Software Everywhere**  
**Fall 2013**

**Syllabus**

### Course Instructor

Dr. Gregory M. Kapfhammer  
Office Location: Alden Hall 108  
Office Phone: +1 814-332-2880  
Email: [gkapfham@allegheny.edu](mailto:gkapfham@allegheny.edu)  
Twitter: @GregKapfhammer  
Web Site: <http://www.cs.allegheny.edu/sites/gkapfham/>

### Instructor's Office Hours

- Monday: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (30 minute time slots)
- Tuesday: 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm (15 minute time slots)
- Wednesday: 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm (15 minute time slots)
- Thursday: 9:00 am – 10:00 am (15 minute time slots) *and*  
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm (15 minute time slots)
- Friday: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (10 minute time slots) *and*  
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm (5 minute time slots)

To schedule a meeting with me during my office hours, please visit my Web site and click the “Schedule” link in the top right-hand corner. Now, you can browse my office hours or schedule an appointment by clicking the correct link and then reserving an open time slot.

### Course Meeting Schedule

Discussion, Presentations, and Group Work: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11:00 am – 11:50 am  
Final Examination: Tuesday, December 17 at 9:00 am

### Course Catalogue Description

An examination of the pervasive nature of computer software and the impact that computer technology has on society. Drawing on articles from the popular press and the computer science literature, this course examines the technical and ethical challenges that face a culture that regularly uses computer software applications. Sample topics include the Internet, Google, online music, open source software, electronic commerce, social networking, and data mining. Coursework emphasizes the development of effective oral and written communication skills with a focus on description, summary, and critical thinking.

## Course Objectives

Beyond the purpose of integrating new students into the intellectual life of Allegheny College, the goal of this course is to ensure that students are able to effectively write and speak. Using the theme of “Software Everywhere” as an ends towards achieving these goals, students will learn to write and speak in a variety of styles and on a multitude of subjects. Students will also find out about the resources available to and rules and regulations upheld by students at Allegheny College. Finally, students will learn how to competently interact with both their adviser and other professors.

## Performance Objectives

At the end of this course, students will know how to manage their time in a fashion that will ensure their academic success at Allegheny College. Members of the class should be able to confidently write and revise high-quality papers of less than ten pages and practice and give interesting, exciting, and accurate presentations of no more than five minutes. Students should know how to both participate in and lead class discussions, respectfully debate their peers, actively participate in group work, and interact with the course instructor during both class and advising sessions.

## Required Textbooks

*A Writer's Reference*. Nancy Sommers. Seventh Edition, ISBN-10: 0312601433, ISBN-13: 978-0312601430, 245 pages, 2010.

*They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein. Second Edition, ISBN-10: 039393361X, ISBN-13: 978-0393933611, 245 pages, 2009.

*BUGS in Writing: A Guide to Debugging Your Prose*. Lyn Dupré. Second Edition, ISBN-10: 020137921X, ISBN-13: 978-0201379211, 704 pages, 1998.

Students wanting to hone their technical writing skills are encouraged to consult the following book.

*Writing for Computer Science*. Justin Zobel. Second Edition, ISBN-10: 1852338024, ISBN-13: 978-1852338022, 270 pages, 2004.

Along with reading the required books, you will be asked to study many additional articles from a wide variety of conference proceedings, journals, and the popular press.

## Class Policies

### Grading

The grade that a student receives in this class will be based on the following categories. All percentages are approximate and it is possible for the assigned percentages to change during the academic semester if a need to do so presents itself.

Class Participation	10%
Instructor Meetings	10%
Short Writing Assignments	40%
Long Writing Assignments	15%
Presentation Assignments	15%
Final Examination	10%

These grading categories have the following definitions:

- *Class Participation:* All students are required to actively participate during all of the class sessions. Your participation will take forms such as answering questions about the required reading assignments, responding to comments made by members of the class, asking constructive questions of your group members, giving presentations, and leading a discussion session. A student will receive an interim and final grade for this category.
- *Instructor Meetings:* All students are required to meet with the course instructor during office hours for a total of sixty minutes during the Fall 2013 semester. These meetings must be scheduled through the course instructor's reservation system and documented on a meeting record that you submit on the day of the final examination. Thirty minutes of these meetings must be devoted to an advising session during which the student will plan their schedule for the upcoming Spring 2014 academic semester. Students must schedule their advising meeting no later than Friday, September 13, 2013; after picking a time for this meeting students should submit printed evidence of its existence to the course instructor.
- *Short and Long Writing Assignments:* Throughout this class, students will write a wide variety of short and long writing assignments. While all assignments will be posted on the course Web site, students are responsible for submitting a printed and signed version of their assignment at the start of the class session on which the assignment is due. To ensure that they can turn in a high quality paper, students must start writing and revising these assignments and seeking feedback from the course instructor well in advance of the submission deadline.
- *Presentation Assignments:* Students will give several in-class presentations during this semester. While the assignment sheet will state the days on which the presentations will be given, the order in which students give their presentations will be randomly generated and revealed incrementally. Unless there are severe extenuating circumstances, a failing grade will be given to students who are not in class on the day that they are invited to give their presentation.
- *Final Examination:* The final examination is a three-hour cumulative test. By enrolling in this course, students agree that, unless there are severe extenuating circumstances, they will take the final examination at the time stated on the first page of the syllabus. The final examination ensures that students have a basic understanding of both the software-related topics and the writing and speaking skills that were the focus of the course.

### **Assignment Submission**

All assignments will have a given due date. The printed version of the assignment is to be turned in at the beginning of the class on that due date. Late assignments will be accepted for up to one week past the assigned due date with a 10% penalty. All late assignments must be submitted at the beginning of the class that is scheduled one week after the given due date. Unless special arrangements are made with the instructor, no assignments will be accepted after the late deadline.

### **Attendance**

It is mandatory for all students to attend class. If you will not be able to attend a class session, then please see the instructor at least one week in advance to describe your situation. Students who miss more than five unexcused classes will have their final grade in the course reduced by one letter grade. Students who miss more than ten unexcused classes will automatically fail the course.

## **Class Preparation**

In order to minimize confusion and maximize learning, students must invest time to prepare for class discussions and lectures. During the class periods, the course instructor will often pose demanding questions that could require group discussion, the creation of a program or test suite, a vote on a thought-provoking issue, or a group presentation. Only students who have prepared for class by reading the assigned material and reviewing the current assignments will be able to effectively participate in these discussions. More importantly, only prepared students will be able to acquire the knowledge and skills that are needed to be successful in both this course and subsequent courses. In order to help students remain organized and effectively prepare for classes, the course instructor will maintain a class schedule with reading assignments and presentation slides. During the class sessions students will also be required to download and use programs, search the Web, modify the course Web site, and complete writing assignments. Students who are not comfortable with using Web browsers, document editors, and presentation programs should see the course instructor.

## **Email**

Using your Allegheny College email address, I will sometimes send out class announcements about matters such as assignment clarifications or changes in the schedule. It is your responsibility to check your email at least once a day and to ensure that you can reliably send and receive emails.

## **Disability Services**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disability Services at 332-2898. Disability Services is part of the Learning Commons and is located in Pelletier Library. Please do this as soon as possible to ensure that approved accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

## **Honor Code**

The Academic Honor Program that governs the entire academic program at Allegheny College is described in the Allegheny Course Catalogue. The Honor Program applies to all work that is submitted for academic credit or to meet non-credit requirements for graduation at Allegheny College. This includes all work assigned for this class (e.g., examinations, writing assignments, and presentations). All students who have enrolled in the College will work under the Honor Program. Each student who has matriculated at the College has acknowledged the following pledge:

I hereby recognize and pledge to fulfill my responsibilities, as defined in the Honor Code, and to maintain the integrity of both myself and the College community as a whole.

## **Welcome to an Adventure in Software, Writing, and Speaking**

In reference to software, Frederick P. Brooks, Jr. wrote in *The Mythical Man Month*, “The magic of myth and legend has come true in our time.” Since software is so pervasive and influential in our society and writing and speaking are so important, I invite you to pursue with enthusiasm and vigor this adventure in software, writing, speaking, and the Allegheny College community.