TIME TABLE: 39523/39524 MWF 12:00PM – 12:50PM in Taft Hall 219.

PREREQUISITES: Grade of C or better in MCS 401; or consent of the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR: Jan Verschelde, Office: 1210 SEO, Phone: 312 996 4609. Email: jan@math.uic.edu. URL: http://www.math.uic.edu/~jan.

OFFICE HOURS: At 10AM on Monday, 11AM on Wednesday, and 2PM on Friday, I am sure to be in my office; but feel free to stop by if you have any questions. We can also make an appointment.

MCS 481 SITE: See www.math.uic.edu/~jan/mcs481.html for notes, project descriptions, etc.


HOMEWORK: with every lecture three exercises are suggested. It is recommended that you try to solve these suggested exercises. Solutions to selected problems will be collected. Homework counts for 100 of the total 700 points.

CGAL is free and open source software, available at www.cgal.org.

PROJECTS: Three projects will be assigned during the semester, worth a total of 200 points. Students may opt out of the exams and work on a computer project of their own research interest. Although some familiarity with C++ is assumed, the projects will involve mainly exploratory computations with CGAL, rather than intensive computer programming.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: No student shall claim or submit the work of another as ones own. You may discuss homework and projects with others, but must finish it and write the solution yourself without looking at others’ work. Allowing someone to copy from you is also punishable. When working in teams, you must contribute your fair share.

EXAMS: During the semester, there will be two exams worth 100 points each. There will be no makeup exams given. The final exam counts for 200 points. If an exam is missed, then greater weight will be placed on the final exam, especially on the material covered on the missing exam. Students may replace the final exam with a research computer project combined with a written technical report.

GRADING SCALE: 90 – 100% = A, 80 – 89% = B, 70 – 79% = C, 60 – 69% = D, 0 – 59% = E.

Your course grade is based on a total of 700 points: 100 from the homework, 200 from the projects, 200 from the exams during the semester, and 200 from the final exam.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC).

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Any changes in this syllabus or in the scheduling of exams and other assignments will be announced during class meetings. We will also address the topics you need to implement the projects.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES:
Monday 21 January : Martin Luther King Day. No classes.
Friday 25 January : last day to register, last day to withdraw without W grade
Friday 22 March : last day for optional late drop
Monday 25 – Friday 29 March : Spring Break. No classes.
Monday 7 May : 8:00PM - 10:00PM, final exam, room to be announced.

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