Required Text: We will be using an online textbook for this class, which also incorporates interactive exercises. Use of this online book is required, because part of your grade will come from those interactive exercises. Instructions for accessing the book are on the course web site.

2nd required text: A Gentle Introduction to Computer Programming Fundamentals by S. Shaffer. You can get this from Amazon for $4.95. It is only available in a Kindle Edition, but you can get a free Kindle reader for almost any device. The Zybook textbook is very good, but it is a little light on introductions and explanations. My book (made into an inexpensive edition for this course) has the "gentle" introduction that most students need. In addition, the book contains the answers to some of the exercises.

GRADING ELEMENTS

Zybook exercises: [300 points] The Zybook textbook is interactive; you need to answer all the questions as you move through the text. This includes specific problems that I have created at the end of each chapter. You can keep trying those questions/problems until you get the right answer, so just keep at them until you get the right answer. No reason not to get all the credit here! These exercises must be completed by the due date shown in the calendar. To get credit, you will need to take a screen shot of the “My activity” (a.k.a. “Activity dashboard”) page from Zybooks, showing that you’ve completed that section, and upload it to the drop box by the due date/time, as shown below (for example). Also, there is a video available to show you how to access this page and take a screen shot.

We will be checking that these submissions match the Zybooks reality; do not fabricate the results – this is a violation of academic integrity (see below). Late textbook submissions lose 10% per day; be sure to submit the screen shot on time! Once you submit your activity for a particular week, you can not resubmit for credit.

Note: Zybooks has its own point system; in the end I will normalize the points into a 300 point scale. So, don’t focus on the points but instead on the percent completed. For example, in the screen shot shown below, there is 9% divided by 12 chapters = 1.9%; 0.75% of 300 is 2.25 points out of 300. (As the semester progresses, of course you will be completing more of the book than is in this example!) The chapter called “Programming Window” does not count.
Sample screen shot of the “My activity” (a.k.a. “Activity dashboard”) page from Zybooks

**Labs:** [20 points each x 15 labs = 300 points] Labs are more complex problems for you to solve each week. You must submit the solution by the due date/time because I will be posting solutions to the labs the next day. If you submit the project late, the best grade you can get is 50%.

**Final Exam:** [300 points] The final exam is given during final exam week. You will need to arrange for a proctor for this exam; more details on how to do this will be posted. The final exam will have three programming problems: easy (35%), medium (35%) and hard (30%). The final exam is worth one third of your semester grade; if you do not do the book work and projects yourself, you will not do well on the final and may not do well in the course. If you stay engaged in the course and follow along you should do well in the final exam.

**Letter grades:**

- 94% and above: A
- 90%-93.999999%: A-
- 88%-89.999999%: B+
- 84%-87.999999%: B
- 80%-83.999999%: B-

- 78%-79.999999%: C+
- 70%-77.999999%: C
- 60%-69.999999%: D
- 0%-59.999999%: F

**NOTE:** Do not rely on ANGEL to calculate your grade. Only consider ANGEL as the place where your grades are stored. ANGEL does not always calculate your grade properly.

Do not "hard code" your answers: When your program runs, it is possible to just have it output the exact characters that are being asked for in order to "match" the expected output. Except for in chapter 1, this does not count as a valid program. Your program must generate the output based on the requirements given, not just "spit out" the expected output. This will become clearer as you get experience with the course.
Course outline:
Week 1: Getting started -- part 1
Week 2: Getting started -- Part 2
Week 3: Variables and assignments
Week 4: More about variables
Week 5: Conditional operations -- Part 1
Week 6: Conditional operations -- Part 2
Week 7: More on conditional operations
Week 8: Loops -- Part 1
Week 9: Loops -- Part 2
Week 10: More complex problems (with loops)
Week 11: Functions
Week 12: More about functions
Week 13: Arrays
FALL BREAK
Week 14: More on arrays
Week 15: Review and prepare for the final
FINAL EXAM

Accessibility Statement: Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University’s educational programs. Every Penn State campus has an office for students with disabilities. The Student Disability Resources Web site provides contact information for every Penn State campus. For further information, please visit the Student Disability Resources Web site.

In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with an accommodation letter. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. You must follow this process for every semester that you request accommodations.

Academic Integrity Statement: The University defines academic integrity as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students’ dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts (refer to Senate Policy 49-20). Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University’s Office of Student Conduct for possible further disciplinary sanctions (refer to Senate Policy G-9).

Statement on Nondiscrimination & Harassment (Policy AD42) – The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. You may direct inquiries to the Office of Affirmative Action, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY. For reference to the full policy (Policy AD42: Statement on Nondiscrimination and Harassment):

http://guru.psu.edu/policies/ad85.html