

Syllabus: COMP 125

Visual Information Processing

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

Schedule: M/W/F 12:35PM - 1:25PM

Location: Dumbach Hall - Room 125

Instructor: Melanie Cornelius

mcornelius@luc.edu

Office hours: By appointment, M/W 10:30-11:30 AM - [Calendly](#)

Course Description

In short, during this course, you will learn to use a programming language, and namely to depict ideas visually.

Official Description: This course, intended primarily for non-majors, provides an introduction to computer programming using a language well-suited to beginning programmers and practical applications. Outcomes include: Understanding of computer mechanisms for representing and analyzing numerical and logical information and the power of programmability; practical ability to implement useful computing tools.

Our Description: This is a programming course for beginners. During this semester, we will cover all of the basics needed to depict information visually using Javascript and a visualization library called P5.js. No prior experience with programming is necessary.

Grades

We will be using a standard four-point grading scale (see right).

Grades will be curved and are broken down according to:

- 10% - In-class attendance
- 25% - Labs
- 20% - Project
- 20% - Midterm I Exam
- 25% - Midterm II Exam

Course Weekly Schedule

This schedule is subject to change; changes will be announced in-class and on Piazza.

- Programming: motivation and basics (3 weeks)
- Programming and data: essential skills (3 weeks)
- Midterm Week: Feb 23-27
- Spring Break: Mar 2-6
- Programming: structure and design (2-3 weeks)
- Visual effects and interactivity (2 weeks)
- Project design and implementation (2-3 weeks)

Structure

Letter	%	GP
A	95 – 100%	4.0
A-	90 – 95%	3.7
B+	87 – 90%	3.3
B	84 – 87%	3.0
B-	80 – 84%	2.7
C+	77 – 80%	2.3
C	74 – 77%	2.0
C-	70 – 74%	1.7
D+	67 – 70%	1.3
D	64 – 67%	1.0
D-	60 – 64%	0.7
F	< 60%	0.0

We will use a lecture-lecture-lab structure. Mondays and Wednesdays will be lectures with one short quiz and some interactive components, and Fridays will be an entirely interactive lab session.

You can expect minimal homework in this course, but attendance is mandatory.

Labs will be due 11:59 PM AoE on Fridays. Since most work will be done in-class, and since attendance is mandatory, there is a limited late-work policy. Please reach out to the instructor ASAP for any extenuating circumstances.

Policies

Exams: We will have two exams during the semester, one midterm (in the week of Feb 23-27) the week before spring break and one final during the standard institution final's week (in the week of April 27 - May 1). The format of the exams will be reviewed in-class.

Breaks: We will not have assigned material during breaks in this course. For the Spring semester, this includes spring break week as well as Easter break.

Office Hours: Office space is limited, so please reach out to schedule a meeting ahead of time. The instructor's schedule is posted to [Calendly](#). Please provide at least 24 hours notice.

Textbook: We will roughly follow the information in: McCarthy, Lauren, Casey Reas, and Ben Fry. Make: Getting Started with P5.js, 2015.

Digital copies of this book are available (free of charge) via LUC Libraries.

However, given the age of this textbook, we will regularly supplement with additional resources. These will be discussed both in lecture as well as posted to Sakai.

Communication: We will be making use of Piazza for discussions in this course. You should have received an email inviting you to the COMP 125 Piazza page - please reach out to the instructor if not. You are also welcome to reach out by email (mcornelius@luc.edu).

Late Work: The majority of work in this course is done during lecture or lab. Therefore, the policy on late work is fairly limited. In the case of extenuating circumstances, students should feel free to reach out to the instructor.

In short, late submissions in this course are handled with the adage: *life happens*.

In the interest of independent responsibility, all students are permitted four no-questions-asked "late-credits". When used, each late-credit applies a 24-hour extension. These cannot be used on exams, but they can be freely applied to other deadlines unless specifically otherwise stated. Late-credits will be tracked using the gradebook on Sakai, and students wishing to use one of their late-credits need only inform the instructor (no explanation needed) *prior to submission*. Please also indicate on the assignment submission that a late-credit was used.

Note, in the case of extenuating circumstances, reasonable accommodation will be made outside the late-credit policy.

Academic Honesty: This class has a zero-tolerance policy on academic dishonesty. All material submitted must be the individual's own work. Labs, quizzes, exams, and discussions that are submitted and determined to not be the individual work of the submitter will be assigned a zero grade. University policy requires academic dishonesty to be reported to the university.

This is a serious matter: please, do not submit work that is not your own.

It is easy to catch, it will net a zero grade, and it has to be reported to the university - but more than that, doing so is disrespectful to yourself, the instructor, and to the university alike. It's not worth it.

Outside sources, such as other students, online answers, or material generated by LLMs (AI), are not considered individual work. Further discussion on this topic will be explored in class. For any questions, please contact the instructor.

Student Support

Students are urged to contact the instructor should they have questions concerning course materials and procedures. If you have any special circumstance that may have some impact on your course work, please let me know so we can establish a plan for assignment completion. If you require assignment accommodations, please contact me early in the semester so that arrangements can be made with the Student Accessibility Center: www.luc.edu/sac/

Under Title IX, a federal civil rights law, Loyola is obligated to ensure a safe and inclusive academic environment free from sex-based discrimination. At Loyola, the Office for Equity & Compliance ("OEC") is the University's Title IX office and coordinates the University's response to reports and complaints of sexual misconduct (as well as discrimination of any kind) to ensure all students' rights are protected.

Links to Resources:

- Sakai: Student resource page for Sakai: <https://loyola.screenstepslive.com/>
- Academic calendar: https://www.luc.edu/academics/schedules/fall/academic_calendar
- Final Exam Schedules: https://www.luc.edu/academics/schedules/spring/exam_schedule
- Wellness center: <https://www.luc.edu/wellness/>
- Special accommodation and policies: Student Accessibility Center: <https://www.luc.edu/sac/>
- Student Support Services: <https://www.luc.edu/online/resources/studentsupportservices/>
- Tutoring Center: <https://www.luc.edu/tutoring>
- Notice of Reporting Obligations and Student Title IX Rights
- Religious Holiday Observance Attendance Statement:
<https://www.luc.edu/academicaffairs/stories/archive/honoringstudentreligiousobservances.shtm>