CMSC201
Computer Science I for Majors

Midterm Information

Exam Rules

- The midterm is closed everything:
  - No books
  - No notes
  - No cheat sheets
  - No laptops
  - No calculators
  - No phones

Exam Rules

- Place your bag under your desk/chair
  - NOT on the seat next to you

- You may have on your desk:
  - Pencils, erasers
    - You **must** use a pencil, not a pen
  - Water bottle
  - **UMBC ID**
    - You **must** bring your UMBC ID with you to the exam! We won't accept your test without it.

Exam Rules

- Your TA or instructor may ask you to move at any time during the test
  - This doesn't mean we think you're cheating

- That being said, **DO NOT CHEAT!!!**
- Cheating will be dealt with severely and immediately
  - There will be no retakes or partial credits

Exam Seating

- Space allowing, you will sit every other seat, so that you are not next to another student

- Your instructor may have specific instructions for their lecture hall seating arrangements

- Your exam will happen in your regular classroom – arrive early if possible!

Exam Format

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Exam Format

- Questions will be similar to those on the review worksheet

- Exam questions are less "tricky" than the worksheet, but the types of questions are generally the same
  - You have more time and resources available to you when working on the worksheet, so the questions are meant to be more challenging

Exam Format

- Multiple Choice

- True/False

- Code evaluation
  - Given a few lines of code, what does it do?

- Debugging
  - Find and fix errors in 10-20 lines of code

Exam Format

- Programming problems
  - Given a problem, write code to solve it

- Tips for programming problems:
  - <u>Don't</u> jump straight into coding
  - Read the question <u>carefully</u>
    - Note the specific requirements and restrictions
  - <u>Plan out</u> what your code needs to do

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Exam Content

Exam Content

- Everything we've covered so far!

- You should be especially familiar with:
  - Variables

  - Evaluating expressions

  - Control structures
    - While loops
      - Including sentinel loops
    - If/Elif/Else

Exam Content

- You should be especially familiar with:
  - Debugging
    - Syntax and Logic Errors
  - Input and Output
  - Constants
  - Lists
    - Indexing, traversing, appending

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Exam Advice

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Exam Advice

- When you first get the exam…

- Write down your name
  - Make sure your name is **_legible_** and on the line
- Circle your discussion section
- Read the Academic Integrity agreement
  - Sign your name underneath

Exam Advice

- When the exam starts...

- Flip through the exam and get a feel for the length of it and the types of questions
  - The programming problems are the last questions on the exam – don't leave them until the last minute!

Exam Advice

- Most questions have partial credit
  - You should at least <u>attempt</u> every problem
  - If you don't know how to do one part of a problem, skip it and do the rest
  - You can use comments instead of code (like "`# get user input`") if you know <u>what</u> you want a piece of code to do but not <u>how</u> to do it

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Exam Advice

- After you are done coding the programming problems, try "running" your program with some input and making sure it works the way you think it does

  - Trace (on paper or in your head) what the code is doing and what paths it is taking (loops, decisions)

- If a problem is unclear or you think there is an error on the exam, raise your hand

Advice and Other Info

Review Worksheet Answers

- Answers to the worksheet will be provided prior to the first exam
  - DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE ANSWERS COME OUT TO WORK ON THIS

- Work with other students on the review sheet!
- TAs will be available in ITE 240 during their discussion hours the week of the exam
  - They won't just give you the answers, though

- You'll understand and retain the information better if you solve the problems yourself

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Advice on How to Study

- Just looking over the slides won't be enough!
  - Try some of the live-coding exercises and practice examples available in the slides
  - Redo old labs or homeworks (without looking at them first!)

- Form study groups with other students
  - Create and trade possible exam questions

- Do the entire review sheet (<u>especially</u> the hard parts!)
  - Check your answers are correct by using Python, checking the notes, or talking to other students

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Out-Of-Class Reviews

- Reviews will be held outside of class by the TAs on October 1st and 2nd
  - Exact times and locations will be put up on the course website once decided

- The TAs will only bring their brains and a whiteboard marker, so <u>come prepared</u> with questions to answer and problems to solve