South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: COSC 1301

Department: Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science

Discipline: Computer Science

Course Number: COSC 1301

Course Title: Introduction to Computing

Available Formats: hybrid

Campuses: Levelland

Course Description: Overview of computer systems—hardware, operating systems, the Internet, and application software including word processing, spreadsheets, presentation graphics, and databases. Current topics such as the effect of computers on society, and the history and use of computers in business, educational, and other interdisciplinary settings are also studied. This course is not intended to count toward a student's major field of study in business or computer science.

Prerequisite: Successful completion with a grade of 'C' or better in MATH 1314

Credit: 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

Textbook: No textbook is needed.

Supplies: You must have access to a laptop or desktop where you can write programs, watch online lectures, and complete homework.

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: None

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:
- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
- **Empirical and quantitative competency skills**—to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts, resulting in informed conclusions

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course and receiving a passing grade, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the fundamentals of computing infrastructure components: hardware, application software, operating systems, and data communications systems.
2. Delineate and discuss societal issues related to computing, including the guiding principles of professional and ethical behavior.
3. Demonstrate the ability to create and use documents, spreadsheets, presentations and databases in order to communicate and store information as well as to support problem solving.
4. Describe the need and ways to maintain security in a computing environment.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: A pre- and post-test questions will be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester

Course Evaluation: There will be departmental final exam questions given by all instructors.

Attendance/Student Engagement Policy: Attendance and engagement are the most critical activities for success in this course. The instructor maintains records of the student's attendance and submission of assignments throughout the semester. The student is expected to attend at least eighty percent (80%) of the **total** class meetings **and** submit at least eighty percent (80%) of the **total** class assignments to have the best chance of success. If the student fails to meet these minimum requirements, the instructor <u>may</u> remove the student from the class with an X, upon their discretion, to help the student from harming their GPA. If the student can not receive an X, the instructor will assign an F.

Absence/Missed Assignments Due to Medical Condition:
A doctor's note is required and will be used by SPC to verify your absence with the health facility. If you miss an assignment due to a medical condition, you must contact your instructor as soon as possible and complete the missed work within one week of the return date listed by the doctor. Failure to do so will result in a grade of zero.

Absence/Missed Assignments Due to SPC-Approved Absence:
If you miss an assignment due to an SPC-approved absence, you must provide a letter from SPC or the professor associated with the event. For example, if the absence is for a sporting event and the excuse letter is from a professor, include their contact information for verification.

You must notify your instructor at least 24 hours prior to missing the assignment and complete the missed work no later than one week from the original due date. Failure to meet these requirements will result in a grade of zero for the missed assignment.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail-order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain an unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect from the student and the instructor. Neither the instructor nor the student should be subject to others' rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning behavior. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

South Plains College policies concerning diversity, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, and Campus Concealed Carry Statements can be found here: https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/.

South Plains College policies, return to campus plan, and protocols regarding COVID-19 can be found here: https://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/covid19-faq.php.

SPC Bookstore Price Match Guarantee Policy: If you find a lower price on a textbook, the South Plains College bookstore will match that price. The difference will be given to the student on a bookstore gift certificate! The gift certificate can be spent on anything in the store.

If students have already purchased textbooks and then find a better price later, the South Plains College bookstore will price match through the first week of the semester. The student must have a copy of the receipt and the book has to be in stock at the competition at the time of the price match.

The South Plains College bookstore will happily price match BN.com & books on Amazon noted as *ships from and sold by Amazon.com*. Online marketplaces such as *Other Sellers* on Amazon, Amazon's Warehouse Deals, *fulfilled by* Amazon, BN.com Marketplace, and peer-to-peer pricing are not eligible. They will price match the exact textbook, in the same edition and format, including all accompanying materials, like workbooks and CDs.

A textbook is only eligible for price match if it is in stock on a competitor's website at time of the price match request. Additional membership discounts and offers cannot be applied to the student's refund.

Price matching is only available on in-store purchases. Digital books, access codes sold via publisher sites, rentals and special orders are not eligible. Only one price match per title per customer is allowed.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

SPC Tutors
Tutoring is FREE for all currently enrolled students. Make an appointment or drop in for help at any SPC location or online! Visit the link below to learn more about how to book an appointment, view the tutoring schedule, get to know the tutors, and view tutoring locations.
http://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php

Online Tutoring
You receive 180 free minutes of Brainfuse tutoring each week, with hours resetting every Monday morning. To access Brainfuse, log in to Blackboard, select Tools from the left-hand menu, and click the Brainfuse link. You will be automatically logged in for free tutoring.
Tutor Availability:
- Monday–Thursday: 8:00 PM – 8:00 AM
- Friday 6:00 PM – Monday 8:00 AM

For questions regarding tutoring, please email tutoring@southplainscollege.edu or call 806-716-224

Instructor Course Information: Spring 2026

Time: Section 001: M/W 01:00 PM - 02:15 PM (Mondays Face to Face, Wednesdays Online)
Section 002: T/Th 09:30 AM - 10:45 AM (Tuesdays Face to Face, Thursdays Online)

Course Title: Introduction to Computing and Logic
Instructor: Dr. Don Pathirage.
Room: Levelland Math Building 125B
Email: dpathirage@southplainscollege.edu

Office Hours:

Mon (F2F)	Tues (F2F)	Weds (Online)	Thurs (Online)	Friday (Online)
12:00PM-1:00PM	12:00PM-1:00PM 3:30PM -5:00PM	12:00PM-1:00PM	12:00PM-1:00PM 3:45PM-5:00PM	12:00PM-1:30PM Or by appointment

Assignment Policy: All homework due dates, as well as quiz and exam dates, are listed on the last page of the syllabus. Homework not submitted by the due date, or failure to attend class on a scheduled quiz or exam day, will result in a zero for the missed work. If a student has already taken an exam, homework, or a lab, they will not be allowed to make it up under any circumstances. All assignments have been given a *Due Date*. No assignments will be accepted late.

Grading Policy: There will be two major exams and a final exam. All exams/quizzes **must** be taken in person. No student will be exempt from the final. The final average will be computed as follows:

Two Major Exams:	40%
Final Exam:	20%
Attendance	10%
Homework & Quizzes:	30%

The numeric grade scale spans from 100 to 0, and the letter grades will translate to: 100-90 = A, 89 – 80 = B, 79 -70 = C, 69 – 60 = D, 59 – 0 = F. All tests will count towards the final grade, i.e., no exam grades will be "dropped". Only students who miss an exam due to a college-approved absence are eligible to take the makeup exam. (Going out of town, family reunions, vacations, etc., are not considered approved absences) If you miss an exam, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible by email. If permission is granted for a makeup exam, it needs to be taken before the next class meeting. Missing an exam is a serious matter, and it is up to the student to take proper action; otherwise, a zero will be recorded for that exam. **Your work schedule or any other schedule must not overlap with the class schedule.** When sending an email, please include your course number and section number in the subject line. For example: **COSC1301-001: [Specify the reason for the contact]**. (Note: if you make a **zero** on the attendance questionnaires, it will remain a **zero**. Otherwise, it will be upgraded to 100 at the end of the semester.)

Additional Course Objectives: *In this course, the student will...*

- Develop a general understanding of computer terminology and computer hardware.
- Understand how all types of data are represented and stored in binary form.
- Understand what constitutes an algorithm, how to process an algorithm, and how to write an algorithm.
- Learn the binary, hexadecimal, and octal number systems and how they relate to computers.
- Understand simple circuit designs.
- Complete projects using application programs appropriate for math, engineering, and computer science.
- learn fundamental concepts of programming, including data types and control structures using Python as the programming language.

COSC1301 Spring 2026 Course Outline

This proposed schedule may change as the semester progresses! Always refer to announcements for exact dates.

Week Start date	Topics
1 Jan 12 - Jan 16	Introduction to Computer Science The role of algorithms and history
2 Jan 19 - Jan 23	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - All campuses closed Overarching Themes of Computer Science.
3 Jan 26 - Jan 30	Data Storage Binary Number System
4 Feb 02 - Feb 06	Representing information as bit patterns Hexadecimal Number System
5 Feb 09 - Feb 13	**Quiz 1 & Homework 1 are due**. More about the Hexadecimal system Computer Systems: Hardware and Software
6 Feb 16 - Feb 20	**Exam 1** *(in-person: Room M125)* **& Homework 2 are due.** Two's complement representation
7 Feb 23 - Feb 27	Two's complement operations and overflow Truth Tables and Logic Gates
8 Mar 02 - Mar 06	**Quiz 2.** Simple circuits More on circuits and adders
9 Mar 09 - Mar 13	Pseudocode and Flowcharts. Introduction to Python.
10 Mar 16 - Mar 20	Spring Break - All campuses are closed
11 Mar 23 - Mar 27	**Exam 2** *(in-person: Room M125)* **& Homework 3 are due.** Learning about programming using Python: Variables, expressions, & statements
12 Mar 30 - Apr 03	Performing calculations Program Design and Execution Data Types and Processing
13 Apr 06 - Apr 10	Formatting numbers and relational operators Python conditional structures and Boolean expressions
14 Apr 13 - Apr 17	**Homework 4 is due.** Conditional & Nested Structures, Relational Operators. Python: Control Structures.
15 Apr 20 - Apr 24	Condition-controlled loops Repetition Structures, Infinite Loops, & Sentinels
16 Apr 27 - May 01	Input validation. **Homework 5 is due.**
17 May 04 - May 08	**Final Exam - Section 001:** May 6th (Wednesday) at 10:15 a.m. (in-class) **Final Exam - Section 002:** May 7th (Thursday) at 8:00 a.m. (in-class)

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